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Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

Jeremiah 31.

(2010).

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Jeremiah 31.

The following is an overview of the main topics.
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The LORD will be God of all the Tribes of Israel.

Jeremiah 31:1-6 ----- ¹"At that time (When the storm of the LORD'S wrath bursts upon the wicked) (Jer 30:24), declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people." ²Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"

Samaria and Ephraim; Samaria was the land the Ten Tribes of Israel dwelt in (called the Northern Kingdom of Israel). Ephraim became such a leader amongst the ten tribes that in addition to their more common name Israel, the Northern kingdom was also called Ephraim.

O' Virgin Israel; means Israel has one God compared to the surrounding nations who have many Gods.

The LORD of all Israel; when God's wrath bursts upon the wicked (Jer 30:24) God says He will be the LORD of all Israel.

The wicked; in this context applies to Babylon and all the associated nations that assisted Babylon's armies in taking Israel captive and the surrounding nations that scorned and mocked the humbled and defeated people of Israel.

God's wrath came to Babylon through Cyrus the King of Media Persia.

Cyrus defeated the entire empire of Babylon and its allied nations and gave the people of Israel written permission to return to their beloved city Jerusalem and rebuild the LORD'S Temple, fulfilling words of the LORD (in verses 4-6).

Regarding Cyrus, Isaiah had previously prophesied the LORD would: -

- Call Cyrus His Anointed Shepherd.
- Hold Cyrus right hand while he subdues all nations and their kings.
- Be with Cyrus while he opens doors that no man can shut.
- Call Cyrus by Name.
- Go before Cyrus and break in pieces gates of iron and level the exalted places.
- Give Cyrus the treasures of darkness and the hoards hidden in secret places.
- Call Cyrus by his name even though Cyrus does not know God.
- Equip Cyrus and give him power.
- People will say, "the LORD is in Cyrus."

(Isaiah 45:1-3) (Isaiah 45:5-6) (Isaiah 45:14, 28).

The LORD through Jeremiah (Jer 31:4-6) said Israel will again: -

- Adorn themselves with tambourines.
- Go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.
- Plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria.
- Enjoy the fruit of the seeds they plant.
- Call from the land of Samaria saying, "let us go up to Zion (Jerusalem), to the LORD our God."

Notice; God says, He has loved Israel with an everlasting love and continued in His faithfulness to them (v3). Though God was forced to discipline Israel and Judah, because of their gross sin and blatant rebellion, He has never forsaken them. Bringing the people of Israel back to Him and His blessing has always been the underlying goal contained within every trial that the LORD has brought upon the people of Israel.

The LORD will bring Israel from the North Country.

Jeremiah 31:7-9 ----- ⁷thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The North Country; refers to Babylon.

Jeremiah is in Jerusalem, he tells all Israel to joyfully shout amongst themselves and to the leaders of the nations, "LORD save your people."

The LORD tells Israel that he will deliver them from Babylon and from all the lands they have been scattered into and He will lead them back to Jerusalem.

God fulfilled these prophetic words through: -

Zerubbabel. Ezra. Nehemiah.

When Assyria invaded Samaria (the Northern Kingdom) and Babylon's attacked the land of Judah and Jerusalem (the Southern Kingdom) multitudes fled to the surrounding nations to escape the terror of the cruel armies of Assyria and Babylon. During the 70 year captivity they married, had families and established their homes amongst many foreign nations throughout the Middle East. When Cyrus conquered Babylon and allowed Israel to return to their homeland and rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the LORD'S Temple.

God used Zerubbabel; to led the first wave of exiles back to Jerusalem, Ezra to led the second wave and Nehemiah to led the third wave back to Jerusalem and the multitudes that had been scattered amongst foreign nations returned with their families to rebuild their homes in their own land.

Gather them from the farthest parts of the earth; (v8) refers to all those who had been scattered amongst foreign nations during the invasion of Assyria's and Babylon's armies.

Notice; the LORD says, "I am a father to Israel (v9).

To understand the nature of God, observe human parents who love and care for their children. God's nature (though much higher in wisdom and perfection) is seen in the character of caring and loving human parents.

Every parent has to: -

- Love and protect their child.
- Bless and encourage their child.
- Accept that they are not perfect and will do the wrong thing at times.
- Be patient when their child does wrong and disappoints.
- Discipline their child to protect them from hurting others and themselves.
- Constantly be willing to forgive their child with open arms.

Whether it is a human parent or God Himself, the extent of the child's wrong doing determines the extremity of the punishment the parent or God will be forced to administer, i.e. a daughter arriving home 1hr after curfew may result in missing her next social event, whereas 7hrs after curfew will probably incur no social events for a month etc.

Prior to the Babylonian captivity Israel had incurred a punishment of not just one month, but 70 years, simply because their land was full of: -

Gross idolatry---Baal altars, Asherim, star and planetary worship, Moloch deity acknowledged in the sacrifice of children in the Hinnom Valley, astrology, occultism, altars for worshipping the host of heaven in the Temple court, and the shedding of innocent blood. Drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality permeated the land and those in authority oppressed the less fortunate for their own gain. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor, and instead of relieving their economic distress seemed bent upon devising new means of depriving them of their property. This idol worship and indiscriminate, indulgent and excessive luxurious living resulted in the division and decay of social unity in the land of Judah (the Two Tribes at Jerusalem) and Israel (the Ten Tribes in the land of Samaria).

Thus; the extreme discipline the LORD was forced to bring upon His children Israel.

The LORD will gather Israel.

Jeremiah 31:10-14 -- ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'
¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.
¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

Redeemed Israel from hands too strong for him; refers to Babylon.

The LORD will: -

- Gather Israel who He scattered.
- Keep Israel as a shepherd keeps his flock.
- Turn Israel's mourning into joy.
- Comfort Israel.
- Replace their sorrow with joy and gladness.

- Give the soul of the priests an abundance of spiritual blessing.
- Satisfy Israel with His goodness.

The people of Israel will: -

- Sing aloud again on the height of Mount Zion and Jerusalem.
- Be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, because of the abundant grain, wine, oil and the herd.
- Succeed and prosper.
- Not be sorrowful.
- Rejoice in dance and the young men and the old will be merry.

All of these promises came to pass when Cyrus king of Media Persia conquered the Empire of Babylon and gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city Jerusalem to rebuild their homes and the Temple of God.

Rachel is weeping for Her Children.

Jeremiah 31:15 ----- ¹⁵Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

This reflects back in time; when Assyria's invaded the land of Samaria they took the people of Israel captive and when Babylon's conquered Jerusalem they took the people of Judah captive, thus the Promises Land of Israel had been stripped of its people.

Rachel.

A voice is heard in Ramah, bitter weeping Rachel is weeping for her children (Jer 31:15). Jeremiah pictures Rachel as rising from her grave, to weep over her children who have been stripped from their land. Jacob was struck by Rachel's beauty and immediately fell in love with her and she became his wife, she gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin, but sadly died when giving birth to Benjamin. Even though it was Leah and her maid Zilpah and Rachel and her maid Bilhah who gave birth to the 12 sons of Jacob and who became the 12 Tribes of Israel Rachel was the woman Jacob loved, and thus she is called the mother of Israel.

The LORD Comforts Rachel.

Jeremiah 31:16-17 --- ¹⁶Thus says the LORD: "Keep your (Rachel's) voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your (Rachel's) children shall come back to their own country.

Rachel is dead, but Jeremiah in prophetic and symbolic language uses her to depict the sorrow and sadness of the suffering of Israel, simply because she is seen as their mother. The LORD is comforting Israel by telling their mother not to weep because her children will return to their own land.

Israel repents and is Ashamed of their Sin.

Jeremiah 31:18-20 -- ¹⁸I have heard Ephraim grieving, 'You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the LORD my God. ¹⁹For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I slapped my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.' ²⁰Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the LORD.

The Beauty, Wonder and Love of God's Heart for His People.

The people of Israel know they have been disciplined because they were like untrained children who had turned away from their God, but now they ask the LORD to restore them because they realise they have been a disgrace to Him and are now ashamed and full of regret. The LORD says, Israel is His dear Son, His darling Child, His heart longs for them even during their troubles and captivity He has never forgotten them. God then strengthens and comforts all the people of Israel by saying He will have mercy on them. The people of Israel and Judah were confounded, confused, and bewildered because of their troubling circumstances and extremely difficult situations, but it did not mean God had forgotten or forsaken them.

Set up Road Markers for Yourself.

Jeremiah 31:21 ----- ²¹"Set up road markers for yourself; make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went. Return, O virgin Israel, return to these your cities.

Set up Road Markers for yourselves; means establish boundaries and laws that are right.

O virgin Israel; implies Israel had one God contrasted to the surrounding nations who had many gods.

A Woman Encircles a Man.

Jeremiah 31:22 ----- ²²How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encircles a man."

The New Thing that the LORD has created on Earth; in this context may simply mean because so many men were killed during the Assyrian and Babylonian wars there are now far more woman than men amongst the people of Israel. This would be a great blessing to Israel because it would mean every man could easily find a wife and raise up children, multiplying the population of Israel greatly.

Once again they will say, "The LORD Bless You."

Jeremiah 31:23-26 --- ²³Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I restore their fortunes: "The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill! ²⁴And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks. ²⁵For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." ²⁶At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

After the LORD: -

- Restores the fortunes of Israel.
- Replenishes, nourishes and satisfies the weary and languishing soul.
- Restocks everything that has been depleted.
- Rebuilds everything that has been destroyed.

Then the people of Israel will once again say: -

The LORD Bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill! (Referring to Jerusalem) contrasted to the people calling it a city full of idolatry and wickedness prior to Judah's and Israel's captivity. Once Jeremiah had seen all this in a dream he awoke and says his sleep was enjoyable and brought feelings of happiness.

The LORD Breaks Down and Builds Up.

Jeremiah 31:27-29 ²⁷"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast.

²⁸And it shall come to pass that as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the LORD. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

**The Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's
Teeth are set on edge.**

This was a proverb used by two groups of people firstly, the wicked used it when they murmured against God's judgments pronounced by the prophets, meaning that Israel's fathers had committed the fault and the children were being punished for it and secondly the children born during the 70 year Babylonian captivity used it to express that they suffered the consequences of their father's sins rather than of their own. The wicked and the children born in during the Babylonian Captivity used it as a proverb, because the LORD had said God will visit the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation.

The LORD said: -

Exodus 20:5-6 ----- ⁵You shall not bow down to them (a carved image) or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Notice; the iniquity is only passed on to those who hate the LORD those who love the LORD are forgiven.

God said: -

Exodus 34:7 ----- ⁶The LORD passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹And he (Moses) said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the LORD go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

Notice; Moses pleads the LORD will forgive the rebellion of the people of Israel. It is those who are following on in the same sins that the guilt is passed on to, but if they repent God's forgiveness abounds

The LORD said: -

Deut. 5:9-10 ----- ⁹You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Notice; the iniquity is only passed on to those who hate the LORD and the children who love God and do what is right are loved by Him.

The Author of Lamentations says: -

Lament. 5:7 ----- ⁷Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities.

Lamentations is mourning the destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple of God and the ruin of Israel's cities, homes farms and the people of Israel and Judah who have been taken captive by Babylon for 70 years

Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities, refers to the generation of Judah and Israel prior to the Babylonian captivity. The children born during the 70 year captivity are saying that they are suffering because of the gross sins and rebellion of their fathers, (meaning the generation before them), but the

following verses shows that God terminated this principle during the 70 year Babylonian Captivity. Ezekiel predicted the fall of Jerusalem, his ministry was to those who were taken into captivity to Babylon and to the people who had remained in Judah.

Ezekiel said each Individual will be held Accountable for their Own Sin.

Ezekiel 18:2-4 ----- ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

Children will not suffer for the sins of the Fathers nor Fathers for the Son.

Ezekiel 18:20 ----- ²⁰The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Everyone will Die for their Own Sin.

Ezekiel 18:24 ----- ²⁴But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

The Wicked will Die for their Own Wickedness.

Ezekiel 18:26-27 ----- ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

Everyone will be Judged according to their Own Actions.

Ezekiel 18:30 ----- ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah says everyone will Die for their Own Sin.

Jeremiah 31:29-30 -- ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." ³⁰But everyone shall die for his own sin. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

In those days; refers to the days God watched over Israel to rebuild their homes, cities, Jerusalem and the LORD'S Temple after their 70 years in captivity to Baylon (Jer 31:28).

Summary; God, Visits the Iniquity of the Fathers on the Children.

God has always, only passed on the iniquity and guilt of the fathers to those who hate the LORD and continued in the wrong doing of their fathers, but He has always forgiven those who love Him and who did what is right. It is the children who deny God and follow on in the same sins as their fathers that the guilt is passed on to, but if they repent and do what is right God's forgiveness and steadfast love abounds.

A simple example; if human parents teach their children that the world was created by a big bang therefore there is no God and that it is OK to oppress their workers to make big profits, because that is the system of capitalism, those children will continue in the sins and iniquities of their parents and bear (reap) God's judgment accordingly, but if the children are taught that what their parents have told them is wrong and they accept God and do what is right, God will love, forgive and bless them, nevertheless they will reap the consequences of their sin i.e. a teenage girl may believe it is OK to sleep around, but becomes pregnant, her

pregnancy may bring her to see that sex without commitment and with many guys is wrong so she changes her lifestyle and repents of her past, but she is still going to have the child, thus as the LORD has always taught we reap the actions and consequences of what we sow, even though we are forgiven. In conclusion each individual person is held accountable for their own sin (wrongful actions), children will not suffer guilt for the sins of their fathers nor will fathers suffer guilt for their children's sins, everyone will be judged according to their own actions and die for their own sin.

The LORD watched over Israel; to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring harm, referring to the destruction of their homes, their cities, their farms, Jerusalem, the Temple of God and their removal from their land into captivity to foreign nations.

The LORD also watched over Israel; to rebuild their homes, their cities, their farms, Jerusalem, the Temple of God and their journey from captivity to their own land.

The practical application of this for us today; God is not only involved in the successes and blessings of our lives, but also our ugly moments, our troubles and our crisis.

The days are coming, when the LORD will make a New Covenant with Israel and Judah.

Jeremiah 31:31-32 ---³¹"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Notice; the LORD says, He is the Husband of Israel, implying Israel was His Bride, sometimes in prophetic and poetic language the nation of Israel is referred to as the LORD'S wife, who because of their spiritual adultery with pagan gods and idols God divorced.

The following prophetic words are enormously exciting: -

"I will make a New Covenant, but not like the Old Covenant."

These prophetic words transcend the era of Jeremiah and travel through time and History until they arrive at the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. When New Testament Christians read the words, "I will make a New Covenant," chills and tingles of wonder and amazement rise through their entire nervous system, simply because they are living in this New Covenant God spoke of hundreds of years before its reality came to pass, it is a beautiful example of the splendour of the Bible and its prophetic messages.

The Old Covenant; stated if Israel kept the laws, rules and statutes of God and obeyed His voice (through the prophets) God would bless and prosper everything they did, but if they turned from the LORD and His ways everything they had achieved would come to ruin (See Deuteronomy chapter 28).

The New Covenant; has nothing to do with material blessings, worldly wealth or riches (money), the blessings of the New Testament are spiritual, they are about eternal salvation, forgiveness of sins, deliverance from eternal death, receiving and experiencing the love and favour of God and inner contentment, joy and peace.

I Will Write My Laws on their Hearts.

Jeremiah 31:33 ----- ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jesus said: -

John 15:13 ----- ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.

The Apostle John tells us: -

John 3:16 ----- ¹⁶"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Through the sacrifice of God's beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ, God has written His laws in the hearts of those who love Him. When a sinner comes to realise that the Son of God loves and cares for them so much that he was willing to suffer mockery, humiliation and painfully die so that they would be counted righteous and granted eternal life, their heart is transformed from the desire to do wrong to a new desire to please the one who died for them, in this way God has written the His laws on human hearts. Christians do not keep the law to earn salvation or add to it. Christians aim to keep the law because they have been saved by the grace of God that comes to them through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is this unconditional grace that changes the human heart and gives those who experience it the desire to live a life that would be pleasing to God.

Note; this does not mean they will achieve the perfect standard they desire, but it does mean that their heart desires it and they are therefore motivated from within toward what is right rather than toward wrongdoing.

All will know the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:34 ----- ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

When Christ died on the cross of Calvary he did away with holy days, feast days, sacrifices, all ceremonial and religious rites and the entire Levitical priesthood. The chief priests, Scribes and Pharisees were totally stripped of their power and their authoritative control over the people. Everyone can now come to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, he is every sinners perfect and eternal High Priest. After the resurrection of Christ no-one on planet earth needs a human priest to stand between them and God, we are all able to come to the Heavenly Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Author of Hebrews says: -

Hebrews 4:10-16 --- ¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only High Priest any Human Needs.

Hebrews 4:14-15 ----- ¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 7:26 ----- ²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Hebrews 8:1-5 ----- ⁵Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven

Israel will be Forever Declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:35-37 --- ³⁵Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name: ³⁶"If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever." ³⁷Thus says the

LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD."

The LORD says; if the fixed order of the sun, the moon and the tides change and if humans can measure the heavens and explore the foundations of the earth then God will cast off all the offspring of Israel (meaning Israel will cease to exist), but instead of the offspring of Israel ceasing to exist they are supernaturally multiplying amongst every nation of the world, because under the New Covenant the offspring of Israel embraces everyone who belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the death and resurrection of Jesus God has been creating a new nation made up of both Jews and Gentiles (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). The nation of Israel gave birth to Jesus therefore everyone born of Christ is the offspring of Israel thus the offspring of Israel are not decreasing but supernaturally increasing through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul says: -

Ephes. 2:1-22 ----- ¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us (Jews and Gentiles) both one and has broken down in his (Jesus) flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are no longer strangers and aliens, but you (Gentiles) are fellow citizens with the saints (Jews) and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Summary; all the promises to Israel are now in Christ, God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles, because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Gentiles and Jews in Christ. Christ is the head of the New Nation; Old Testament Israel is now equal with the Gentiles in this new nation God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ. This New Nation is made up of Jews and Gentiles (the offspring of Israel) in Christ.

The Apostle Paul says; Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world, but now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ.

Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (Ephesians. 2:1-22).

The practical application of what this means to YOU: -

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also applies to YOU.

Jerusalem Will Be Rebuilt.

Jeremiah 31:38-40 -- ³⁸"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah. ⁴⁰The whole valley of the dead bodies and the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be sacred to the LORD. It shall not be uprooted or overthrown anymore forever."

The City (Jerusalem) shall be rebuilt; the following Scriptures and history shows these words were fulfilled through Cyrus the king of Media and Persia.

The LORD calls Cyrus His Anointed Shepherd.

Isaiah 45:1 ----- ¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

God calls Cyrus (the secular king of Persia) His anointed shepherd and Isaiah pictures the LORD holding Cyrus's right hand while he opens all doors that no man can shut while Cyrus subdues all nations (the empire of Babylon and its allied nations) (Isaiah 45:1, 28).

The LORD calls Cyrus by Name.

Isaiah 45:2-3 ----- ²I (the LORD) will go before you (Cyrus king of Persia) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you (Cyrus king of Persia) by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you (Cyrus king of Persia) by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.

The LORD says, even though Cyrus (a secular king) does not know Him, He calls Cyrus by name and will go before Him (Isaiah 45:2-3).

The LORD will equip Cyrus.

Isaiah 45:5-6 ----- ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you (Cyrus king of Persia) though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

God is in Cyrus.

Isaiah 45:14 ----- ¹⁴Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you (Cyrus/Jesus) and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you (Cyrus/Jesus). They will plead with you, saying: 'Surely God is in you (Cyrus/Jesus), and there is no other, no god besides him.'

Isaiah is speaking to Israel who is held captive in Babylon. The focus is Cyrus King of Persia. God used Cyrus His anointed shepherd to set His people free, Cyrus after Conquering Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God.

The whole valley of dead bodies and ashes; (v40) refers to all the people of Judah and Israel who were slaughtered and left on the surface of the earth for the birds and wild animals to eat and those who died in the cities and fields when their houses were burned during the invasion of Babylon.

Gareb; was a hill near Jerusalem to which the city would expand, the site is unknown.

Goah; (Goath) the site is unknown, but apparently W of Jerusalem. It is referred to by Josephus as, "the Camp of the Assyrians."

Hananel; means God is gracious it is a tower in the wall of Jerusalem on the N side between the sheep gate and the fish gate.

Kidron; a brook near Jerusalem running south under the eastern wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah went up it by night to view the state of the walls of Jerusalem.

End.