



## *Judgement Assured: The Nations*

*“Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon.” (Jer 50:34)*

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### Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!  
Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!** *(Psalm 105:1-4)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *Psalm 63. O Lord My God Most Earnestly.*

O LORD, my God, most earnestly  
I seek your holy face,  
within your house again to see  
the glories of your grace.

Apart from you I long and thirst,  
and naught can satisfy;  
I wander in a desert land  
where all the streams are dry.

The loving-kindness of my God  
is more than life to me,  
so I will praise you all my days  
and pray continually.

In you my soul is satisfied,  
my darkness turns to light,  
and joyful meditations fill  
the watches of the night.

Beneath the shadow of your wings  
I sing my joy and praise.  
Your right hand is my strong support  
through troubled nights and days.

All those who seek my life will fall;  
my life is in your hand.  
God's king and people will rejoice;  
in victory they will stand.

*George. C. Stebbins (1878)*

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

*"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)*

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:8-9)*

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,  
first in silence and then aloud together.

*Please kneel or be seated.*

## *Prayer of Confession*

Have mercy on us, O God,

**according to your steadfast love;**

**according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.**

**Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!**

**For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.**

**Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.**

**Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.**

**O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.**

**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;**

**you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

**Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;**

**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)**

Assurance of Pardon

*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many... And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Mark 10:45; Isa 35:10)*

## *How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation,

you saints of the Lord,

is laid for your faith

in his excellent word!

What more can he say

than to you he has said –

to you, who to Jesus

for refuge have fled?

In every condition –

in sickness and health,

in poverty's vale,

or abounding in wealth;

at home or abroad,

on the land, on the sea,

as days may demand,

shall your strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with you,

O be not dismayed!

For I am your God

and will still give you aid:

I'll strengthen you, help you,

and cause you to stand,

upheld by my righteous,

omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials  
your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all-sufficient  
shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you;  
I only design  
your dross to consume,  
and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus  
has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I cannot,  
desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all Hell  
should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never, no, never,  
no, never forsake!

*Richard Keen (c.1787) MMRecords*

## God's Word

### *Rev 18, The Fall of Babylon*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

### *Psalms 116:10-19*

I believed, even when I spoke: "I am  
greatly afflicted"; I said in my alarm,  
"All mankind are liars."

**What shall I render to the LORD for all  
his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup  
of salvation and call on the name of  
the LORD, I will pay my vows to the  
LORD in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the  
death of his saints. O LORD, I am your  
servant; I am your servant, the son of  
your maidservant. You have loosed my  
bonds.

### *Second Reading: Jer 50:1-34*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### *Sermon: Judgement Assured: The Nations (David Thornhill-Smith)*

**I will offer to you the sacrifice of  
thanksgiving and call on the name of  
the LORD. I will pay my vows to the  
LORD in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the  
LORD!**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and shall be forever,  
age after age. Amen!**

## *Psalm 146*

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,  
O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises  
Of my God through all my days.  
Put no confidence in princes,  
Nor for help on man depend;  
They shall die, to dust returning,  
And their purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses  
Israel's God to be his aid;  
He is blest whose hope of blessing  
On the Lord his God is stayed.  
Heaven and earth the Lord created,  
Seas and all that they contain;  
He delivers from oppression,  
Righteousness He will maintain.

Food He daily gives the hungry,  
Sets the mourning prisoner free,  
Raises those bowed down with anguish,  
Makes the sightless eyes to see.  
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,  
And the stranger He befriends,  
Helps the fatherless and widow,  
Judgement on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,  
O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises  
Of my God through all my days.  
Over all God reigns forever,  
Through all ages He is King;  
Unto Him, your God, O Zion,  
Joyful hallelujahs sing.

*© Public Domain  
Trinity Hymnal, 1990*

## *The Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

*After each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Lord's Supper

### *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.*

*Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us. We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory. Amen.**

## Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Pro 3:9)*

### *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.

To all life Thou givest,  
to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest,  
the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish,  
but nought changeth Thee.

Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

Great Father of Glory,  
pure Father of Light  
Thine angels adore Thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render,  
O help us to see:  
'Tis only the splendour  
of light hideth Thee!

*Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867*

*Music: Traditional Welsh melody*

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## Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ, Amen.**

**Please diarise and pray for the following:**

| The Coming Week...        |                            |                                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> July | Food & Chat                | Speak to Jenny if able to help       |
| Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> July | Prayer Meeting (In Person) | Acts 21:37-22:21 (Paul's Conversion) |
| Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> July | Morning Worship            | Jer 52 (The Fall of Jerusalem)       |
| Further Ahead             |                            |                                      |
| Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> July | Film Night                 | Speak to Alan Steele                 |

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

## The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah was called to take God's words to the people of Judah during a revival under King Josiah in 627 B.C. and continued doing so until the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians forty years later. His task was to hammer home the message that their fall was not due to any lack on God's part but was due entirely to their unfaithfulness, to listening to false prophets rather than true ones, and to living lives in service of evil.

### Theme

In ch 1:9, 10 we're given the theme of the book in poetic form, which is also the heart of God's message to Judah through Jeremiah. We can summarise the message for us as:

**Hearing Hope in Words of Judgment.** *"Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, 'Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'"*

### Structure

The book is not set out chronologically, but rather moves between different camera angles, giving various perspectives of God's dealings with the people of Judah and of the full unfolding of redemption in Christ. The structure can be confusing as *Restoration* features before *Judgement* (see below). It does, however, reflect the thematic verse above of *plucking up* and *destroying*, but not without hope - the promise includes *building* and *planting*. Jeremiah foretold a return from exile and a new covenant in which God's people would at last be His people, and would truly look to Him as their God. Israel and Judah would be reunited and finally fulfil their calling to bring light to the world.

Commentators differ significantly on how the book reflects this thematic verse, but broadly speaking we have the following, which frames our sermon series:

### Outline

1. Prologue
  - a. God's Word in Jeremiah (ch. 1)
2. Sin Unveiled
  - a. Despicable Adultery (ch. 2-6)
  - b. Deceitful Idolatry (ch. 7-10)
  - c. Dark Times (ch. 11-20)
  - d. Difficult Words (ch. 21-29)
3. Restoration Promised
  - a. Rejoice in Hope! (ch. 30-33)
4. Judgement Assured
  - a. Judah Faces Judgement (ch. 34-45)
  - b. The Nations Face Judgement (ch. 46-51)
5. Epilogue
  - a. The Fall of Jerusalem (ch. 52)