**Jeremiah 33:14-16 14‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:**

**15‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this *is the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’**

 We’re in the book of Jeremiah tonight looking at a prophecy concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – it’s a hope filled prophecy telling of the coming King!

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. He prophesied during the time of the Babylonian exile. Jeremiah 33 takes place during the time when Jerusalem is being laid siege by the Babylonians. The warnings had come, Zedekiah, the current King of Judah had shut Jeremiah in the court for his prophesies, the people refused to repent, and Jeremiah obediently goes into exile after having done something strange in Jeremiah 32. In chapter 32, Jeremiah is told to buy a field, even as the Babylonians are at the gates! He faithfully purchases the field even as all seems lost. Jeremiah then seeks understanding and the Lord assures him that a remnant will return and buy fields again. He will bring His people home. Our God is a God of Hope! We are never too far that His arm cannot reach us. We have only to turn. The very worst that happens is we will go home into His loving arms. There is no hopelessness in Christ Jesus!

In verse 14 we read **14‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:** This is a message of hope for Jeremiah and the people. The Babylonians have siege mounds all around. People are starving and dying in the streets. In this environment of suffering, God speaks words of wonderful hope based on the promise He made to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16, “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” Our God does not forget His promises – it is we who forget God’s promises. In this time of Advent, we understand the hope that God was speaking of here as Jesus! The promise has been kept. We celebrate this promise kept and we look forward to the Second Coming that will fulfill God’s plan eternally.

Verse 15 goes on - **‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness;** The image here is a great tree stump from a mighty oak. A new shoot emerges. It’s not a sickly shoot that keeps the stump barely alive. This is the image of a mighty tree growing from the stump – life springing from death – restoration of the nation brought by a Mighty King who will execute righteousness. **He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.** He will be nothing like the sorry excuses for kings that Judah and Israel have endured – evil kings with corrupt and immoral reigns. He’ll bring justice and righteousness – fairness to bear. He’ll bring about right treatment of the poor and lowly. He’ll change hearts to seek after righteousness – in the earth, meaning Jews and Gentiles alike. Revelation 22:16 says - I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. We know with certainty that the King prophesied in Jeremiah is Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star, Our Hope of eternal salvation.

In Jeremiah 23, God speaks of pastors and shepherds who mistreat and mislead the church. He speaks of how corrupt shepherds have scattered the sheep, not fed them, destroyed the pastureland. In these days that we live in, we see this. We see pastors and church leaders preaching unbiblical messages, using the church for their own gain, and failing to love all the sheep God has. Then starting in verse 5, we read, “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. This sounds very familiar as we read Jeremiah 33! It’s as though God is repeating the promises to make sure that Jeremiah and the people understand the Hope that is on the way. He doesn’t repeat for His sake – God doesn’t have a short memory or a forgetfulness problem… it’s us who has the problem.

We have the same problem today. During Advent, we make a concentrated effort to remember the promised Second Coming of Jesus. We’re forgetful creatures. We forget that Jesus promises He will never leave us nor forsake us, He will never leave us alone, He is with us always – even to the end of the age. We forget when hard times strike or death is at our door. Yet, God does not relent – In Jeremiah 15, we see that God will not relent when He appoints destruction. Likewise, He will not relent to do His children good. But it is us who must choose to remember His promises and believe, with concrete Faith, that His Word is true.

Let’s finish it up with verse 16 - **In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this *is the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’** Ending just as Jeremiah 23:6 ends except – in 23:6 it says He (Jesus) will be called The Lord our righteousness. Here, it says she (Jerusalem) will be called The Lord our righteousness. Over in Isaiah 60:14, we read - Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet;
And they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. This speaks of the New Jerusalem after the old has passed away. Revelation 21:1-2 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. It makes sense that the bride of Christ takes on His name.” Then God will dwell among us - 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He (God) will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

What a wonderful statement of hope to start this Advent season with! We watch in Faith and with Hope as we expectantly await our Savior’s return. Jeremiah confirms the promise we hope for each and every morning and pray for as we go to bed each night. We believe that our Shepherd is even now on His way and we will live with Him one day in that wonderful city of Light – New Jerusalem – eternal City of God..