***Jeremiah 30:12-24“For thus says the Lord: ‘Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe. 13There is no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines. 14All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you; For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, With the chastisement of a cruel one, For the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased. 15Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you. 16‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey. 17For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘Because they called you an outcast saying: “This is Zion; No one seeks her.” 18“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according to its own plan. 19Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. 20Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress them. 21Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; Then I will cause him to draw near, And he shall approach Me; For who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?’ says the Lord. 22‘You shall be My people, And I will be your God.’ 23Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. 24The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.***

 We’re back with Jeremiah tonight, as God brings consolation to the Jewish people, Consolation is not just short-term in 70 years, but this consolation is the promise of eternal consolation in Jesus Christ. There will come a time when Israel, Judah, and Gentiles will all gather together in the Kingdom of Christ for eternity. Jeremiah has been instructed to write these prophecies and promises down, so that the people in the future can read these and be encouraged as the 70 years pass and the generations pass from one to another. It’s not hard to remember a promise for a day or two, but when God’s promises span years, writing them down and being reminded is good for the people. Tonight, we look at God’s promise of healing for the people. God will heal them, even though the people have caused the illness by way of their iniquity.

 Verses 12-15*“For thus says the Lord: ‘Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe. 13There is no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines. 14All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you; For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, With the chastisement of a cruel one, For the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased. 15Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, Because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.* In human terms, the affliction and wound of the Jewish people is incurable. There is no human way for the people to cure what is ailing the nation. The cure is only possible through Almighty God. There is none to plead their cause. None that understand because there is no human way to understand the sin that has brought this judgement of God. No one can intercede on their behalf. No one can judge with righteous judgement. The only answer to the illnesses of the nation is a spiritual cure. No physical medicine can cure. Their calamitous state is compared to a sick and dying body, sick with fever. Yet, the false prophets have offered only false hopes of healing. This has the idea of a wound that has only a thin skin of healing and can be easily reopened with the least disturbance. These false prophets did not apply the correct remedy – that of turning back and coming to God in humility and brokenness of heart. *All your lovers have forgotten*, meaning all nations who claimed to be in alliance with Judah, all those that Judah pursued to protect them, all the nations that Judah adopted their false gods and idols, have forgotten Judah in her time of distress. They have proven to be false friends. These nations do not seek the welfare of Judah and abandon Judah in her time of ruin. *For I wounded you* – God has allowed punishment in response to the iniquities that the people have committed. God has punished sin to free the people from their self-inflicted affliction. God still delivers us from our self-inflicted wounds. We sin and God saves. Why do the people cry out as though God has dealt unjustly? Romans 6:23 says - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*. We have earned death, but through God’s merciful gift Jesus delivers us from what we have earned. God is just to deliver us from what we justly deserve.

Verses 16-17*‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; Those who plunder you shall become plunder, And all who prey upon you I will make a prey. 17For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘Because they called you an outcast saying: “This is Zion; No one seeks her.”* Therefore – meaning yet surely – all that devour you shall be devoured. The Egyptians, Philistines, Midianites, Ammonites, Edomites, Syrians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Babylonians, and others, responsible for afflicting the people will pass into history, while the people of Judah will be restored. Though God chastens and scourges His people severely, He will not make an utter end to them. Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes, Persians no longer are great empires. The Greeks and the Romans have passed into history. Yet, Israel remains. The Jewish people have overcome persecution and prospered only by the Blessing of God.

Verses 18-22 *“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according to its own plan. 19Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving
And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. 20Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress them. 21Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; Then I will cause him to draw near, And he shall approach Me; For who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?’ says the Lord. 22‘You shall be My people, And I will be your God.’* Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob’s tents — This brings back to the people’s minds of dwelling in tents. This draws into memory the Feast of Tabernacles, when the people dwelt in tents as they journeyed in the desert after being delivered from Egypt. This would have held great meaning to the people hearing what Jeremiah is saying. They were delivered from being captives in Egypt. Now, they will be delivered from captivity in Babylon. Jerusalem will be built upon the same place the ruins now rest. The ruins will be cleared, and new houses will be built. The palace will be inhabited again, as times before. The Temple will be rebuilt. There will return to the city thanksgiving and celebration as before. The children and the religious gatherings will return to their former practices and state. The term Children should be thought of here as the children of Jacob, the nation of Israel. Their nobles shall be from among them. Some interpret this to mean Zerubbabel, who king Cyrus appointed. Others point to the Messiah arising from among the people – that Jesus will spring from the Root of Jesse. Jesus will be completely devoted to God and draw near to Him and give all people the opportunity of a relationship with God. He will mend the divide between God and man by His work upon the Cross. You shall be My people – Those that turn to God through Jesus will pursue Him with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind. He will show favor and protect His people from all harm.

 Verses 23-24*Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. 24The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.* God’s wrath and fury is often described as a whirlwind. His fury, or rather His anger, will go forth. Recall that Jeremiah 23:19-20 also described God’s wrath as a whirlwind. His wrath will fall upon the head of the wicked. Matthew 21:44 says - *And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder*. We know that this stone is Jesus. Those that fall upon Him, seeking Salvation, will be broken and contrite in Spirit, seeking His forgiveness and mercy. Those that refuse to surrender will be ground into powder. *In the latter days you shall consider it*, or in the time to come, consider it. Consider the Gospel of Jesus, providing eternal life. Of course, we know the heinous acts that the Jewish people committed when the Messiah came. They not only rejected Him and refused to believe, but crucified Him. They shouted in Matthew 27:25 *And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.”* Of course, they meant this to be His death to be their responsibility, but God knew that Jesus blood will be the only way to Eternal Salvation. His blood must be upon us for us to be saved.

 And so we leave Jeremiah again tonight with a wonderful picture of the healing that God is bringing through His Son Jesus. The wound of sin could not be healed by any man-made way. The cure had to come from God through Jesus. It is a great hope for healing, written down for all generations to come. Remember and Consider. We now know that Jesus did heal the wound Adam caused. God offers healing and consolation, but it only comes through the blood sacrifice of Precious Son, Jesus.