***Jeremiah 31:29-40In those days they shall say no more: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ 30But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. 31“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - 32not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” 35Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): 36“If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever.” 37Thus says the Lord: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord. 38“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the city shall be built for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. 39The surveyor’s line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. 40And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the Lord. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.”***

We are back with Jeremiah tonight. Our last gathering, we studied the weeping of Rachel and the repentance of Ephraim. We learned of God’s promise to restore the Children of Israel, not just spiritually, but physically as well. For 70 years, their land has been desolate, but God will refill and restore with plants, beasts, and people. They will build and plant, and God will prosper. Into this, we step tonight with God’s promise of a new covenant, new city, and an eternal Savior.

Verses 29-30 *In those days they shall say no more: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ 30But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.* The proverb of the father’s eating sour grapes and the children’s teeth on edge was common among the Jews. It meant that the sins of the fathers brought the children to sin. By leading incorrectly and sinfully, the fathers set their children and children’s children up on a pathway of sin. God executed judgement in perfect timing. But, God is getting ready to send a Savior. Hebrews 8:12 says -*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more*. By Christ, our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west. *But every one shall die for his own iniquity –* God will bring each person into a personal responsibility for his or her sin, and also into a personal responsibility for making a decision for believing or not believing in Jesus Christ.

Verses 31-32 *Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - 32not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.* ***Behold****, the days are coming* – these are the days of the Gospel of Jesus. Hebrews 8:8-10 *Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -****9****not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.****10****For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ***I will*** *make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah****–*** Israel and Judah must be understood here to mean the true followers and worshippers of God. The Bible says that God seeks those that worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. These are the true believers. This extends to Jew and Gentile alike. The old covenant only extended to the Jews. The Holy Spirit enters into our hearts and dwells, teaching us and reminding us of what Jesus taught. This is*Not according to the covenant made with their fathers -*  It is different. No longer are sacrifices of animals done, but Christ made a perfect sacrifice once and for all, bridging between God and man. God gave the Mosaic covenant, which included His law and His commandments. The people accepted the covenant by pledging to be obedient to the law and commandments. This is the covenant they broke. They broke it by willful sin and gross disobedience. They worshipped false gods and practiced idolatry, refusing to repent though God sent messenger after messenger. God treated them like a loving husband. They treated Him unfaithfully and cheated on Him. God says – no more.

Verses 33-34 *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”* God will make a new covenant with those that love with a pure heart and seek Him with a humble and contrite spirit. God searches and knows the heart. He honors inward change and not outward show. *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts –* Jesus said that He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. God will write this law on the true believers heart by way of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 8:11 says - *None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.* As true believers, we delight in God’s word and Jesus’ teachings. We pursue the desires of the Spirit and not of the flesh. We act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, as Micah 6:8 tells us. It is by Grace that we are saved, through faith and this new covenant is revealed as the Holy Spirit teaches. The law of Moses revealed duty. The Gospel of Jesus brings grace and restoration. We still have duty, but we are saved by Grace. *No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother –* This must not be interpreted as there is no need of ministry or teaching. Christ Himself told us to teach and sent His disciples to preach. Teaching and discipling is foundational for the church! This must be taken instead to mean that there will be an exponential explosion of divine knowledge. Through the Holy Spirit, God instructs all that seek Him. The church has grown and spread throughout the world. Bibles are printed in almost every language. *For they shall all know me, from the least unto the greatest –* Jew and Gentile, great and least, poor and rich. All have the opportunity to come to God by way of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant of Grace. *For I will forgive –* God will freely forgive and remember sin no more, not by Law and sacrifice, but by Mercy and Grace.

Verses 35-37 *Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): 36“If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever.” 37Thus says the Lord: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord.* ***Thus*** *says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day -*God now lays out divine actions and power of His Creation. God points to the sun, moon, and stars of the heavens. *Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar –* He points to the oceans and the mighty seas, particularly the Red Sea, which He divided for the deliverance of His people. God alone makes the seas be still. Jesus calmed the seas with only His rebuke. Peace, be still. The words of Jeremiah hold the idea of a tumultuous sea, with waves threatening to swallow ships. This is what the disciples encountered, while Jesus, God with us, slept unbothered in the boat. If these ordinances of the sun, moon, stars, and sea depart from before Me, then shall the seed of Israel cease. In other words, as long as the world exists, the children of Israel will exist. Heaven and earth must pass away first. God will always preserve a remnant, and they will remain a peculiar people dedicated unto God. *If heaven can be measured* – which we know that it can’t be. We have estimates and guesses about the universe, but heavens height, depth, and width can’t be summed up. It is impossible. Therefore, it is also impossible that God will cast off all the seed of Israel. Paul, in Romans 11, starts *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.* Many of the early church were Jews who were saved. God always maintains a remnant of His people.

Verses 38-40 *Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the city shall be built for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. 39The surveyor’s line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. 40And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the Lord. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.”* ***Behold, the days come****, that the city shall be built to the Lord –* This refers to the New Jerusalem created. Revelation 21:2 *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* This city is for and from the Lord, for His service and honor and glory. This is not the rebuild done after the return from captivity in Babylon. The size is far too great. Goath is also known as Golgotha. The valley in view here is the valley of Hinnom, where dead bodies of the poor, trash, and ashes were dumped. This new Jerusalem will be eternal and not plucked up anymore. Of course, we know that the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, so this new city must be from Revelation 21. Everything will be holy unto God, thoroughly purged of all unrighteousness.

And so we leave Jeremiah tonight, knowing that a new heaven and a new earth are on the way – assured here and in Revelation. We are the church, saved by Grace, a peculiar people pursuing God through Jesus. Nothing will separate us from our Lord as Romans 8:38-39 assures us - *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,****39****nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Therefore, let us live and witness with this assurance, with confidence, with boldness of faith, shining a Light that others might see and one sweet day might be with us in that new city Jerusalem there.