***Jeremiah 33:14-26 ‘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.’ 17“For thus says the Lord: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.’ ” 19And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 20“Thus says the Lord: ‘If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. 22As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.’ 23Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 24“Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, ‘The two families which the Lord has chosen, He has also cast them off’? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before them. 25“Thus says the Lord: ‘If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, 26then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.’***

When we left Jeremiah in our last evening service, we heard the promise of God that Judah will be restored. People will again inhabit the area, desolation will be no more, beasts will be driven away, and shepherds with flocks will again lie down in pastures. This will happen in the cities of the lowlands, mountains, the south, and the land of Bejamin, even around Jerusalem. God has promised a short-term return and restoration to the children of Israel. Tonight, He makes a much greater promise, in fact the ultimate promise, restoration in Jesus, the Messiah. This is the Promise we all rest our eternal Hope in.

Verses 14-16 *‘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.’* ***Behold****, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised*. God says in essence here, “My word will not return void.” There will come a time that He will verify and confirm every promise He has spoken about His people. *In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness* – God now makes a promise that, after the captivity and the return, the people will a have a branch of David and this branch will righteousness in the land. Though Zerubbabel was the governor and he was a descendent of David, this does not apply to him. This is more in agreement with Isaiah 11:1, Isaiah 4:2, and Jeremiah 23:5, which all refer to the coming of Christ Jesus. This branch or stem was to be of the root of Jesse, a beautiful and glorious Branch, bearing great fruit, and this Branch was to be Righteous. *In those days Judah will be saved* – This cannot mean the temporary good rule of Zerubbabel, though he was a good ruler and did many things that were of God. The enemies still surrounded the people in this time and attacks happened. It was an incomplete and imperfect peace. This must refer to the only Perfect Salvation, Peace, and Prosperity, and we know this is only found in Christ. Eternal salvation is in view here, as Jeremiah 23:6 also strongly suggests. *And this is the name wherewith ye shall be called, The Lord our righteousness* – This name will be given to Jerusalem, which should be viewed here as the church, Christ’s Bride. She will bear the name of the Messiah, as a wife takes the name of her husband. 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* He became righteousness for us. His very Name is Righteousness. And the church will bear His name. The Hebrew word has the sense of the church being His delight – in her He is delighted – she is His delight. Hephzibah, as Isaiah 62 says. Of course, we recall that Revelation 3 and Revelation 14 both speak of God’s servants having His name written upon their foreheads. Our righteousness comes through Christ.

Verses 17-18 *“For thus says the Lord: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; 18nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.*’ These verses confirm that we are viewing Christ and not the return from Babylon as the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy. From the time of the return from Babylon until the coming of Christ, no successor of David reigned as king. No doubt that Jeremiah here is foretelling the kingdom of the Messiah, and the priesthood to be established in Christ and Christ alone. He is High Priest. Hebrews 6:19-20 *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,****20****where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*. Jesus, the once and perfect atoning Sacrificial Lamb, satisfied, by His offering, the sin debt of all that believe and confess Him.

Verses 19-21 *And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 20“Thus says the Lord: ‘If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.****If*** *you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night* – Jeremiah 31 called the light ordinances. If these agreements with the sun, the moon, the stars, the seasons, and the sea can be broken, so too can God’s promises. Brothers and sisters, there are times I can’t break the seal on a jar of pickles or break open a bag of fritos – can I interrupt the promises of God? Of course not. We know that no one but God can break these and He is not a promise breaker, but a promise keeper. He has promised that the kingdom of Christ and the Gospel ministry will continue until the end of time and into eternity. Christ shall reign forever and ever, and we that receive Him will be co-inheritors of His kingdom.

Verse 22*As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.’*  We, through Jesus, become sons and daughters, adopted, grafted into the very family of God. Through the church, we become the seed of David. As the sand of the sea or the host of heaven, so will be the number of those that come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus, the Branch from the Root of Jesse fulfills this prophecy. And we that spread the Gospel and minister in the Faith, *minister to Me* as the verse says, spread the seed and water, that the church may grow and add to the family of Jesus through our faithfulness.

Verses 23-26 *Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 24“Have you not considered what these people have spoken, saying, ‘The two families which the Lord has chosen, He has also cast them off’? Thus they have despised My people, as if they should no more be a nation before them. 25“Thus says the Lord: ‘If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, 26then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them.’* The two families referred to here are the families of David and Jacob, though some have suggested the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. Regardless, the people are saying something about the Faithfulness of God here. They are saying, He has also cast them off. These words are spoken by heathen nations, but worse yet, unbelieving Jews! It is a great offense to God. They don’t believe He will restore and that He has broken His covenant. They are accusing Him of lying! God says – *thus they have despised my people*. They’ve spoken in a degrading and hateful way of God’s people, and we know He will not allow that. Now God returns to His covenant, using day and night again. If He is not faithful to day and night, stars and sea, He will cast away, forever abandon, the Jewish people and Christians – Jacob and David. God is saying, “The people will be restored short-term to their land just as surely as winter precedes spring and day leads into night. He ordains and what God ordains will be accomplished. And, just as surely, He will return a descendant of David to the throne forever and ever. We know that Jesus is this bright and morning star. Revelation 22:16 - *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.* Brothers and sisters, it just doesn’t get any clearer than this. Jesus is Messiah. Behold He went behind the veil and behold He will come again quickly.

And so, we leave Jeremiah tonight, resting in the Promise of a Savior. Jeremiah was 600 years before Jesus was born. We have the blessing of being nearly 2000 years after His ascension. More surely than the rising of the sun, more dependable than the coming of the seasons, more insistent than the slow rising of the tides is our certainty of the Promises of Jesus. He says, “*Surely I am coming quickly*.” We, with eyes fixed upon the sky, respond, “*Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*”