

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – July 12, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word

Topic: God's Everlasting Love.

Main Text: Jeremiah 31:1-14

Key verse: Jeremiah 31:3 *'The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you"'* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Jeremiah prophesied during a riotous period in the spiritual life of Judah, during the reigns of Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. Judah's appetite for idolatry was such that King Josiah's reforms were short-lived, as the people promptly returned to their sins after Josiah died. Through tears and suffering, Jeremiah called the people to repentance, warning them repeatedly of impending judgement. But his warning went unheeded until Jerusalem's final fall and exile to Babylon. It was in the midst of this lowest period of Judah's history that God reminded the people of a commitment He made long ago: *"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you."* (Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV). Though the people had forgotten God, God did not give up on the remnant, but steps up to reaffirm His love for them.

1. (a) How do you think this message of love would have sounded to the exiles at the time? (b) What do we think made God to reaffirm His love to a people after sending them into captivity? (c) What can we learn about God from His reaffirmation of love despite His people's penchant for sin and rebellion? E.g. 2 Timothy 2:13

So, notwithstanding the endless cycle of rebellion by God's people, God does not withdraw His love for them. And during their darkest period, God re-echoes His love with promises like *"I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people..."* *"Those who survive the coming destruction will find blessings even in the barren land, for I will give rest to the people of Israel... I will rebuild you, ... You will again be happy and dance merrily with your tambourines. Again, you will plant your vineyards on the mountains of Samaria and eat from your own gardens there."* (Jeremiah 31:2-5 NLT)

2. (a) What lessons can we learn from the children of Israel who suffered despite being deeply loved by God? (b) What should be a right attitude when we suffer because of our rebellion against God? (c) For the exiled people, God's ultimate love was in the shape of restoration to their homeland. What does it look like for us now? E.g. John 3:16; Romans 5:8

God's discipline of His people is part of His love for them. But His restoration is so overwhelming that it makes the pain of His discipline pale in comparison. *"I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing. The priests will enjoy abundance, and my people will feast on my good gifts. I, the LORD, have spoken!"* (Jeremiah 31:13-14 NLT). Though they may suffer humiliation and hardship in the hands of the heathen, because of their sins, the Lord restores His people

3. (a) Jeremiah 31:14 ends with "I, the Lord, have spoken" What does that communicate to you? See also Numbers 23:19 (b) What should our attitude and life be as those who are loved irrevocably by God? (c) What do we think make people go back into sin after experiencing the love of God?

Prayer: *Father, help us to be motivated by Your love, to live a life of obedience to your word, obeying you in good times and hard times, in Jesus Name, Amen.*