

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Unshakeable: The Prophet of Justice
Justice Month: June-July 2026

A new way to study Scripture – Ian France –19.7.2026

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

This passage begins with a promise from God that He would bless His people and restore them, increasing their children and their flocks and herds. Having been through a time of destruction and breaking down, He would now build and plant as He blessed them.

Jeremiah quoted a proverb that people would have known. It implied that God was punishing Israel for the sins that their fathers had committed and they themselves were fairly innocent. This proverb was quoted in Ezekiel (18:2). It seems as if this belief was a common one. But God did not agree and showed them He would judge them individually for their own sins.

Jeremiah's prophecy looked forward several hundred years. God announced that in the future He would make a new covenant, that would be different from those He made with

- With Abraham which promised a land, a nation and a blessing (Genesis 12:1-3);
- With Moses which gave the law, laid down the sacrifices and the choice of blessing or curse (Exodus 19);
- And with David which promised an everlasting dynasty, a perfect ruler and the promised Messiah (2 Samuel 7).

This New Covenant would complete God's plan of redemption through Jesus' death on the cross. Israel had been unable to keep the covenant God had made with them at Sinai and so this New Covenant was needed. This New Covenant would bring about inner transformation when God would change the minds and hearts of those who followed Him. It did not discard the law but it made it more personal for it would be internal, rather than just something that was written on stone tablets.

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God promised to be His followers' God and they would be His people. There would be a new relationship between them, closer and more intimate than anything that had gone before. It would be a one-to-one relationship of the spirit and would be available to anyone who turned to God. The New Covenant would cleanse believers from all sin to such an extent that God no longer remembered the people's sins.

Icebreaker:

When have you experienced a new beginning?

How did you feel before it happened, as it was happening, and how do you feel looking back on it now?

Was it a positive change for you?

Why/why not?

Application

- Are you happy with your life as it is now, or would a new beginning be an exciting, challenging experience for you? What would you consider to be a beneficial new beginning at this stage of your life? How do you think such a change would impact you?
- *What did this passage from Jeremiah mean for the author and the people of his day who heard it?* They had been in exile for many years. Were they encouraged by this message?
- *What did it mean to the early Christians 500 years later as they looked back to Jeremiah's time?* Do you think it encouraged them in any way? They were living in the days of the New Covenant, which God had promised to His people. Do you think they realised that? How would this have helped them?
- *What does this passage mean to you today?* What promise/s can you see for yourself in Jeremiah's message? How did Sunday's experience of packing food parcels make you feel? Could you sense God's presence there?
- Are you living from the inside out? What does that mean to you? How has God written His law and His promises on your heart? How does this influence the way you live?
- Are you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence, guidance and, sometimes, His intervention in your life on a day-to-day basis? How does He help you?

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- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, especially for those who may not know the Holy Spirit. Pray also for any other needs of the group.

Service

Try to be aware, this week, of the needs of those around you, whether they are physical, emotional or even spiritual. Ask God to show you how to respond to that need in His name.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/jeremiah-31/>



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