

# The Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations

## Lesson 17: Buying a Field in Hope; the Great and Mighty God -- Jeremiah 32:1–33:26

Picture the worst possible day to buy real estate. The Babylonian army has surrounded Jerusalem. Battering rams are at the walls, famine is gnawing the city, and everyone with eyes can see the end coming. Jeremiah himself is under arrest, shut up in the court of the guard because the king did not like his preaching. And it is on that day, of all days, that God tells His prophet to do something that looks like madness. “Buy my field that is at Anathoth.” Sign the deed. Count out the silver. Invest in land that the enemy is about to overrun. It is the strangest commandment, and it is one of the most beautiful pictures of hope in all of Scripture.

Jeremiah obeys. He weighs out seventeen shekels of silver, signs the deed, seals it, calls witnesses, and tells Baruch to put the documents in an earthen jar so they will last a long time. Why? Because God has said, “Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.” The siege will end in ruin, yes. But ruin will not be the last word. Jeremiah is staking his money on the promise of God that, after the judgment, there will be a homecoming. Faith does not just believe; faith signs the deed. Faith acts on what God has said even when the world says it is foolish.

Then, in one of the great prayers of the Bible, Jeremiah pours out his heart. “Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.” He rehearses who God is before he wrestles with what God is doing. And God answers with a question that has steadied trembling believers ever since: “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?” The same hand that is bringing the city down will one day bring the people home.

And the hope reaches further than fields and houses. In chapter 33 God lifts Jeremiah’s eyes to the days that are coming, when He will cause “a righteous Branch to spring up for David,” One who “shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” The line of David, which looks as good as dead with Jerusalem falling, will not be cut off, because God has bound Himself by covenant. As surely as day and night keep their appointed times, God will keep His word. We who live on this side of Bethlehem know the name of that Branch. He reigns now, and nothing is too hard for Him.

**Group Discussion:** On the worst possible day, with the city under siege and himself in prison, Jeremiah obeyed God by buying a field he might never live to see (32:8–15). What does it look like in our own lives to “sign the deed,” to act on God’s promise when everything visible argues against it?

**Personal Reflection:** Jeremiah began his prayer not with his problem but with God: “Ah, Lord God! ... Nothing is too hard for you” (32:17). When you are afraid, where do you tend to begin, and how might starting with who God is change the way you carry your fears this week?

*Read Jeremiah 32:1–33:26*

## **Study Questions**

1. Read 32:6–15. While Jerusalem is besieged and Jeremiah is imprisoned, God commands him to buy a field at Anathoth as a sign that “houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land” (32:15). What does this strange purchase reveal about God’s purposes beyond judgment, and about the kind of hope He gives His people?
2. Jeremiah weighed out the silver, signed the deed, and sealed it in a jar to last “many days,” staking his own money on God’s promise (32:9–14). Where is God asking you to act on His word in a tangible way, before you can see the outcome?
3. Read 32:17–25. Jeremiah’s great prayer begins with God’s power in creation and history: “Nothing is too hard for you.” Why does he ground his prayer in who God is before he brings his confusion to God, and what does this teach us about how to pray?
4. Jeremiah honestly told God the situation looked hopeless, even as he obeyed (32:24–25). How do you hold together honest lament and real obedience, telling God the truth about your fears while still trusting and obeying Him?

5. Read 32:26–35. God answers, “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?” and then names the very real sins for which the city will fall. How does this passage hold together God’s limitless power and His holy justice against sin?
6. God’s question, “Is anything too hard for me?” has steadied trembling believers for centuries. What situation in your life have you quietly filed under “impossible,” and what would change if you brought it under that question?
7. Read 32:36–44. After the warnings of wrath, God promises to gather His people, give them “one heart and one way,” make “an everlasting covenant” with them, and rejoice over them “with all my heart and all my soul.” What does this reveal about God’s ultimate aim even in His judgment, and how is this renewed people fulfilled in the church under the new covenant?
8. God promised to put His fear in His people’s hearts so they would not turn from Him (32:40), an inward work, not mere outward rule-keeping. Where do you long for God to change you from the inside rather than just patch your behavior?
9. Read 33:14–26. God promises to raise up “a righteous Branch” for David who will “execute justice and righteousness,” and binds Himself by covenant that David will never lack a man to reign and the priests will never lack a man to offer. How is this promise fulfilled in the

Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal King and Priest, rather than in a future restored earthly dynasty, rebuilt temple, and renewed animal sacrifices?

10. Look back over these two chapters, from the field at Anathoth to the great prayer to the righteous Branch. Name one specific way the Lord Jesus is using this passage to deepen your trust that nothing is too hard for Him.

### **Digging Deeper**

**Reflect on these passages:** Genesis 18:14, where the Lord asks Abraham, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”; Luke 1:32–33, where Gabriel promises Mary that her Son will receive “the throne of his father David” and reign forever; Hebrews 7:23–28, where Christ holds His priesthood permanently and “always lives to make intercession”; Hebrews 10:11–18, where Christ’s one sacrifice perfects forever and so ends the old sacrifices; 1 Peter 2:5, where believers are “a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

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