

## Finding the Heart of Redemption: The Wanderer

Jeremiah 31:11-20

October 18, 2020

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

**Jeremiah 31:11-20** For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. 12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD - the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. 13 Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. 14 I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the LORD. 15 This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." 16 This is what the LORD says: "Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the LORD. "They will return from the land of the enemy. 17 So there is hope for your descendants," declares the LORD. "Your children will return to their own land. 18 "I have surely heard Ephraim's moaning: 'You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me, and I will return, because you are the LORD my God. 19 After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth.' 20 Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him," declares the LORD. (NIV)

### Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ to God's heart of redemption

\_\_\_\_\_ a sorry past: The one who crushed them...will now guard them as a shepherd, because the Lord will ransom them and deliver them from the strong grip they cannot break... Jeremiah 31:10b-11 (JOT)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ our lives to God's redemption

\_\_\_\_\_: When I realized I was in chains, I repented! When I realized how far I had fallen, I groaned because of the shame. I wanted to clearly show you that I was turning from the wasted foolishness of my ways. Jeremiah 31:19 (JOT)

\_\_\_\_\_ discipline: "I've heard the contrition of Ephraim. Yes, I've heard it clearly, saying, 'You trained me well. You broke me, a wild yearling horse, to the saddle. Now put me, trained and obedient, to use. You are my GOD.'" Jeremiah 31:18 (MSG)

\_\_\_\_\_ hope: The Lord has said this: Keep your voice from sorrow and your eyes from weeping: for your work will be rewarded, says the Lord...there is hope for the future, says the Lord; and your children will come back to the land which is theirs. Jeremiah 31:16-17 (BBE)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ for redemption

\_\_\_\_\_ for it: "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." Luke 15:20 (NLT2)

Spiritual Action Step:

**God is watching you today, not to judge you, but with love and compassion! Where do you need to turn toward God?** When you decide to repent and make a change, then God will rush to welcome you home! Where do you need to move from serving yourself to obeying God's will in your life? God wants to renew your love for goodness and truth! **God gave his only son to deliver you from the grip of sin!** Accept God's deliverance for you through Jesus Christ! This week, read Jeremiah 31 and Luke 15, and let the Holy Spirit transform your sorrow into joy!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; BBE: The Bible in Basic English; NLT2: The New Living Bible, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.