

Preserved With Hope

Jer 50:17-20

17 Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

18 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

19 And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

The remnant I preserve NLT

I. Introduction

1. Things we preserve: grapes, strawberries, tomatoes, pickles, green beans, corn, beef, pork. **Why preserve them?** The answer is simple: **to fulfil their purpose by extending and enhancing their usefulness.**
2. All those things will rot if not properly preserved, so the hope of fulfilling their greater purpose, is in the preservation process.
3. Things can be preserved by canning, smoking, dehydrating, freezing, pickling, pressing, boiling, and sealing in airtight containers.
4. I found an article, “How to Preserve Pretty Much Anything,” by nourishingjoy.com. The author said:
5. “And yes, we're going to look at how to preserve pretty much anything – that includes meat, vegetables, dairy, eggs, bamboo, flower blossoms,”¹
6. Those familiar with the process of preserving, know that if you were one of those items being preserved, it would be a challenging, disrupting, disturbing and uncomfortable process.
7. And if we were one of those strawberries, we would have no idea how that the challenging, disrupting, disturbing, and uncomfortable process was actually helping you.
8. But comfort is not the priority—making the product more useful for a longer period of time is the priority of the preservation process.
9. So however messy the process is, the fact that the product will be useful, and even more useful for a long time, we can understand that the preservation process makes the product more valuable.
10. That is what came to mind when I read Jeremiah 50:20, that the Lord, in addition to pardoning the iniquity of Israel and the sins of Judah, He had chosen to reserve, or preserve them.
11. If we look at that two-fold promise, that is very encouraging for us. While this prophesy was specifically directed at the nations of Israel and Judah around 590 BC, forgiveness and preservation are also part of the New Testament covenant available to you and I in the nation of the United States in 2020.

¹ <https://nourishingjoy.com/how-to-preserve-pretty-much-anything/>

12. And although 2020 has been arguably one of the most challenging, disrupting, disturbing, and uncomfortable seasons of life, I am talking to a group of people that God has preserved with hope.
 13. I want to preach to you this morning on the topic, “**Preserved With Hope.**”
- II. Jeremiah and hope for Israel and Judah
- A. Regathered and forgiven
 1. I want to look deeper at what the prophet Jeremiah was talking about.
 2. Israel was scattered and broken:
*Jer 50:17 Israel is a **scattered** sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath **broken** his bones.*
 3. The lions of Assyria and Babylon had conquered Israel and Judah and drove the people away because of their rebellion and backsliding.
 4. But still, God gave them a hope for their future—that He would forgive them and return them to the land.
 5. In fact, verse 20 said there would be those who would be looking for their sin to accuse them of.
*Jeremiah 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.***
 6. Like Job’s friends who spent long speeches analyzing Job’s life for his sin that, in their opinion, had no doubt caused all his troubles.
 7. But Israel did have their sins. Major sins and rebellion against God that were numerous.
 8. But the amazing thing about God’s forgiveness, is that God’s forgiveness involves the removing of the record of sin.
 9. And although people will dig to seek for our iniquity, God said “there shall be none.” Their sins shall not be found for God pardoned them.
 - B. Pardon through repentance
 1. It is important to remind us here that pardon does not come to us simply because God is gracious.
 2. We cannot assume pardon onto ourselves. Pardon comes through confessing and forsaking that sin. That is the way we find mercy for forgiveness.
Prov 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 3. That is a tremendous hope for us. Some people like to dig up our past to remind you of how bad you used to be.
 4. But we are preaching today about “Preserved With Hope,” and God is not done with you.
 5. Your past and even your present, no matter how dreadful they have been, do not mean you cannot have a future.
 6. Repentance and pardon are available to you today to give you a hope.

7. You may not be able to see how you can get out of the mess you are in, but repentance and pardon bring you into God's mercy and grace, and there is no end to what God's amazing grace can accomplish in your life.

C. Hope of a cure

1. Look at this additional promise God made through Jeremiah about the restoration that comes to those whom God has preserves. Forgiveness is not the only benefit God reserves for those He preserves:

Jer 33:6-9

6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

7 And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return [bring the people back from captivity], and will build them, as at the first.

8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

2. Again, these are promises God made to Israel about their coming restoration after captivity, but they identify principles that God uses in His people relationships.

3. And those principles are also clearly outlined in the New Testament covenant He made with the church.

4. We have been preserved with hope!

5. And specifically, verse 33 mentions a hope for something we are in great need of right now in this 2020 year.

Jer 33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

6. Is it possible that we will see health and cure to return?

7. Is it possible that we can see abundance of peace and truth?

8. Clearly, we are living in a time of a great health crisis with no cure in sight.

9. Clearly, we are living in a time of the abundance of division and deception.

10. But when there is a promise of God you can lean on, especially for those He has preserved with hope, these things are INDEED possible.

11. By God's intervention, there will be health and cure!

12. By God's intervention, there will be an abundance of peace and truth!

13. That brings us to our final point—hope for us today.

III. Hope for us today

A. Hope in the gospel

1. I believe that on this Sunday morning, God wants to bust up all the despair and hopelessness we have been imprisoned by.

2. Is your situation bad? Well, God is good.

3. Is our situation global pandemic? Well, God is cure.

4. Is your situation destroyed relationships? Well, God is reconciliation.

5. Is your situation filthy from polluting sins? Well, God is pardon and cleansing.
 6. The greatest hope—and I can boldly declare—**the only hope for this world is the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 7. The foundation of the gospel is that Jesus died for our sins and rose again.
 8. **So the heart of the gospel is forgiveness and hope of a new life.**
 9. This is a gospel of hope for the world.
 10. I guarantee you, that if this world found forgiveness of their sins and a hope of a new life in Jesus, this world would be preserved by hope.
 11. And we could sing together, “He’s got the whole world [problems and all; pandemic and all; division an all], in His hands.”
 12. “He’s got you and me brother, in His hands, He’s got you and me sister, in His hands.”
- B. Gospel hope is not fantasy
1. While to some, that may sound like wishful thinking, fantasy, illusion, a pipe dream, or a castle in the sky, we have a mighty God in the heavens who promised to preserve His people with hope.
 2. And it is not an empty hope. It is hope based on true and proven kingdom principles.
 3. Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven to a seed:
*Matt 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto **a man which sowed good seed in his field:***
 4. In that parable, we read in the next verses that an enemy came into the field and sowed tares among the wheat, but even with the evil planted by the devil, God will take care of the outcome.
 5. He will separate the tares and burn them, but the wheat He will gather in His barn.
Matt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.
 6. And why does the farmer gather the crop into the barn? **To preserve it!**
 7. Even when His precious harvest has to endure dwelling among the tares, God still gives the harvest hope for the future.
 8. That preservation process may involve some things that are not so pretty, but the end result will be beautiful!
 9. Hear this other parable about seed.
 10. Remember, seed has a promise hidden within it. Seed has hope for an amazing future within its design.
 11. Even though the size of the seed is small, the size of the hope of the seed is tremendous:
Matt 13:31-32
31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
*32 Which indeed is **the least of all seeds:** but when it is grown, it is **the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree,** so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*
- C. Hope in this world?

1. Unbelievers may say those who trust in the gospel as their hope are foolish, but what hope does this world have outside of the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform a life?
 2. Rehab, counselors, and psychologists are the hope this world offers for the troubled mind.
 3. Doctors, surgeons, and hospitals are the hope this world offers for the broken body.
 4. And while all those can offer some level of help, the gospel offers the only hope for the total transformation of a life.
 5. But in this world, without God, there is no hope:
*Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world:***
 6. That is a description of the greatest hopelessness there is.
- D. Harvest hope is real hope
1. I am here to declare this morning, **when Hope is in a Seed, it's the only hope you need.**
 2. The kingdom of heaven—the gospel of the kingdom—is the seed that demonstrates how God will preserve us with hope.
 3. We are not leaning on wishful thinking, fantasies, illusions, or pipe dreams. But we do indeed have a castle in the sky.
John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
 4. But this hope is built on the Almighty God who promised to preserve His people with hope.
 5. You see, when the farmer drops corn seed in the soil, he is not relying on fantasy when he expects one kernel to produce 1600 kernels.
 6. He is relying on the law of the harvest.
 7. Yes, that sounds like a fantasy to someone who has never seen it done, but it is not fantasy.
 8. It is the law of the harvest.
 9. And when you sow seeds into the kingdom of God by trusting in the gospel of Jesus Christ, you can have hope that God will reproduce in you and will preserve you!
 10. Our God is called the “God of hope”:
Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
 11. And do you see how hope can abound in us? It comes when we have the power of the Holy Ghost living inside us!
 12. The Holy Ghost is that seed power that Jesus was talking about when He said the kingdom of heaven is like a seed.
- E. My hope
1. It reproduces hope in our lives in bountiful and miraculous ways!
 2. Is your marriage broken? There is hope!
 3. Are you under the bondage of addiction? There is hope!
 4. Is your heart buried in grief? There is hope!
 5. Is your mind troubled with pandemic panic? There is hope!

6. Does your sin keep you in torment in the day and troubled through the night? There is hope!
7. God intends to preserve you with His hope!
8. What greater hope is there than the resurrection? Something that is dead and is buried seems to have found its forever end.
9. But speaking of His soon coming death and resurrection, Jesus said:
John 12:23-24
23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.
24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
10. And when we believe this and walk in this faith, it brings us preserving hope that we can believe in!

IV. Conclusion

1. In closing, we can place our trust in this hope Jesus spoke of. Jesus did die, but He rose up from the grave to bring forth much fruit—like you and I:
1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.
2. Romans 8:28 is a passage we often quote, but usually miss it's connection to Romans 8:24:
Rom 8:24, 28
24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
3. You might feel canned, dehydrated, pickled, and pressed, but fear not, you are being preserved. You are being preserved with hope, and these things will work together to accomplish great purpose.
4. I'd like to close with a time of prayer for us to commit our life to God's preservation process, knowing that He is preserving us with hope.
5. Put your hope in Him. He guarantees a harvest of hope when you sow the seed of the kingdom.
6. The first step for Israel and Judah was finding pardon for their sins: repent and surrender all your sin under the forgiveness provision of the gospel. Repent and be baptized in Jesus' name.
Jer 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.
7. And the second step, was to bring their need for cure and peace to Him.
8. *Jeremiah 33:6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.*
9. And God would bring the joy, praise, honor, goodness, and prosperity:
Jeremiah 33:9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.