

## Prophets as Predictors

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Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 1:29-34

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Synopsis:

Advent, meaning *coming*, is the celebration of the coming of God in Jesus Christ to restore the broken creation.

- Last week we looked at *what's* coming: Judgment.
- This week we look at *who's* coming: Jesus.

The story of the Bible is God's plan/covenant (Bible's word) to restore the creation through the Abraham family, family by family. God has a plan to fix what we broke.

What happens when the bearers of the plan, the Abraham family, screw up, not just once but permanently?

What happens when we screw up our lives, not just once but permanently?

The answer has to do with Jesus, who is God's plan all along.

### I.

#### **Broken**

Jer 31:21 A covenant that they broke

Today's text location (Jeremiah 31)

#### A. Greatest screw-up in Israel's history leads to exile

-587 BC destruction of Jerusalem for the sins of the people

-READ Jer 32:1-2

Tell the story of siege, Zedekiah, and result

Kings have failed

Result: Greatest Screw-Up = Exile

#### B. Greatest words of hope in OT comes from exile

-Isaiah 43:19 New Thing/Event

-Ezekiel 36:26 New Heart

-Deut 30:6 Circumcise Heart

-Jer 31:31 New Covenant

\*God shows up in the greatest screw-up to give the greatest hope

#### Our Lives: Could God do this for us?

Middle of greatest screw-up show up with greatest hope?

E.g. Kent Davis and my seminary application procrastination  
“Don’t you think God is big enough to deal with your procrastination, your screw-up?”

## II.

### **Old Covenant**

Jer 31:32 It will not be like the old covenant I made with their ancestors

#### God has a plan

God’s plan leads us to the term *covenant*

Covenant = What’s this? Why should we care?

#### A. Bible’s story (Walk Through the Bible)

Bible’s story/history =

God plans to restore creation through the Abraham family

Genesis 1-11 we broke things

Genesis 12 plan revealed

Genesis 15 and 17 Covenant (plan sealed)

-Ceremony = cut a covenant (calf ceremony)

-Covenant = plan of God to restore creation

Exodus 19:1-6 plan details = Law

Kings = bad idea

God accommodates the King thing (2 Sam 7 David)

Prophets: God judges the King thing (1 Kgs 18 Elijah)

Prophets: God predicts the solution (Jer 31)

1-2 Kings = failure

Now at Jeremiah 31/32 = failure point

\*What is God going to do with a *seemingly* failed plan?

-plan was to restore creation

-kings and people have failed

#### B. Our story and failed plans

Bible is the story of Israel’s failure and our failure

\*What is God going to do with our failures?

Where is your worst failure?

Are you still living in it?

Feel guilt over it?

How do you get out of it?

How do you begin to behave the way you want to?

Does God leave you in the mess for good?

## III.

### **New Covenant**

John 1:29 Here is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

### God has a plan

Advent is about *who* shows up to fulfill in spite of failure

Advent is about God's plan all along to come in Jesus

### Hint in Jeremiah 31:31-34 (and Isaiah, Ezekiel, Deut)

New Covenant = not new plan but fulfilled plan

Elements for us: READ 31:33-34

1. So we can know God intimately
2. So we can experience forgiveness of sin and guilt
3. So we can fulfill God's plan

### Israel kept expecting God to show up to fulfill the plan

-intense expectation at the time of Jesus

### Then came Jesus: READ John 1:29-34

-packed with symbols and predictions we don't see

Lamb = sacrifice, but Isaiah 53:7 = Servant Israel

Spirit = Isaiah 11:2 descends upon = Servant Israel

Son of God = Psalm 2 Israelite king = Servant Israel

\*In Jesus God is showing up to fulfill the plan hinted in Jer 31

### So What for us?

1. Do you want to know God intimately?  
You are my God, and we are your people
2. Do you want to experience forgiveness of sin and guilt?  
Burden gone  
Don't remember it anymore
3. Do you want to be able to fulfill God's purpose?  
Obey when you want to but can't  
Bless others as is God's plan

God's plan all along was about Jesus coming to restore the creation: sending the Spirit

-so we can know God

-so we can experience forgiveness

-so we can fulfill our purpose