

The Daily Bread of Life

Feed your household with the bread that endures to eternal life.
Feast on the words of God and works of Jesus.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

God will keep his promises

The theme for this Sunday is "redemption." Redemption is often talked about as Christ's act of "buying us back" for himself with the price of his suffering and death. Part of the idea of redemption is that everything is brought back to the way it is supposed to be again—the way God intended it. This will be the focus for this week.

The Text

Jeremiah 33:14

¹⁴ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

Keys to Understanding

Gracious promise. We could think about any of God's promises to be merciful and bless us. In the context of the verses before our text, God said that he will bring his people back to their homes and give them joy again, (Jer 33:10-13). In our text he tells us that it will happen under the rule of a son of David. We know that this son of David was Jesus.

Keys to Applying

God brought the people of Judah and Jerusalem back from their exile in Babylon and he did give them joy in their towns, but it was not complete. They were still ruled by the Persians, then by the Greeks, then by the Romans, and to this day Israel is not the place of security and peace that God promised it would be. In fact, no matter where God's people live, it isn't the place of perfect peace and security that God promised. There is no Garden of Eden today; nothing has been returned to the way it is supposed to be. We are still waiting. But as we wait, we enjoy the promises God has kept and expect more when Jesus returns.

Questions

1. In what ways are you still waiting for God to keep his promise to bless us?
2. Why did the exiled Jews need to be reminded of God's intention to keep his promise?
3. Why do we need the same words?

Bible Story

Abraham and Sarah have a son

Genesis 21:1-7

1. God often kept his people waiting before he would keep his promise.
2. God wanted Abraham to trust his Word.
3. What does God want us to do when it seems like he isn't keeping his promises?

In Liturgy and Song

As we look forward to Jesus keeping his promise that he will return and rescue us from this world, we should renew our resolve to put sin behind us and live a God-pleasing life.

1:4,5

4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And his true members all unite With him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning Day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, from the promises you have kept in the past, give us faith to believe that you will keep the promises that we still wait for—the promises of everlasting life and heaven. Amen.

The Daily Bread of Life

Feed your household with the bread that endures to eternal life.
Feast on the words of God and works of Jesus.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus makes everything right

The Text

Jeremiah 33:15

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time
I will make a **righteous Branch** sprout from **David’s line**;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

Keys to Understanding

Righteous Branch. When certain kinds of trees are cut down, they will send up shoots from the stump that will grow into new trees. God is comparing Jerusalem and its kings to a stump after the tree has been cut down.

David’s line. God had promised that David’s sons would rule in Jerusalem until one of them would come and rule forever, (2 Sam 7).

Keys to Applying

God had “cut off” the line of David’s sons who had been king in Jerusalem. King Zedekiah would be put to death and the Babylonians would rule the land of Israel. Even after God brought his people back from exile, David’s sons did not rule the land. At the time of Jesus’ birth, the “king” in Jerusalem was an Idumean, Herod. For almost 600 years the line of David was a stump. From that stump, though God raised up another king. Jesus was born to Mary, who was a descendant of David along with her husband Joseph. He would be the king who would make everything the way it was supposed to be again—just and right in God’s sight.

Questions

1. How long have you been waiting for God to fulfill his promises?
2. What strength can you take from the fact that God waited so long for Jesus to be born, and then still did it just as he promised?
3. How does Jesus give you salvation from everything that is unjust and wrong about our world?

Bible Story

Jesus Heals a Cripple on the Sabbath

John 5:1-15

1. The Jewish leaders were so concerned about being holy that they didn't think any work should be done on their day of worship, the Sabbath.
2. Obviously the Jewish believers couldn't count on their leaders to do or teach what is right in God's sight. They thought it was wrong to help this man because it was the Sabbath day, as if it could ever be wrong to show kindness to one of God's people.
3. Jesus is the king of God's kingdom, and he always does what is right. We can always count on him to help us.

In Liturgy and Song

Use this hymn by Martin Luther for your closing prayer. In this hymn we praise God for sending Jesus to right what sin has made wrong. Jesus has conquered death and hell.

2:3-5

3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4 From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!

5 Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

The Daily Bread of Life

Feed your household with the bread that endures to eternal life.
Feast on the words of God and works of Jesus.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We are secure in the Lord

The Text

Jeremiah 33:16

- ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.¹

Keys to Understanding

The LORD Our Righteousness.

This strange name for the city shows us that the God isn't planning to keep his promises of blessing by building a glorious city. He is going to give his people safety and blessing in himself.

Keys to Applying

We should not look for God's promised salvation in the security of our nation. The safety God promised will not be in Jerusalem or any other particular city. Though he has promised us earthly blessings, none will be as great as what he has promised. He will keep his promise, though, and give us a "Garden of Eden" like peace.

The "city" of our peace is called, "The LORD Our Righteousness." What God means is that we will dwell safely and securely in Jesus because he is our goodness. Through faith in him we are assured that we will always have peace with God and enjoy his blessings. We will live in peace in his kingdom—in a spiritual way now and in a physical way also after he returns on Judgment Day.

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1984 (Je 33:14–16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Questions

1. Our sins have brought God's curse onto our world and into our own lives since Adam and Eve first ate the forbidden fruit. What has God done to give us peace?
2. How does this help with our doubts, when we find that we have doubted him because we do not enjoy the full blessings he has promised?

Bible Story

Jacob's Ladder

Genesis 28:10-22

1. Jacob was worried about his journey and what would happen to him when he got to his uncle's house. Would he ever see his family again? Would Esau come after him? He didn't know.
2. In a vision God showed Jacob that he had a special connection to him. That ladder is often explained to be Jesus. What reason has Jesus given for God to always hear our prayers and bless us? His own goodness, and the fact that he has made his people by paying for us with his death.

In Liturgy and Song

Use these hymn verses for your closing prayer. In the first verse we confess our faith in Jesus as our righteousness, and in verses 5 and 6 we express the hope that this gives us for our death and Judgment Day.

376:4-6

4 Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.