



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORILE IGANMU

Praising the Father, Raising His Children, Reaching the World

Divine Restoration

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Scripture: Jeremiah 30:1-24

Description: Introduction The word “divine” as used in our topic is an adjective. It means ‘emanating from God.’ While the word restoration means ‘getting something back again.’ Before one can be talking of restoration it means something or someone has been lost or it or he/she has lost a state of satisfaction. Divine restoration is that kind of getting back which emanates from God. i.e. it is done by God.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" - 2 Timothy 3:16

Sermon Transcript

Introduction

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The Restoration of Israel

Our chosen text presents to us the despicable state of the Israelites in the captivity of Babylon. They were taken captive away from their city of freedom, joy, peace and prosperity to the land of slavery and hard labour.

Unfortunately, no man could help them. That was the time the Lord God almighty sent them this message of hope. He decided to set them free and bring them back to their homeland. The text offers us certain principles that people of all ages need in time loss and captivity. Some of them are discussed here.

1. God speaks (Jeremiah 30:1-2): God has a word for every moment and situation of life. God's word possesses power for self-fulfilment. Such words just require obedience on the part of the would-be beneficiaries. As you are here today, God has the right word for you and for your present situation. Can you hear Him?

? Lord, open my ears that I may hear you at all times in all situations.

? Father, your word is the answer to my prayers. Today, I receive answer before I leave this place.

? Father, restore me to my satisfactory state.

2. Loss or captivity comes with excruciating pain (Jeremiah 30:5-7): No one smiles or rejoices in the hands of bandits or kidnappers. The Israelites were passing through serious pain in captivity. The Lord heard their cries of fear and terror. Strong men were crying and holding their stomachs like a woman in labour. Their faces turned deathly pale. What a horrible situation! Is your present experience like this? God hears your cry. He will rescue you tonight.

? Father, deliver me from pains.

? Lord, set me free from captivity.

3. Deliverance precedes restoration (Jeremiah 30:8): Before the Israelites will be restored to the land of their ancestors the Lord would have to break the yoke off their necks and tear off their bonds. Then they would be free from foreigners who enslaved them.

? Jehovah! Break every yoke off my neck now.

? Father, tear off my bonds.

? I am tired of slavery. Set me free now!

4. Deliverance redirects focus of worship (Jeremiah 30:9): Hitherto, the Israelites have been serving their captors. Now, upon their deliverance, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king. Captives pay allegiance and sacrifice to their captors. Hardly can they think of offering God tangible sacrifice.

? Father, my allegiance and sacrifice are for you.

? Lord, deliver me from the captivity of sickness, betting, accident, kidnapping that taking my sacrifice away from you.

5. Restoration comes with peace and security (Jeremiah 30:10): When God restores, He bring peace and security.

? Father, restore my peace and rest of mind.

? Lord, restore my security.

6. Loss or captivity is a product of sin (Jeremiah 30:14-15): You cannot be sinning and escape captivity or loss. Unless you repent you will remain in captivity.

? Jesus, forgive me my trespasses.

? Loving father, save me from the guilt of sin.

? Father, deliver me from the curse of sin

7. God does not deliver his children from captivity without destroying their captors (Jeremiah 30:16, 20, 23-24): Pharaoh and his entire army were destroyed for enslaving the Israelites. All the chiefs and magistrates that conspired to throw Daniel into the den of lion were later consumed by the same lion. God does this that the affliction may not rise the second time.

? Father, destroy every evil hand that has held me in captivity.

? Lord, trouble my troublers.

? Father, visit the camp of the bandits and cause commotion amongst them for the sake of your children.

Outcome of Divine Restoration

- a) Physical or tangible evidence (Jeremiah 30:18)
- b) Thanksgiving (Jeremiah 30:19)
- c) Rejoicing (Jeremiah 30:19)
- d) Increase in number (Jeremiah 30:19)
- e) Honour (Jeremiah 30:19)
- f) Establishment (Jeremiah 30:20)
- g) Self-governing (Jeremiah 30:21)
- h) Cordial relationship with God (Jeremiah 30:22)

Conclusion

Self-discovery is the key to divine restoration. To what extent do you feel the pain of your loss or captivity? Trivialising your loss or captivity will only perpetuate your pain. The servant of the prophet cried out, "Oh no, my lord! It was borrowed!" (2 Kings 6:1-7) If he had behaved as if nothing was wrong, he wouldn't have gotten the axe head back. Invariably, he will have to pay for it. Cry out. Don't keep silent. Jesus is here to meet you at the very point of your loss or captivity. He is merciful. He met the widow of Nain who was going to bury her only son. (Luke 7:11-16) The widow had large crowd of sympathizers who could not restore joy. But when Jesus met her, He said, "Don't cry." Jesus touched the coffin and its bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Beloved, enough of crying. It is time ask Jesus for restoration.

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"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20