**Jeremiah 32:1-25**

***Facing the Impossible***

Introduction:

1. Jerusalem is under siege and falls in August 586. In vss. 1-15 God has an unusual request: *“buy a field from your cousin Hanamel”* Hanamel comes in v. 7 *“Buy my field.”* As kinsman redeemer, he goes through proper channels and in v. 10 signed, sealed the deed for 17 shekels. He took the sealed deed and placed it in a sealed jar (v. 14 much like the Dead Sea scrolls) Reason: v. 15 *fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.* That would not be for another 70 years!! The Christian life is a life of faith.

2. Do you have faith to act on the promises of God in difficult and desperate situations?

3. Christians make the same kinds of decisions every day: They do strange things because they trust the promises of God. Some get married…some raise families with Biblical standards…some go to distant lands as missionaries…some give money away…etc.

4. There is only one reason for the strange things Christians do. They take the word of God seriously.

5. You have done what God asked. How do you pray in a desperate situation?

6. Jeremiah 32:16-25 Jeremiah prays, and his focus is on God:

You have done what God asked. How do you pray in a desperate situation?

**I. THE WONDER OF A GREAT GOD 32:17a**

*“Ah, Sovereign Lord”*

1. ***The Exasperation*** There is a heart-felt cry.

*Ah! Alas! Sovereign Lord*

1. This expression is used 4 times in Jeremiah: When he is called into the ministry (1:6) When the Lord announced that Jerusalem would be invaded (4:10). When other prophets were speaking against him (14:13).
2. Life can hurt and *Ah* is all you can say.
3. Life can be overwhelming!
4. ***The Elevation*** *Lord God*
5. *“Sovereign Lord” Lord Jehovah Jehovah Elohim Sovereign:* He is the in control. He is in charge.
6. I yield to One who is bigger than the situation. He can do with me whatever He wants.
7. **He turns frustration and consternation into intercession.**

You have done what God asked. How do you pray in a desperate situation?

**II. THE WORSHIP OF A GREAT GOD 32:17b; 20-22**

He praises God for what He has done.

***A. He Is Sovereign 17b***

*Thou hast made the heaven and earth by thy great power and outstretched arm.*

1. The Lord God made everything there is…heaven, earth, the entire universe!
2. He made all the moons, stars, planets and galaxies: The nears star is 4.5 light years away. Light travels at 186, 248 miles per second. The nearest star is over 27 billion miles away!! Our Milky Way is 100,000 light years (how far light travels in one year) across. It is estimated that there may be 100 to 200 billion galaxies beyond ours!!!
3. Naturalism is the dominant world view. “It is the belief” that nature is all there is. There is no God, no soul, no spirit, only matter in motion. Harvard paleontologist George Gaylord Simpson put it like this: *Man is a result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have Him in mind.* In other words, the existence of human beings is an accident…the product of sheer chance.
4. If the Bible is true, then God created mankind. If naturalism is true, then mankind created God. God is make believe. He does not actually exist. He is the product of the human mind. Naturalism thus denies God His proper place of rule over the universe. That was *made by His outstretched arm.*

***B. He Is Savior 20-22***

The other mighty act Jeremiah mentioned is redemption.

1. He gives a short history lesson about how God brought the people from Egypt.
2. v. 22 He also brought them into Canaan, the promised land.
3. v. 21 God did all of this with His own power!!
4. If you believe in Jesus Christ. He is not only your creator, but your redeemer! He brought you from sin. He set you free! All by His own power!!

You have done what God asked. How do you pray in a desperate situation?

**III. THE WORTH OF A GREAT GOD 32:17c-19; 23**

He praises God for who He is. He crams as many characteristics as possible into 2 ½

 verses. In desperate situations we need reminded just who He is!

***A. God’s Omnipotence 17b***

**1.** *Nothing is too hard for you.* Whatever the task, God is up to it! He has no

 limitations.

 **2.** Does omnipotence have limitations? Yes

 \*There are Natural Limitations: He cannot do those things contrary to His nature.

 He cannot lie. He cannot be tempted by sin or tempt us to sin. He cannot deny

 Himself.

 \*There are Self Imposed Limitations: He did not choose to spare His son. He did

 not choose to save everyone in the world. He did not choose every nation in the

 Old Testament…only Israel.

 ***B. God’s Love 18a***

*You show love to thousands.*

1. *Thousands* There are millions of believers who have been shown the love of God.
2. If you ever doubt God’s love…go to the cross. *How much do you love me? He stretched out His arms and died for me!*

 ***C. God’s Justice 18b, 19c, 23***

*But bring punishment for the father’s sin…your eyes are open to all the ways of men,*

 *you reward everyone according to his conduct and his deeds deserve. (19b)*

1. God even judged His own people. (23)
2. In the 21st century man shies away from the justice of God. Man says that God is wrong to punish sin.
3. God is praised because He honors His holiness, righteousness and love. If those attributes be true…He must judge sin!! ***Sin must be paid for!!!***

***D. God’s Omniscience 19b***

*Your eyes are open to all the ways of man.*

1. When cousin Hanamel showed up at his prison cell, God knew all about the visit even before it happened!
2. Nothing shocks God or takes Him by surprise. The tomorrow that is sooo BIG. God has already been there!

You have done what God asked. How do you pray in a desperate situation?

**IV. THE WAYS OF A GREAT GOD 32:24-25**

Here was Jeremiah’s puzzle. He offered seven parts praise to one part puzzle. He spent

 more times praising than he did talking about his problems. He doesn’t ask God for

 anything. *He tells God what He already knows.*

***A. The Failure 23b*** *They have done nothing You commanded.* God’s promises do not

 depend on the frailty of man.

 ***B. The Facts 24*** Tell God like it is. Be honest He already knows what you are

 thinking or feeling!

 ***C. The Frustration 25***

**1.** Jeremiah wants to know if he has it straight. *You tell me: Buy the field…even*

 *though Jerusalem is under siege.* Crazy isn’t it??

 **2.** He already knew the answer. (v. 15) Following God isn’t always easy and it doesn’t

 always make logical sense.

1. *Is there anything too difficult, too marvelous for Me???* He repeats what He has already said in v. 17.

***There Is Nothing Too Difficult For God!!!***