

Investing in the LORD Jeremiah 32:6-14

I am sure all would agree that we are dealing with uncertain and unprecedented times. It is difficult to deal with the isolation we now face, unable to gather with one another, and find comfort we are accustomed to receiving from one another. We have questions without answers, and wonder how bad the pandemic will be, and how long the repercussions will last.

One issue that weighs heavily on the minds of many is the economy. How long will the nation be unable to work and go about business as usual? What effect will the shut-down have on our investments and retirement plans? How do we approach continued investing in times like these? How long will the economic down-turn last, and when can we expect it to get better?

While I can't answer these questions, I have been thinking about investments. While I am concerned with financial investments, I also realize there is a greater investment we all need to make in this unusual time in our lives. We have a wonderful opportunity to make a significant investment in ministry, striving to do all we can to maximize the great opportunity before us. The Lord we serve is not surprised by recent events, and He is more than able to equip us to be effective in ministry – maybe more effective than we have been in years.

Some may think the text is a bit unusual, but it is very relevant for our current situation. As we discuss the [details](#) within these verses, I want to consider: [Investing in the LORD](#).

I. An Investment in Faith (2) – [For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.](#) We find that Jeremiah was confined to prison. The leadership in Judah did not like the message he preached. Jeremiah had been imprisoned for his faith and commitment to the Lord. These were perilous times for Jeremiah and Judah. The LORD had told Jeremiah of the Babylonian captivity. He wasn't married, had no children, and it seemed unlikely he would live through seventy years of captivity. The land was already occupied by the enemy. This had to be an investment of faith!

- The Bible records many who invested in faith – Abraham with Isaac; Moses, Joshua, David, Hebrews in the fire, Job and on we could go. The world says we can't make it, faith says we can; world says religion is vain, faith says believe; world says throw in the towel, faith says press on; world says Christ is a myth, faith says Christ is Savior. When things seem hopeless and we can't see for the cloud of doubt, invest in faith and believe God. [Acts 27:25 – Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.](#)

II. An Investment in Family (7-8) – Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that *is* in Anathoth: for the right of redemption *is* thine to buy *it*. [8] So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that *is* in Anathoth, which *is* in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance *is* thine, and the redemption *is* thine; buy *it* for thyself. Then I knew that this *was* the word of the LORD. Jeremiah had the right of inheritance – this was his heritage. He had the right of redemption because of his kindred, therefore the right to redeem the land. He had an obligation to family.

- There is a heritage at Shady Grove. We must invest in our families, if we are to continue this heritage. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to make an investment in them. Joshua said...*as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.* Prov.22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* The Bible instructs us to *bring up* [our children] *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* *We must instruct and train our children in the Word and ways of the Lord.* This will certainly take some investment.
- Many are upset about the absence of prayer in school, and the display of the Ten Commandments. What about the absence of prayer in the home? Do we practice the commandments before our children? Much of the violence, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and disobedience in our young people are a result of the lack of investment in them on our part. It is time to make an investment in the family.

III. An Investment in the Field (9) – *And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.* Jeremiah invested in the field. The word field comes from a Hebrew root word meaning “*to spread out.*” The church has an obligation to invest in those in our communities, outside the church. We need to *spread out* for the Lord. Each of us has someone we can share our faith with. God will provide the opportunity, if we will only make the investment.

- I am reminded of another field in Scripture – the one our Lord spoke of in *John 4:35.* He said, “*Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*” *Acts 1:8* – *ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* We must invest in the field. *Luke 10:2* – *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

IV. An Investment in the Future (14) – Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. Jeremiah made an investment he most likely would never benefit from. He was investing in the future. I am interested in the deeds recorded of the purchase. One was sealed, and one was open. I believe we can apply this to two different kinds of investment.

- The open deed represents an investment we will likely see results of in the future. A dedicated Sunday school teacher may see her students accept Christ as Savior. The object of prayer so heavy on your heart may soon be answered. We need to invest expecting results. The church will only be as prosperous as the members desire it to be.
- The sealed deed represents investments we will never see. These investments will pay dividends in heaven. These investments help ensure the church will be here for future generations. I am glad for those who invested in my future. Shady Grove is nearly 140 years old. This took a great deal of investment and sacrifice on the part of God's people down through the years. The future of this and every other church will be affected by the investments we are making today. We must continue to invest in the church and the ministry efforts, if we expect Shady Grove to remain vibrant and strong in the future.

Conclusion: What or where are you making an investment? Are you investing in the world or the things of God? Likely, we will be asked to make an investment of faith. We should all invest in our families. The church is charged to invest in the field, those who need the Lord. It is time to start investing in the future. Will you commit to making an investment for the Lord?

This passage is also prophetic in nature. Judah was allowed to return from Babylon, but she never regained the glory she had prior to captivity. Christ the Lord will return at the Father's appointed time to establish His Kingdom. He is coming again! Do you know Christ as your personal Savior? If not, now is the time to repent of sin, and believe in Christ unto salvation by faith in His finished work on the cross. Come to Him for salvation if you do not have a relationship with the Lord.