

The Everlasting Love of God

Jeremiah 31: 1-4

(Illus. Moody and Moorhouse)

In our text Judah was facing a desperate situation. They had rejected the message of repentance that Jeremiah had preached and God had brought judgment with the invasion of the Babylonians. At this time Jerusalem had been besieged by their armies for about 18 months. Food supplies were running low and disease was rampant. Starvation and death were a harsh reality for the people held captive. It seemed as if all hope was forever gone. But, even in the midst of all this difficulty, God offered a ray of hope. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God reminded Judah that they had not been forsaken. They must face the consequences of their sin, but God still loved them and He hadn't forgotten them.

As with Moody and the hymn writers of old, I too stand amazed at the marvelous love of God for humanity. This passage was written to the people of Judah, but there is application and hope for all who read these blessed words. Let's take a moment to consider this amazing attribute of our Lord as we consider: [The Everlasting Love of God](#).

I. The Presence of the Lord (1-2) – It may have appeared to those in Jerusalem that they were forsaken, but God was very near to them. These verses reveal some wonderful truths about the presence of the Lord.

A. His Majesty (1a) – [At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.](#) This speaks of two things happening at once. The previous chapter dealt with the judgment to come, and yet this verse reveals that at the same time the Lord will be the God of all the families of Israel.

- Isn't that amazing? Even when they had rebelled against the Lord, refusing to submit to Him and facing judgment, God declared that He remained their God. He wasn't the God of a select or privileged few; He was the God of all Israel. Even though He had to judge them, He loved them.
- That is an attribute that only our God could possess. I fear that judgment is coming to America, and when it does it will be deserved, but even then God will continue to be our God. He alone has the majesty to pass judgment and remain a loving and providing Lord. He isn't One who is here today and gone tomorrow. We serve the everlasting King!

B. His Mercy (1b-2a) – [And they shall be my people. Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness.](#) Even though they deserved judgment,

God offered grace and mercy. He declares that judgment will come, but it will not last forever. There will be a remnant that will survive the judgment and eventually return to Jerusalem. They will still be regarded as His people. That day did come and they found grace in the eyes of God. Many Jews remain scattered, but they are still His people.

- I never read the history of Israel without being reminded of the grace and mercy that has been shown to us all. We too were deserving of judgment and condemnation, but God in His mercy showed grace instead. Those who were sinful and undeserving have received grace through Christ.

C. His Manifestation (2b) – Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, **when I went to cause him to rest**. God came to them in their time of need in the wilderness and provided rest for the weary. This has the idea of “*peace, security, assurance, and fulfillment.*” Even in the midst of a barren wilderness facing an uncertain future, God gave them rest.

- We have all had those seasons in life where it seemed as if we were in the midst of a barren and dry wilderness. We have all had those moments where we wondered if we would survive. But isn't it sweet when the Lord manifests Himself, assuring us that all is well? We may not be out of the wilderness yet; we may not even know how that will come to pass, but we have peace because we know that our God is in control! We are promised peace even in the wilderness.

I. The Presence of the Lord (1-2)

II. The Passion of the Lord (3) – The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, **Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee**. What a promise we find in the Word of God concerning His love for us. This verse reveals several attributes that pertain to God's love for us. Notice:

A. It is Profound – The Lord hath appeared of old unto me. This speaks of God's eternal nature. It speaks of one who transcends the boundaries of time and space. It speaks of One who has no beginning and no ending. It speaks of One whose ways are not able to be discerned.

- That alone is beyond our ability to comprehend, but God further baffles our understanding when He confesses His unending love for humanity. He declares to Jeremiah that even though Judah has committed sin resulting in judgment, He still loves them.
- Have you thought about that lately? We are undeserving of anything from the Lord and yet we find that He loves us. The God of heaven, Creator of the universe, He who rules and reigns above all loves you and me! **Ps.8:3-4 – When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy**

fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

B. It is Personal – *Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.* God declares that His love is personal. It is love that is extended from the throne of heaven to the hearts of men.

- Isn't that amazing? God Himself loves you. God loves me! This isn't just a dream or fairy tale. We are loved of the Lord. I am loved by many in this life, but nothing compares to God's love for me. He loves me!

C. It is Permanent (3) – *Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.* God declares to Jeremiah that His love for Judah is without limits or end. There was never a time when He didn't love them and there will never be a time when that love ceases to exist. His love for them is everlasting, eternal.

- God's love is beyond amazing. It is hard to fathom the unending depths of God's love. His love for us will never end; it will never change. God's love for us is everlasting, just as it is for Judah.

- We simply cannot comprehend such love. Much of what we experience is not love at all. God's love is superior to man's definition and understanding of love. His love is not fickle or dependent upon circumstances. His love is everlasting and pure.

- I thought of something new and exciting in this. When we think of everlasting love, we think of love that will endure for all eternity. That is a true and proper perception of God's love. But everlasting love never changes. It is the same today as it was yesterday. It will be the same tomorrow and the day after that. The point I'm making is that during those times when we have strayed or felt as if we were somehow forsaken, God's love had not changed. It is impossible for His love to change!

D. It is Profitable (3b) – *The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.* The love of God is certainly not without benefit. Judah may have strayed from God resulting in judgment, but God was not through with them. He still desired a relationship with them. In time He would draw them unto Him again.

- It would be enough to know that God loves us with an everlasting love. It would be enough to know that love would never change. But because of His love for us, He draws us toward Him with loving-kindness. God draws us toward Him because He loves us; He desires to have a relationship with us!

- How many of you remember a time when trouble came your way as a child? How many times were you disciplined for your mistakes and even after the time of correction, you were drawn close and reassured that you were loved? That is what I picture in this text. God has to

bring discipline to us at times, but He seeks to assure us of His love. We are drawn close to His side and told that we are still loved.

I. The Presence of the Lord (1-2)

II. The Passion of the Lord (3)

III. The Provision of the Lord (4) – *Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.* Judgment was upon them, but God promised a better day to come. They would enjoy His provision again. Consider this wonderful provision. It includes:

A. Revival – *Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built.* Through sin and rebellion much had been lost and destroyed. Lives had been ruined and their testimony was tarnished. Spiritually and nationally Judah was in ruins. They were faced with the reality of devastation and captivity.

- God promised however that He would build them again. This has the idea of “*rebuilding, establishing, and causing to continue.*” Captivity was upon them, but revival would come again. God promised to build up what had been torn down. Their lives appeared to be in ruin, but God was going to take the pieces that were shattered and rebuild them.
- He desires to do the same for us. Spiritually and nationally America is facing ruin. We have walked away from the Lord and rejected His will for our lives. God leaves a promise that He is able to rebuild that which has been torn down and destroyed. He may not rebuild our nation, but I am convinced that He desires to bring revival to our hearts!

B. Restoration – *Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel.* God speaks of them as the virgin of Israel. This is quite significant. She had accepted a marriage covenant with the Lord. Spiritually she was married to God. In her defilement, Israel played the harlot spiritually. She committed adultery against the Lord with other gods and pleasures. But here God refers to her as the virgin of Israel. He is speaking of a future time when her purity will be restored.

- Prophetically for Israel that is yet to happen, but there is hope for believers in this passage. God is able to restore those who have fallen prey to sin. He is able to restore you unto fellowship with Him. He is able and willing to cleanse us from our unrighteousness and restore us.

C. Rejoicing (4b) – [thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry](#). God speaks of a time when Israel will once again bear instruments of praise and hope, going forth in jubilant dance with a merry heart. Turmoil and trouble had come for now, but joy awaited those who endured.

- God's love has the ability to restore joy to those who have no reason to rejoice. You may be in the midst of a trial or have wandered from God and have lost your song of hope. God stands ready to renew that song if you desire to sing. He can renew your hope and put joy in your soul again. God desires us to be joyful in the journey. We are a people of hope; we have a song to sing. If you have lost your song, God can renew it!

Isn't God's love amazing? I stand amazed that He would lavish such love on one such as me.

Maybe it has been a while since you were reminded of that love. Maybe it has been a while since you appreciated or felt that love because of sin in your life. God's love has not changed and it has not faded. Sin may hinder us from really experiencing that love, but it is still there. Why not come before Him and find that love once again?