

# POWER HOUR

8/9/2026

Lesson Text:  
Jeremiah 31:1-14

Related Scriptures:  
Isaiah 62:1-12; Matthew 22:1-10;  
Psalms 23:1-6; 106:24-48;  
Deuteronomy 30:1-5

“GOD RECONCILES HIS PEOPLE”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** For the Lord has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them.  
Jeremiah 31:11 NLT

**Time:** 587 B.C.

**Place:** Jerusalem

## Jeremiah 31:1-14 NLT

<sup>1</sup> “In that day,” says the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people. <sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord says: “Those who survive the coming destruction will find blessings even in the barren land, for I will give rest to the people of Israel.” <sup>3</sup> Long ago the Lord said to Israel: “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. <sup>4</sup> I will rebuild you, my virgin Israel. You will again be happy and dance merrily with your tambourines. <sup>5</sup> Again you will plant your vineyards on the mountains of Samaria and eat from your own gardens there. <sup>6</sup> The day will come when watchmen will shout from the hill country of Ephraim, ‘Come, let us go up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord our God.’” <sup>7</sup> Now this is what the Lord says: “Sing with joy for Israel. Shout for the greatest of nations! Shout out with praise and joy: ‘Save your people, O Lord, the remnant of Israel!’ <sup>8</sup> For I will bring them from the north and from the distant corners of the earth. I will not forget the blind and lame, the expectant mothers and women in labor. A great company will return! <sup>9</sup> Tears of joy will stream down their faces, and I will lead them home with great care. They will walk beside quiet streams and on smooth paths where they will not stumble. For I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my oldest child. <sup>10</sup> “Listen to this message from the Lord, you nations of the world; proclaim it in distant coastlands: The Lord, who scattered his people, will gather them and watch over them as a

shepherd does his flock. <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them. <sup>12</sup> They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem. They will be radiant because of the Lord's good gifts—the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and the healthy flocks and herds. Their life will be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows will be gone. <sup>13</sup> The young women will dance for joy, and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration. I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing. <sup>14</sup> The priests will enjoy abundance, and my people will feast on my good gifts. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

## INTRODUCTION

Everyone goes through difficult times and experiences. Sometimes these are caused by bad decisions or sinful choices. In Jeremiah 31, God's people were about to experience judgment for their sin of turning away from Him. He was getting ready to exile them from the Promised Land to the land of Babylon. Yet in the midst of warnings of judgment and proclamations of doom, Jeremiah's prophecies in chapters 30 through 33 shine brightly with a message of hope. At last, comforting words followed harsh ones. For once, a glimmer of hope gleamed in the distance. God would not abandon His people, much though they deserved it. His plans for punishment had an expiration date; His intent for purification would result in a newly unified holy remnant to worship Him in Zion once again.

### Additional Scripture Readings

God will Scatter Israel. Leviticus 26:27-45.

A History of Israel's Idolatry. Psalms 106:24-48.

Watchmen Announce the Lord's Coming. Isaiah 62:1-12.

Invitation to Gather at God's Feast. Matthew 22:1-10.

God Will Dwell with His People. Revelation 21:1-4.

Awaiting the Final Restoration. Acts 1:4-11.

Restoring Israel's Fortunes. Jeremiah 30:1-11, 18-22.

**1. God's Word to Israel (Jeremiah 31:1-9).** Because we live in a different time than Jeremiah's original audience, it can be easy to miss the radical nature of God's

promise of compassion. God's promise to restore **all the families of Israel** would have been astonishing. The northern ten tribes had become so intermingled with the foreign nations that Judah no longer considered them to be Israel at all!

God's promise to restore His people used covenantal language that evoked the memory of the old covenant (Exodus 3:7-10, 15) while promising something new. The Israelites had forfeited their status as God's chosen people (Hosea 1:8-9). Even so, God would create anew His chosen people (Jeremiah 31:27-28, 31-37). He would never utterly forsake His chosen people, and He would ensure their continuation by grafting in those from the nations who came to know Him (Romans 10:11-13; 11:13-21).

God promised not only a physical restoration of Israel, which partially took place during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, but a spiritual restoration of all His chosen people. We see this through the mention of planting vines (vineyards) in Samaria and the call to go to Zion (Jeremiah 31:5-6). This combination of language shows physical abundance and spiritual blessing—the idealized Promised Land with a restored and united kingdom. We know from history that no such restoration has yet taken place, but the Bible has given us even clearer promises of God's compassion. One day all God's people will delight in His abundance and worship Him in Zion when He makes the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 5:9-10; 21:1-5; 22:1-6). That is the ultimate fulfillment of God's compassion on Israel.

**2. God's Word to the nations (Jeremiah 31:10-14).** Part of how we know God's plan was to include all nations, not just Israel, is because Jeremiah specifically addressed the nations. Other prophecies condemned the nations for their treatment of Israel, but this passage invited them to look on Israel's restoration as a reason to worship God.

God's people Israel had a special place in the history of redemption, and Jeremiah's prophecy made this extremely clear (Romans 11:22-24). However, the physical abundance of the land was meant to reflect spiritual abundance, and that abundance was meant to draw in the nations (Exodus 19:5-6). Jeremiah linked Israel's restoration to the new covenant. The emphasis on land in Jeremiah's prophecy served to highlight the spiritual restoration of God's people. It would be

like a return to the Garden of Eden—only better, and with the cultural mandate to reach all peoples fulfilled. We see God working salvation in redemption history through the worldwide call of the gospel. This call began in seed form with Abraham and developed more clearly with the charge to the nation of Israel to be holy. In the old covenant, Israel was to draw the nations to itself through its holy living. Now, after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, the gospel has spread to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). God's people will fully enjoy Him in the new creation.

### **PRACTICAL POINTS**

The Lord never stops loving His people (Jeremiah 31:1-3).

After sending His judgment, the Lord will bless His people when they return to Him (vss. 4-5).

The Lord is always willing to accept His repentant people (vss. 6-7).

God sometimes reverses the fortunes of those who least expect it (vs. 8).

When God's people repent, He will return them to Himself. It does not matter how far they have strayed (vss. 9-12).

We should rejoice in the forgiving grace of God and celebrate (vss. 13-14)!

### **CONCLUSION**

Jeremiah prophesied to a broken people. The northern kingdom of Israel was gone, and the southern kingdom of Judah was experiencing exile and tribulation. However, he prophesied about God's compassion. God would restore His people, giving them physical and spiritual abundance again, but in a new way.

We live in a time when God's promises of abundance have been partially realized. We have joy and abundance in our relationship with Jesus. God has given us the Holy Spirit as a down payment of the fullness of salvation that is to come. Right now, we can and should delight in Jesus, but we cannot physically see Him. One day, we will have the fullness of physical and spiritual abundance in the new heavens and the new earth.

**Next week**, we will examine God's compassion in shepherding His wayward people and bringing them to salvation. **"The Good Shepherd Ezekiel 34:1-16.**

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