

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Jon Macon

In Jeremiah 32:6-14, God told Jeremiah to buy the field of his cousin Hananeel to signify that the captives of Israel would return one day and the land of Israel would be possessed again by God's people. "*For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land*" (Jer 32:15). God instructed Jeremiah to do this at the very time that Jerusalem was being besieged by Nebuchadnezzar and the army of Babylon. Many Jews were already in Babylon as captives, and within a year, the siege of Jerusalem would end with the utter destruction of the city and the temple. The Lord had recently prophesied through Jeremiah, "*Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it*" (Jer 32:3). Jeremiah was having difficulty reconciling God's promise of the coming devastation of Jerusalem and all of Judah with this instruction to buy his cousin's field with witnesses to signify the Jews' future possession of the land. We can probably relate to how this situation challenged the faith of the prophet Jeremiah.

A challenge for Jeremiah

How God was going to accomplish both of these things (to send Israel into captivity in Babylon and also for Israel to one day possess their land again) was the question at the heart of Jeremiah's prayer in Jeremiah 32:16-25. Jeremiah pointed out these two different prophecies which seemed so incongruous: "And thou hast said unto me, O Lord God, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans" (Jer 32:25). Jeremiah did not doubt God's ability to bring both of these things to pass, as he acknowledged the limitless power of God in creating all things (Jer 32:17), in showing "lovingkindness unto thousands" and recompensing iniquity (Jer 32:18-19), and in delivering the children of Israel from Egypt and giving them the land of Canaan (Jer 32:20-23). Jeremiah summed up God's power, saying, "*There is nothing too hard for thee*" (Jer 32:17). God answered Jeremiah's question with the firm promise that the captives would be returned to the land of Israel (Jer 32:36-41). The same power of God that was bringing all this evil upon the people would also bring all the good later. The Lord said, "Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

(continued)

in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the Lord” (Jer 32:42-44).

God’s promises fulfilled

Though at the time it may have been hard to foresee how the Lord would bring this to pass, He most certainly *did* bring it to pass. The captivity lasted for seventy years (Jer 25:11-12; Zech 7:5). “And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, *to fulfil threescore and ten years*. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. *Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up*” (2 Chr 36:20-23). Many times, situations that God’s children face will present a challenge to their faith in the promises that He has made, the same as with Jeremiah. But our faith must not waver. Otherwise, we will receive nothing from God (Jas 1:6-8). We are in the middle of a spiritual war (2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-13). We are striving against sin (Heb 12:1-4). Our goal is to grow until we are “filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:14-19). And God is “*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*” (Eph 3:20). No matter how difficult the battle may seem, God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5-6). God has promised to work all things together for our good, and His love will remain with us throughout our course (Rom 8:28-39). We will never face a temptation that is above what we can bear, and God will always provide a way to escape it (1 Cor 10:13). Jesus Christ declared to us what Jeremiah also knew, that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 18:27). Indeed, “*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us*” (2 Cor 1:20). This is the faith by which we stand (2 Cor 1:24)!