

Good News Daily

Volume XIX

April 7-13, 2019

Number 14

Sunday, April 7

Jeremiah 23:16-32 *Thus says the LORD of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you; they are deluding you. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.* (v.16 NRSV)

Due to the many instances and examples of prophecy in the Bible, I have an incomplete understanding of its nature. However, I faithfully accept prophecy as being one of the spiritual gifts given by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. That means to me, in one sense, an individual will have knowledge of present hidden things which cannot be known by the natural light of reason.

In today's passage, Jeremiah was speaking about false prophets and the trouble they were causing. His prophecy is just as fresh today as it was then. There are competing voices in today's world of Christianity. So many denominations inviting new adherents. Ideas and issues so finely parsed that I lose track of the starting point in it all. Causes to follow—and my nagging apprehension that I might be following the wrong one. I pray that I listen to the one who speaks His word faithfully.

Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Mark 8:31—9:1

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for: the Church of Ireland, The Most Revd Richard Lionel Clarke - Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Salem The Rev. Cn. David M. Baumann, Priest in Charge; Nsenda Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Gideon Kalumiye; the Youth Home of Casa Hogar Sagrada Familia, Rev'd Daniel Rodriguez, Chaplain; Birthday of Mary Ann, wife of The Venerable Shawn W. Denney, Springfield.

Monday, April 8

Romans 9:19-33 *You will say to me then, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?"* (v.19)

For me, this passage in Romans presents a conundrum since it involves the sovereignty of God and my belief that I can act and choose as a free moral agent. Paul doesn't really answer the question as to why God has mercy on some and hardens the heart of others. [Yeah, guilty as charged for acting as "a human being, to argue with God." (v.20)]

Paul talks about the clay and the potter and I'm the clay and God's the potter, etc., but I see the issue as a valid question to which there is really no answer—and it should be admitted that Paul doesn't answer it with this explanation.

That leaves me to read ahead further: “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (10:13). So *that’s* my answer. I call on the name of the Lord and leave election to God, which is his business and not mine.

Jeremiah 24:1-10; Psalm 31; John 9:1-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mexico, The Rt Revd Carlos Touche-Porter; West Tennessee (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Don Johnson; Ideato (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Caleb Maduoma

DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm*.

Tuesday, April 9

Romans 10:1-13 *But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).* (vv.6-7)

Understanding the complex theological messages the apostle Paul has packed into this chapter is not easy for me. It requires a willingness on my part to work at it; and, (gratefully) having a writing assignment, gives me the impetus to do the work. So, out of the several ideas that are laid out, I have focused on this short bit.

What I am hearing is that Christ is present with me at this very moment. He is not waiting for me to find him after my death. He is not somewhere in heaven seeking to greet me on my arrival. He is here, now, available. The Spirit of Christ is working to encourage me to confess with my lips and in my heart that I am justified and have been saved. And, in so doing, I can live a present life—not just passively, but actively—with a confidence and calm and a peace which passes all understanding.

Jeremiah 25:8-17; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; John 9:18-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Michigan (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Wendell Gibbs; West Texas The Rt Revd David Reed, The Rt Revd Jennifer Brooke-Davidson

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Let your mighty outstretched arm, O Lord God, be our defense.

Wednesday, April 10

John 10:1-18 “*Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.*” (v.1)

Jesus was issuing a warning to those who believed they had an exclusive membership to the “club.” His sheepfold however was not, and is not now, a club

that excludes. It is not reserved for the wealthy or influential or the connected. If it were, that would leave me out in the dark and cold.

I listen for my Shepherd's voice. I do this by prayer and worship and study. But, there still remain today, thieves and bandits of all different stripes that beckon me with a different path which is described as warm and bright and easy. Some things ring truer than others. The Shepherd's voice has become more familiar to my ears. Lord, let me listen—intently.

Jeremiah 25:30-38; Psalm 119:145-176; Romans 10:14-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Milwaukee (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Steven Miller; West Virginia, The Rt Revd Willam Michie Klusmeyer; Western Izon (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Edafe Enamezi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Sara "Sally", wife of The Rev. Jon E. Griffin, West Frankfort.

Thursday, April 11

Romans 11:1-12 *God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? (v.2)*

Christian Zionist is a term used to describe a person like myself. It took quite a while for me to understand the origins and implications of the complex concept of Christian Zionism. It is an idea that has been kicking around for about a century and a half; and, it involves many interesting individuals and political decisions made by various governments over time. It has been associated with an additional concept known as "replacement theology" (i.e. the Christian church has replaced Israel as God's chosen people).

Biblical theology is clear: Israel is God's chosen people. Gentiles have been grafted into the true vine. I believe that the people of Israel are not pawns in a Christian end-game that is designed to bring about and trigger mass conversion, the rapture, Armageddon, or the Second Coming. No one knows but the Father. I support Israel and her people because, as a Christian, I know that the Father's promise is unbreakable and those who bless Israel will be blessed. And those who curse Israel will be cursed.

Jeremiah 26:1-16; Psalms 131, 132, 133; John 10:19-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Minna (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Daniel Abu Yisa; Western Kansas (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Mark Cowell

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your Holy Name.

Friday, April 12

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13 *Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart I will let you find me, says the LORD...* (vv.12-13)

In this passage, Jeremiah is writing to the exiles in Babylon. He is giving them instructions on how to continue their lives in a strange land. Wow! Strangers in a strange land.

Not to sound too dramatic, but I also feel like a stranger in my own life. I've been displaced by economic events. Removed from my daily life by medical and physical changes that have occurred. Disassociated from personal relations by time, distance, and death. Yeah, I'm a mess.

But the prophet is telling me otherwise. This is the truth that is grounding me: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (v.11). I trust in God's word and pray for my Lord's plans for me to be fulfilled.

Psalm 22; Romans 11:13-24; John 11:1-27 or 12:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Minnesota (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Brian Prior; Western Kowloon (*Hong Kong*) The Rt Revd Andrew Chan; Idoani (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Ezekiel Dahunsi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, set us free from the bondage of our sins.

Saturday, April 13

Jeremiah 31:27-34 *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* (v.33)

This passage immensely reassures my soul. It confirms for me what I consider to be one of the most important elements of God's nature. That is, His consistent, merciful relationship with mankind. Ancient Israel strayed from God's wishes and plans and the prophet Jeremiah took them to task on the issue. In like manner, from time to time, I stray from God's path and plan for me. But my unfaithfulness is not repaid in kind by God.

Writing a new covenant with mankind, God has offered me the deal of a lifetime. I need to focus on opening my heart (my will) in the solid belief that this is what I want. That I need the Lord in a big way and a firm relationship is the foundation of being one of His people.

Psalms 137, 144; Romans 11:25-36; John 11:28-44 or 12:37-50

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mishamikoweesh (*Canada*) The Rt Revd Lydia Mamakwa, The Rt Revd Isaiah Larry Beardy; Western Louisiana (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Jacob W Owensby;

Ife (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Olubunmi A Akinlade; Ife East, The Rt Revd Oluseyi Oyelade

DIOCESAN CYCLE: God, your Word tells us that true religion with contentment is great wealth.

by Larry Standish

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org

Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Robin L., Margret L.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Bob C., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar.