

Rebuke and Retribution

Jeremiah 17: 14.



“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be
healed; save me, and I shall be
saved, for You are my praise.”
Jeremiah 17: 14.



I. Introduction

The true spiritual healing and the salvation are always the work of the almighty God and not the result of human knowledge, efforts, or creativity.



“God is just as willing to restore the sick to health now as when the Holy Spirit spoke these words through the psalmist. And Christ is the same compassionate physician now that He was during His earthly ministry. In Him there is healing balm for every disease, restoring power for every infirmity. His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as the disciples of old prayed. And recoveries will follow: for ‘the prayer of faith shall save the sick.’”
Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 225-6.



“Salvation is an act of
God. It is initiated by
God, wrought by God,
and sustained by God.”
Billy Graham



“Let this be to you the mark of true Gospel preaching - where Christ is everything, and the creature is nothing; where it is salvation all of grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit applying to the soul the precious blood of Jesus.”
Charles Spurgeon



“Christ’s wounds are thy
healings, His agonies thy
repose, His conflicts thy
conquests, His groans
thy songs, His pains thine
ease, His shame thy
glory, His death thy life,
His sufferings thy
salvation.”

Matthew Henry



"Grace is given to heal the spiritually sick, not to decorate spiritual heroes."
Martin Luther



"Christ is the Good Physician.
There is no disease He cannot
heal; no sin He cannot
remove; no trouble He cannot
help. He is the Balm of Gilead,
the Great Physician who has
never yet failed to heal all the
spiritual maladies of every
soul that has come unto Him
in faith and prayer."

James H. Aughey



“The gospel overturns
everything sin does.”
D. A. Carson



II. Context



The 17th chapter of the prophet Jeremiah book has as center the statement about the sanctuary. The message is easy to understand: God is the solution for the situation of Judah. Departing from God is just increasing the problems that human wisdom cannot solve.



Jeremiah 17, Structure

| | | |
|----|---------|---|
| A | 1 – 4 | To kindle a fire which shall burn forever (Human Heart) |
| B | 5 – 8 | Man as blessing and cursing |
| C | 9 – 11 | Nature of man |
| | a. | Wisdom statement |
| | b. | God's announcement |
| | c. | Wisdom statement |
| D | 12 | THE SANCTUARY |
| C | 13 – 14 | Nature of God |
| | a. | Prayer |
| | b. | God's announcement |
| | c. | Prayer |
| B' | 15 – 18 | God as hope and terror |
| A' | 19 – 27 | To kindle a fire which shall burn forever (Faithfulness to Sabbath) |

17: 5 – 8 is reminding us the twofold destiny of human beings: to be blessed or to go through life with the cursing.

What is not usual is to see that the prophet Jeremiah creates two categories for the description of God himself: to be the hope or to be understood as terror. (15 – 18)



The sin is presented at the beginning of the chapter 17 (1 – 2) as being part of the human nature (it is engraved on the tablet of their heart).

The end of the chapter is promoting the faithfulness to God's law. Thus, from the sin in the heart we come to the keeping of Sabbath through the mention of the Sanctuary. What a beautiful transformation.



The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: Structure

| | | |
|----|-------------|---|
| A | Ch. 1 | Prologue: Vocation of Jeremiah and prediction about Babylon |
| B | Ch. 2 - 10 | Prophecies regarding Judah |
| C | Ch. 11 - 20 | Confessions of Jeremiah |
| D | Ch. 21 - 29 | Nebuchadnezzar punishing the king Zedekiah and Jerusalem |
| E | Ch. 30 - 33 | The New Covenant and the new Consolation |
| D' | Ch. 34 - 35 | Sin of the king Zedekiah |
| C' | Ch. 36 - 45 | Suffering of Jeremiah |
| B' | Ch. 46 - 51 | Prophecies regarding the Nations |
| A | Ch. 52 | Epilogue: Fall of Jerusalem and fulfillment of the prophecy about Babylon |

III. The Prophet Jeremiah highlights the only solution for human salvation and healing of the soul: God Himself. He indicates also the best attitude during this process.



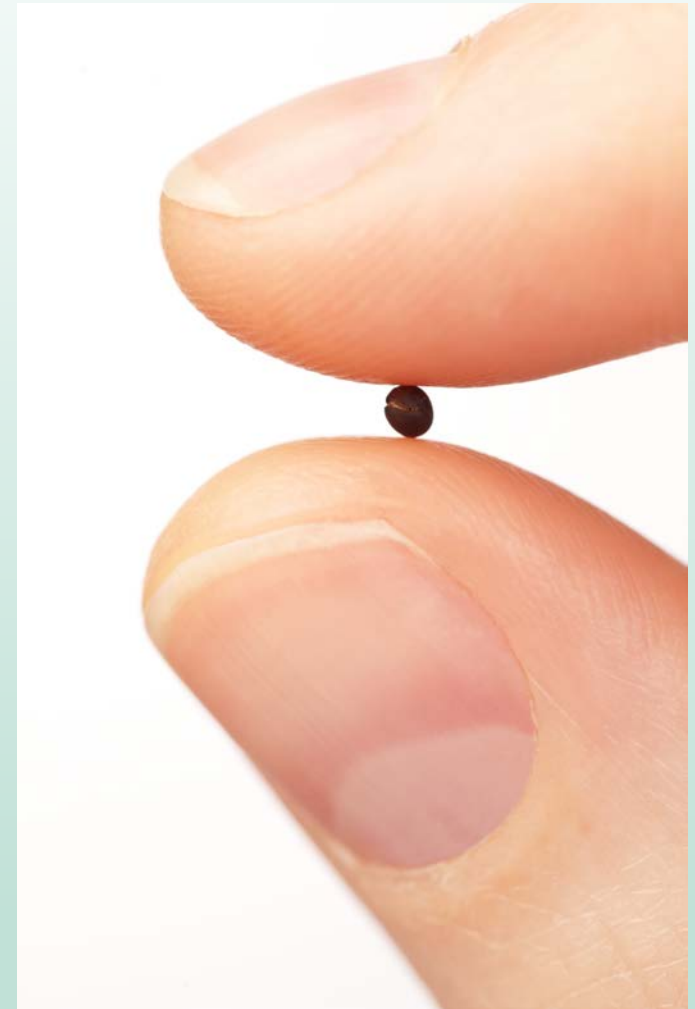
1. The prayer of Jeremiah for healing is a prayer of certitude

“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be
healed”



“By faith and prayer press back the power of the enemy. Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balsam to the bruised and wounded one. Many, many, have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.”

Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 504.



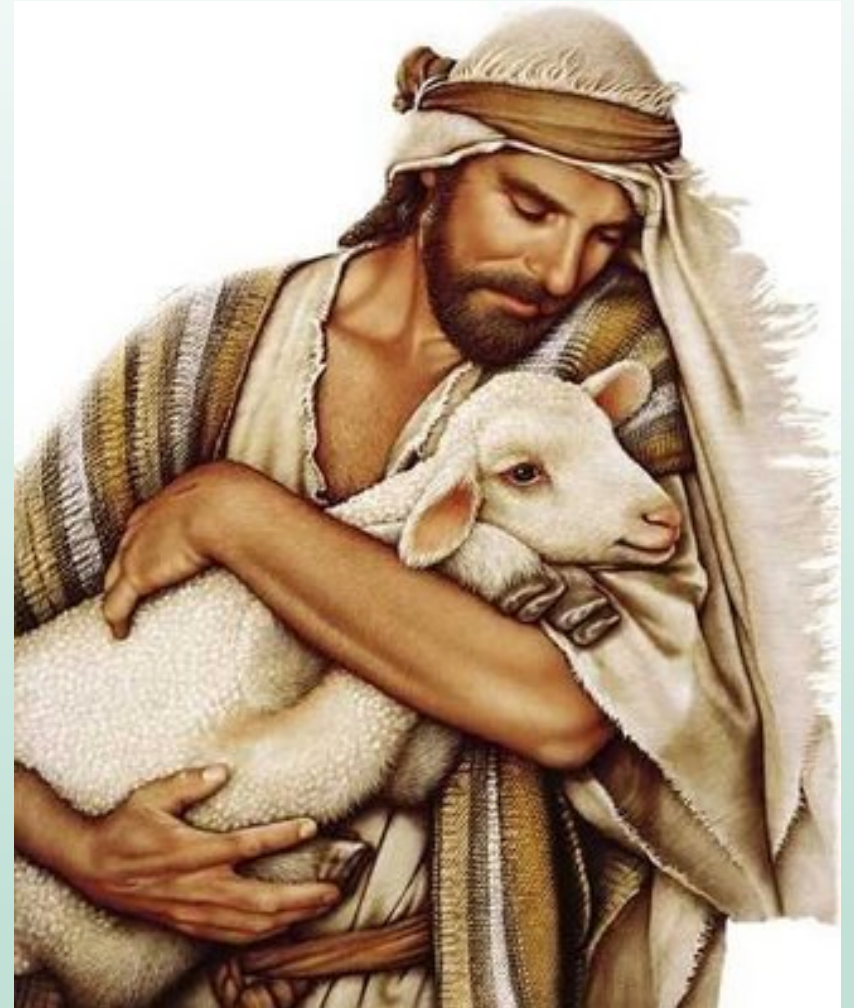
“There is the rock solid confidence that when God does something it is done. When He speaks it is accomplished. When He acts it is irreversible. ‘Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed.’ Case closed. Oh, how it speaks to my soul. How it calms my thoughts. How it comforts my heart. ‘Save me, and I will be saved.’ Period.

What are you looking at, Christian? Where are your eyes fixed? Look at the glorious certitude of our God and feel your spiritual equilibrium return.”

Michael Kelley



“When we achieve the state of certitude that our God is a loving God, when we trust Him totally and know without a doubt that all things work together for the well-being of His children, we need nothing more. This is the ultimate level of relationship with the divine and those who reach this level can proclaim in all circumstances: ‘The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want.’”
(DS)



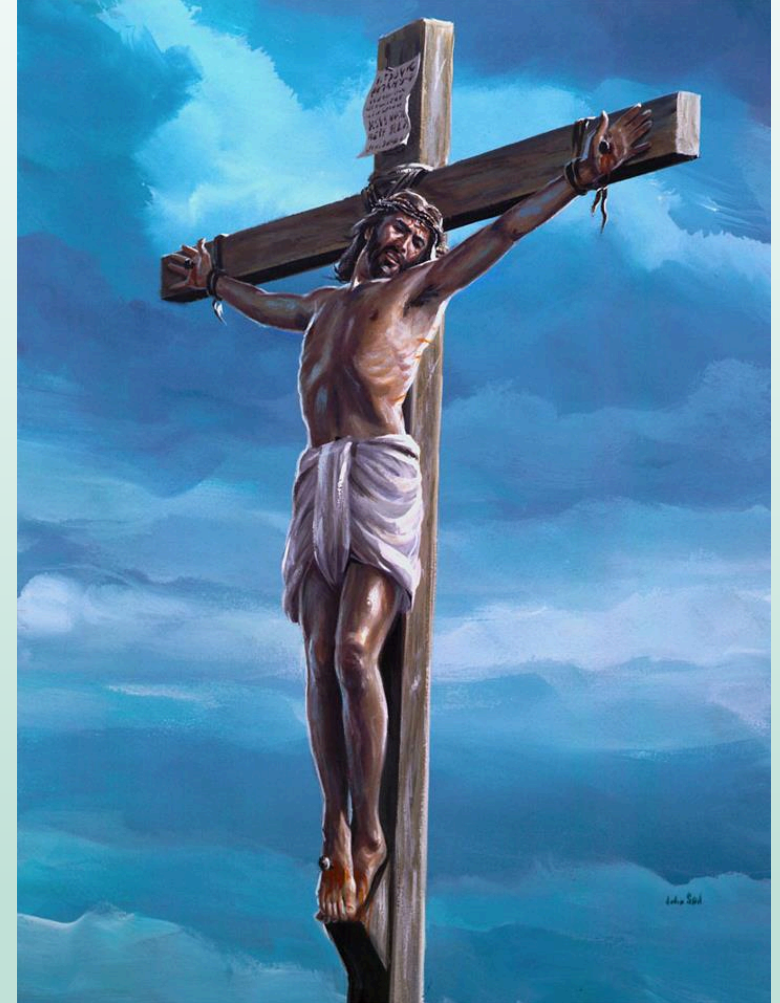
2. Jeremiah invites
God to do in him His
work of salvation
“Save me, and I shall
be saved”



“Pray in faith. And be sure to bring your lives into harmony with your petitions, that you may receive the blessings for which you pray. Let not your faith weaken, for the blessings received are proportionate to the faith exercised. “According to your faith be it unto you.” “All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 9:29; Matthew 21:22. Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing praises to God because He has answered your prayers. Take Him at His word. “He is faithful that promised.” Hebrews 10:23. Not one sincere supplication is lost. The channel is open; the stream is flowing. It carries with it healing properties, pouring forth a restoring current of life and health and salvation.”

Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 274.

"And we who through his will have been called in Christ Jesus are justified, not by ourselves, or through our wisdom or understanding or godliness, or the works that we have done in holiness of heart, but by faith, by which all men from the beginning have been justified by Almighty God, to whom be glory world without end. Amen."
Clement of Rome (?-110), First Epistle of Clement, 32-33.



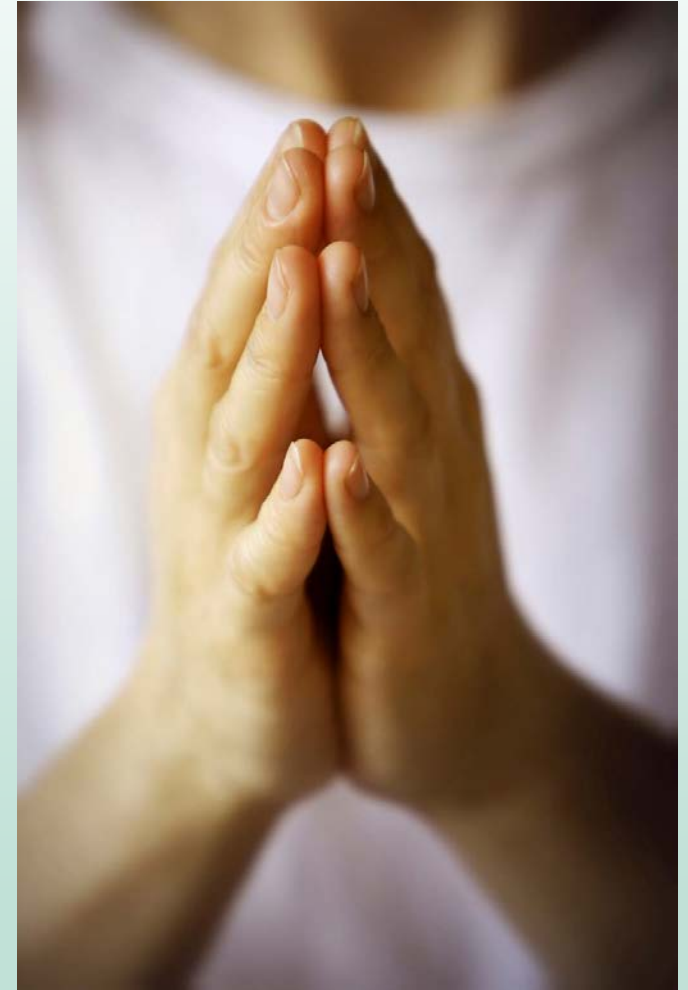
“For Scripture says that faith has saved us. Put better: Since God willed it, faith has saved us. Now in what case, tell me, does faith save without itself doing anything at all? Faith’s workings themselves are a gift of God, lest anyone should boast. What then is Paul saying? Not that God has forbidden works but that he has forbidden us to be justified by works. No one, Paul says, is justified by works, precisely in order that the grace and benevolence of God may become apparent.”

John Chrysostom (349-407), Homilies on Ephesians, 4.2.9.



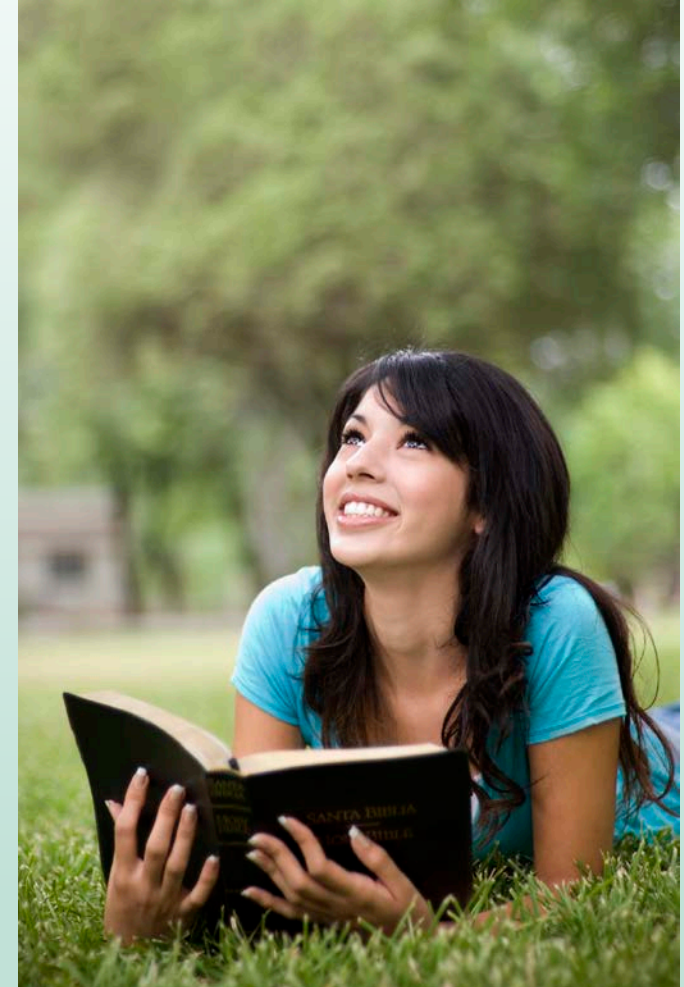
3. The best contribution to the healing operated by God is our attitude of praise

“For You are my praise.”



“Begin to rejoice in the Lord, and your bones will flourish like an herb, and your cheeks will glow with the bloom of health and freshness. Worry, fear, distrust, care-all are poisonous! Joy is balm and healing, and if you will but rejoice, God will give power.”

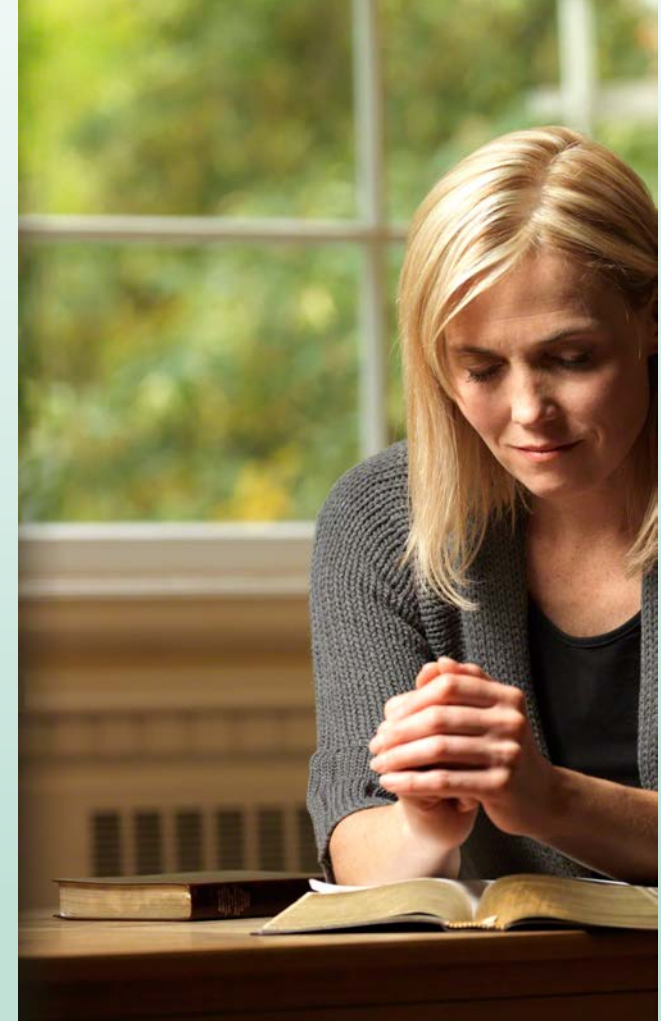
A. B. Simpson



Thanksgiving is the
enemy of discontent
and dissatisfaction.”
H.A. Ironside



“God lives in the place of praise. If we want to be where He is, we need to go to His address.”
Nancy Leigh DeMoss



“God is our praise. He is truly the only thing that does deserve our praise. Everything we do, are and have comes from the Lord, so everything turns us back to praise our praise, to praise our God.”
Jill Richard



V. Conclusion



“To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul-hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in Christ, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere intellectual assent to the truth. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God.

It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. But saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power.”

Ellen G. White, Gospel Workers, p. 261.

“Maybe you have a hard time believing anybody can pick you up and put you back together, even God. But please, keep listening. You may have your doubts about it, but once you know what God is really like and grasp the way he works, the healing can begin, and you’ll find that the Lord is all you need.

Who is God? The Lord is a God of mind – boggling power, and at the same time, he’s a God of tender love and compassion. Psalm 147 says, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power.” The Lord is God of galaxies and broken hearts. He controls outer space and yet concerns himself with the inner space of heartbroken people.”

David Feddes

“Everybody has had their heart broken in some way — maybe by disappointment, fear, shame, rejection, or ridicule. I would say to you, as your friend, I’m sorry. I really am. I care about the hurt that you have gone through, because God cares about it. He’s hurt with you. What was God doing when you were weeping? He was weeping, too.

In fact, it is in your pain that God is closest to you, whether you realize it or not.

All you have to do is open your heart to Jesus Christ and give him 100 percent of your heart. Say, like David in Psalm 119:32, *“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.”*

You have no idea what God wants to do with your life. Stop limiting God! Open your heart to him, and let him transplant it for his own.”

Rick Warren

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Jeremiah 17: 14.

