

Series graphic w/email

Image: NOW & FUTURE

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.41d213e3411a178e9bd38384e0313aa2?rik=ZOqX6Wg1AVkXxQ&riu=http%3a%2f%2fstunningmotivation.com%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2019%2f04%2ffuture-gap-644x284.png&ehk=J0C92jiv6pcGaR2K9UedO%2fIX0KXcy3nLclZYL4Ff49I%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

The gap: Cartoon image

<https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/previews/000/217/023/original/businessman-in-front-of-a-gap-vector.jpg>

Jeremiah 32:1-3

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. ²At that time, the army of the king of **Babylon was besieging Jerusalem**, and the prophet Jeremiah was **imprisoned** in the guard's courtyard in the palace of the king of Judah. ³King Zedekiah of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, "Why are you **prophesying** as you do?"

Jeremiah 32:6-7

Jeremiah replied, "The word of the Lord came to me: ⁷Watch! Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, is coming to you to say, '**Buy my field in Anathoth** for yourself, for you own the **right of redemption** to buy it.'

Anathoth Map

<https://ahabilemoments.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/anathoth-map.jpg?w=584>

Jeremiah 32:8-9

⁸"Then, as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to the guard's courtyard and urged me, 'Please **buy my field in Anathoth** in the land of Benjamin, for you own **the right of inheritance and redemption**. Buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord. ⁹So I **bought the field in Anathoth** from my cousin Hanamel, and I weighed out the silver to him—seventeen shekels of silver.

What God asks Jeremiah to do and what he then does with immediate obedience makes no sense ...

**What God asks Jeremiah to do and what he does in obedience makes no sense ...
... unless there is **biblical hope** = *buying a field***

The Current State of Hope:

- Wishful
- Subjective speaking, thinking, feeling ...
- Limited spiritual/religious

Jeremiah 32:15

For this is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields, and vineyards will **again** be bought in this land.'

Lessons in Biblical Hope:

- 1) Biblical hope does not depend upon my **understanding, power or control**.
- 2) Biblical hope is bound by and learned from the **story of God**.

{come up one at a time}

What is God doing right now?

- Reigning
- Working out his redemptive purposes through His redemptive control

→ People in the story of God are **never done hoping** because God is not **done!**

- 3) Biblical hope is built on the **Name (character & attributes) of God**.

Jeremiah 32:17-19a, 24-25

Oh, Lord God! You yourself made the heavens and earth by your great power and with your outstretched arm. **Nothing is too difficult for you!** ¹⁸You show faithful love to thousands but lay the fathers' iniquity on their sons' laps after them, great and mighty God whose **Name** is the Lord of Armies, ¹⁹the One great in counsel and powerful in action ... ²⁴Look! Siege ramps have come against the city to capture it, and the city, as a result of the sword, famine, and plague, has been handed over to the Chaldeans who are fighting against it. What you have spoken has happened. Look, you can see it! ²⁵**Yet** you, Lord God, have said to me, 'Purchase the field and call in witnesses'—**even though** the city has been handed over to the Chaldeans!"

Jeremiah 32:26

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²⁷"Look, I am the Lord, the God over every creature. **Is anything too difficult for Me?**

Jeremiah 32:36-39

Now therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to this city about which you said, 'It has been handed over to Babylon's king through sword, famine, and plague': ³⁷I will certainly gather them from all the lands where I have banished them in my anger, fury, and intense wrath, and **I will return them** to this place and make them live in safety. ³⁸**They will be My people, and I will be their God.** ³⁹I will give them integrity of

heart and action so that they will fear Me always, for their good and for the good of their descendants after them.

Don't domesticate God!

4) Biblical hope is often **defiant** ... of present frustrations.

Biblical hope:

- *Confident expectation in **guaranteed future grace** from God that changes the way we live (attitude & action) in the present.*

{a, b, & c need to come up one at a time underneath the main point (#5)}.

5) Biblical hope cannot be limited or contained by our **lifespan**.

- a. Don't measure by the moment you are in.
- b. Don't let discouragement, despair or disgust dominate.
- c. Do act in hope ... and participate in the future God is bringing into being.

{Put on bullet point and scripture on same slide ...}

Let's *buy a field* ...

Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV)

Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

{Bullets come up one at a time}

DEFY the **IMPOSSIBLE** of the now with hope producing **faith**

- Feel with Fear vs. Face with faith
- Remember: God's redemptive purposes

LIVE now FOR **FUTURE GRACE** ...

- Return good for evil (Matthew 5:11-12)
- Flee from sexual immorality (Matthew 5:8)
- Level up generosity & giving (Acts 20:35; Phil. 4:19)

INVEST IN SOMEONE ELSE'S **KINGDOM FUTURE**

- Share your story; invite to church with you
- Next generation → DNOW ... RB Kids/RBSM
- Lead a small group

DO SOMETHING **INEXPLICABLY BOLD** in the Name

Launch out into the deep. Do not always keep on fishing for shrimps along the shore. Attempt great things for God. Attempt something which as yet you cannot do. Any fool can do what he can do; it is only the believer who does what he cannot do. "Is anything

too hard for the Lord?" Fall back upon omnipotence, and then go forward in the strength of it.

--Charles Spurgeon

DO SOMETHING **INEXPLICABLY BOLD** in the Name

- Take a mission trip
- Start serving beyond convenience
- Leave a comfort zone ...??

KEEP EYES ON **CHRIST**

Jeremiah 32:40-41a

"I will make a **permanent covenant** with them: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put fear of Me in their hearts so they will never again turn away from Me. ⁴¹ I will take delight in them to do what is good for them ...