

#20 Seek ye first

1 Let us remain standing as we open the Word of God to Jeremiah chapter 29 and we will take our text from paragraph 13.

2 Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

3 What a beautiful thought God has spoken to us by the lips of His prophet Jeremiah, "If we would just seek Him with all our hearts, we will find him."

4 Now, brother Branham would tell us if it is in the Scriptures then it's "Thus Saith the Lord". In fact he said that in "The Spoken Word is the Original Seed P:185 " he said, For it's in the Scripture, and it's THUS SAITH THE LORD.

5 Now, this morning I would like to examine this thought from God's prophet Jeremiah because that is exactly what we read next in brother Branham's sermon Desperation in the next paragraph we shall study.

6 Desperation pp. 32 "Now, when you seek Me with all your heart, then I'll be found." And He promised that He would return and bring the people, from scattered all over the earth after those seven years, back into Jerusalem where they left from; and He did it just that way like. That's right.

7 Let us bow our heads and our hearts in a word of prayer,...

8 You may be seated....

9 Brother Branham said from his sermon, Israel at the red sea 2 53-0327 P:24 Like we was talking of Abraham, and how God took Sarah and Abraham when they was a hundred years old, and turned them back to a young man and woman again, and give them this baby. That was kind of hard to see at first. But after you look at the Scriptures, look down there and find out what taken place, you see it's the truth. What was He doing? Confirming His Word, that someday we who turn old and gray and wrinkled, someday we'll spring back to a young man and young woman again. God gave us life, and we come to the maturity, death set in, taken us away. But all that death can do is take us away, then it's finished. Then all the old doubting part and everything, it's like the man life in there has gone out, then there's nothing left but perfection. What this body was when it was in perfection, what God intended when it resurrects in the resurrection, it'll be perfection. Amen. Oh, when I think of that, my heart just turns flip-flops. Yeah. It's not just a mythical dream. It's THUS SAITH THE LORD. God said so, then I'll base my life right there. Yes sir. God said so; that settles it forever. See? It's settled in heaven, and if a little piece of heaven is in our heart, it ought to settle it there. That's all. That just makes it all right. "God, You said so. I believe It, and that's just all; that's enough."

10 Now, if God said so, then it is Thus Saith the Lord, right? The if this Bible is the literal Word of God, then this Bible is "Thus Saith the Lord." Then every Word in this Bible was written for our admonition, and our correction to bring us righteousness. You believe that?

11 Then why do we read it as though it is just some book of stories, or some book of theology? We should read it as though each thought is God's very own thought to us as an individual. And thus God Himself reveals Himself

in the Simplicity through his Spoken Word and through His Written Word. Then when we see what he said in this Bible come to pass, we have God's interpretation of what He meant in His written Word.

12 And as Brother Branham said in his sermon, "Revelation chapter 4 pt 2 24 elders 61-0101 P:103 And when He said, "Repent, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ," He didn't mean Father, Son, Holy Ghost. He meant just what He said. When He said, "You must be born again," He didn't say, "You ought to be." He said, "These signs shall follow them that believe." He never said, "Maybe they will." He says what He means. And He's God and He can't take it back. He knows what's perfect, so He makes it that way, and that's the way He intends it to be, and you have to come up to that, not Him come down to your idea, you got to come up to His idea. That's the difference.

13 And in his sermon, "Christ 55-0221 P:49" brother Branham said, "You're not using your own thoughts; you're using His thoughts. "Let the mind that was in Christ be in you." See? Think His way of thinking; say what He says. "Confession" means "to say the same thing." Say... Confess is to confess the same thing, say the same thing. Then don't confess your own mental conception. Be born again and confess His Word, confess what He said. That's confession. Say, "By His stripes, I was healed." By His stripes, I have a right, by His wounds, right now, I have a right for salvation. I have a right for the Holy Spirit. He promised it to me. Said, 'It's in you and your children, and them that is far off, and as many as the Lord our God shall call.'"I believe it. It's for any generation. "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." He died that He might raise again and be with His church all the way to the end of the world, to confirm the Word with signs following. How far was that to be? "Go ye..." Did it end it with the apostles? Mark 16 said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." It's never met there yet, just about one third of it. God's depending on us.

14 So let's go back to reading it, shall we. Let's open His Word daily to our hearts. Let's make it a part of our everyday life, and a part of our children's heritage. Let's not start our day without it, and let's not end our day without reading from it. Let His Word which framed this world, become "our alpha and omega". Let's read His Word in the morning and we will know what He wants for us to do during the day, and let's read His Word in the evening, and His Word will become our alpha and omega, our first and last.

15 Because brother Branham said in his sermon, The Spoken word original seed 62-0318E P:175 Notice, what harmony. Jesus never did anything until seen of the Father or the Father showed Him first: (Harmony between God and Christ. See? John 5:19...

16 And I would like to add, let us be conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ the first born son of God. Let us also do nothing until we have heard from God. So let us read from his Word before we start our day and before we end our evening.

17 Let us start our days right, and let us end our days right,... with the Word of God upon our hearts, our minds, our eyes, our tongues and our ears. Then as brother Branham said, we will have "Thus Saith the Lord," or we will keep still.

18 In fact brother Branham says the same thing as he continues with his thought "So will the Bride, and He (God) shows Her His Word of Life (He shows Her), and she receives It. She never doubts it. Nothing can harm Her, not even death; for if the Seed be planted, the water will raise it up again. Amen. (Now, I got a great big "Hallelujah.") Here is the secret: the Word is in the Bride and the mind of Christ to know what He wants done with the Word, and She does it in His Name. She has THUS SAITH THE LORD. Then it is germitized; so the Holy Spirit waters it until it is grown and serves its purpose. They do only His will. (Amen. I'll believe that.) No one can persuade them different. They have THUS SAITH THE LORD, or they keep still. Then they will do the works of God. For it is Himself in them, continuing His Word to fulfill as He did complete in His day. All things

when He was here, He did not complete all when He was here, for it was not time yet.

19 In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said to us, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." And then He said, ³⁴ "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

20 So make no plans without seeking Him first, then all the things shall be established. Don't get ahead of today. Just take each day one day at a time, and you will enter into an eternal mindset.

21 I am sure when we get to the other side, we will not be in a state of thinking what will tomorrow bring, but we will be in an eternal state of today. "Father what would you have your servant to know, Father what would you have your servant to do". "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

22 The Message Bible puts it this way, ³⁴ "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

23 The Bible only asks us to "walk in the Light as he is (present tense) in the light."

24 Brother Branham said in his sermon, "Witnesses" 53-0405E P:65 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." Have you ever witnessed that to be the truth? Put God first. Pay your tithes first. Pay everything first. Pay God. Pray first at morning. Pray all through the day. Give God the first place in everything. You'll be a witness. She runs right in. She had two sticks. In the old oriental way, they use two sticks. It was two sticks crossed, like this, and the fire was in the middle. The Indians still use it, and they move the logs up as they burn. That was the cross, Christ, where the fire was in the middle. They took a little of the meal offering, put that ground meal, all ground just the same: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever," poured in the oil, which was the Holy Spirit, and mixed it together, the Holy Spirit and Christ; going to make some kind of a hoecake now, brother. Amen. Oh, don't think I'm crazy. I'm just religious tonight. All right. Notice, "Make me a little cake, first."

25 Now listen, as I began to look over the many times brother Branham quoted the scripture we just read in Matthew 6:33 "seek ye first,,," he always jumps right to Elijah and the widow woman. That's our example concerning that Scripture.

26 In his sermon, Be certain of God 59-0412A P:32 Brother Branham says, "See, now, here comes a great lesson. But Elijah said, "Bake me one first." Oh, what is it there? What lesson do we learn? "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." "Bake me one first." And she looked. She said, "I wonder who that is? There's something about the man that seems to be different." And he said, "Make me one first and bring it." And she started in to do what he said. Then she heard that comforting Word that always comforts, "For THUS SAITH THE LORD the barrel will not be empty nor the cruse run dry, until the day that God sends rain on the earth."

27 From his sermon, Reaction to an action 59-0810 P:41 Brother Branham said, "Then she heard... She started to turn again, and she heard a voice saying, "But bring me one first." What do we learn here? Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. "How will I meet it?" I can't tell you, but you put God first. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these other things will be added." "But bring me one first." Look, she didn't have to go down and get her last penny; she had to go down and get her last piece of bread. She didn't have to go for this, or that, or maybe change doctors or so forth, some little insignificant thing; but she had to go to the only thing that stood between her and death, and her child. "Bring me a little cake first in your hand." I can see her nod her head, obedient. That's what God requires. You get the Word and the Spirit mixed together, self-sacrifice, obedience.

When God's prophet says a certain thing, do it! Hold on to it! She bowed her head, "Yes sir." She starts on. Then she heard the sweetest thing she'd ever heard, that all sufficient word that all of us listen for. For there come across that gate the blast from that prophet's voice; said, "For THUS SAITH THE LORD..." Amen. That's what we look to hear. "THUS SAITH THE LORD, the barrel will not go empty, or the cruse will fail until the day that God sends rain on the earth." There it was. Amen.

28 When I was studying last night and I came across this my eyes watered up, to know that God never asks us to do anything but what he has our good in His own mind as well.

29 Did not God promise us in Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

30 And then he goes on to tell us God has everything under control. **29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 And then those most comforting word, Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? **32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, (God already gave us the best he could give when he gave His first born Son for us, and if he did this for us, then) how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? **33** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. **34** Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

32 So what are you worried about whether you are going to make it or not, or whether your children will make it or not. He promised us, in Isaiah...

33 Isaiah 65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

34 Isaiah 61:9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.

35 Isaiah 48:19 Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

36 Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

37 Acts 3:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

38 So what are you worried about. do you think God would destroy one of His own Children? And do you think He would destroy of His children's children?

39 Even when God made promise to Abraham, he made promise to Abraham and to all his offspring that would come after Him.

40 Genesis 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

41 Genesis 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

42 Genesis 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

43 You know, sometimes I think that we make enemies of our children because they sin. Job never made his children into his enemies when they sinned, in fact he really didn't keep tabs on whether or not they sinned. But he offered the Token for them regardless, not knowing whether they sinned or not. You see, he loved them as any real Father would love his own children. And I can say, I love my children, but being a grandfather I love my children's children as if they were my very own children.

44 I hear people say all the time, and they misunderstand what the prophet of God was saying when he says, "God don't have grandchildren". Now that is true, but God has children who have children and he loves His Children's children just as much as if they were His own children, because after all if they are the children of his Children then they are His Children because they are after all His Seed.

45 And look at the promises of God to our children and their children.

46 Ezekiel 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

47 Jeremiah 2:9 Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead. Notice God will not only plead with us but he will continue to plead with our children and their children all down the lineage.

48 Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

49 Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

50 Psalms 128:6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

51 Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

52 Now, this last promise is one to consider, because you will reap what you sow, and your children and your children's children will reap what you sow as well.

53 Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto

the third and to the fourth generation.

54 But the blessings and cursing works both ways as well for Paul taught us in Hebrews 7:9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

Why are we not a denomination? 58-0927 P:54 Listen, you young people today. I don't know whether you come to this church, or where you come, you young boys and girls. Did you realize, the things that you're doing, if there is another generation, your children will be judged for what you do? Haven't you no respect or decency? You girls that's out here wearing these little old shorts and things around, you know, that's reflecting on your daughter. Did you know your grandmammy was a flapper, and your mammy a chorus girl, and that's the reason you're a striptease today? It's certainly. What will your children be? Yes, sir. God said He'd visit the iniquity of the parents upon the children and their children, to three and four generations. 55 And did you realize, my brother, every time you do that which is right, that'll be visited on your children? Look here, let's take Hebrews the 7th chapter. The Bible said, when--when Melchisedec met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the king, and blessed him, and said... Now, Levi, is talking about paying tithes. Said, "Levi had an order from the Lord to receive tithes from his brethren." And Levi who received tithe paid tithe, for he was yet in the loins of Abraham when he met Melchisedec. And Abraham was his great-grandfather. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Levi; Levi, father, grandfather, great-grandfather. And while Levi was in the loins of Abraham, the Bible said he paid tithes to Melchisedec. Hallelujah. Don't let nobody tell you that any kind of a move in the world can ever interfere with God's great cog; she's moving right on. It was planned back there in the beginning. There ain't a devils or enough devils can interfere with His program.

55 Things that are to be 65-1205 P:21 But now, notice. Now, in this world that is to come... There is a world to come. Just like your birth here, I said. You was prepared; God knew you'd be here. And now you know, even things that your parents done... Now, people think that isn't visit from generation to generation, but it is. Over in the Book of Hebrews, I believe the--about the 7th chapter, speaking Paul there (the writer, as I believe it was)--was speaking on a great event that taken place with Abraham, that he paid tithes to Melchisedec, when he was returning from the slaughter of the king. And now, he said that Levi was in the loins of Abraham when he met Melchisedec, coming from the slaughter of the kings, and then he reckoned that to Levi paying tithes also when he was in the loins of Abraham, his great, great grandfather. And He visits the sins of the peoples upon their--their children from generation to generation that won't keep His Word.

56 Why 60-0309 P:12 Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift that was in him, that come from his grandmother, Lois. We find out that in the 7th chapter of Hebrews, that Paul speaking on tithe paying, that he said, Levi, who had an order from God to receive tithing of his brother, paid tithes, for he was yet in the loins of Abraham when he met Melchisedec, which was his great, great-grandfather. And it was accounted to him for paying tithing. Your life will impress your children, and influence your children by the example you set before them. And I think it's a good thing that we put every effort we can before our children as godly parents. Make an example, be an example.

57 Do you now believe? 52-0817 P:48 Now, look. Now, you begin to be germitized, as your body, in your great-grandfather, the germ begin to begin to become active. Did you know that? Why here, Levi, paid tithes when he was in the loins of Abraham, his grandfather. Is that right? See? Now, if you germitized in your great-grandfather, come out through your grandfather, down to your father, then in, and that's how you become germitized for your body. But your spirit, your soul was made up before the foundation of the world, when God made man in His image.

58 Hebrews Chapter 7 part 1 57-0915E P:65 Now. And as I may so say, Levi also, who received tithe, payed tithes in Abraham. Now, oh, here's something. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met

him. What? Levi... Abraham was Levi's great-great-grandpa. And the Bible said here, that Levi paid tithes when he was in the loins of Abraham. Four generations before he ever come to earth, he was paying tithes to Melchisedec. And blessed be the Name of the Lord. Then you that can't believe in predestination before ordination, and here four generations before Levi would ever come out of the loins of Abraham, was paying tithes to Melchisedec. Wish we had time to run this through the Scripture.

59 Faithful Abraham 59-0415E P:57 Watch when he come back. They had a great big jubilee, homecoming time. And there was all the kings around thanking Abraham, and then they met another King, Melchisedec. He was the King of Salem which was Jerusalem: the King of peace, the King of righteousness. Who was this great King? I want to ask you something. Who was this great King? He did not have any father. He never had a mother. He never had a beginning of days or ending of life. Who was that King that met Abraham coming home from the slaughter of the kings? And to you people that don't believe in tithe paying, look at this. The Levitical priesthood paid tithes. And the Bible said that Levi paid tithes when he was in the loins of Abraham, and that was his great, great grandfather. And when Levi was in the loins of Abraham, when Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec, the Bible reckoned Levi paying tithes. How ought you people to live. If your sins are visited to the children, what about your blessings?

60 Look, we could go on and on concerning this, but I think you understand and I hope that you will go home today and realize that everything you do will reflect somehow upon your children. And if you love your children as much as I love my own, and my children's children, then you will lay up inheritance for them, and I am not just talking about material things here, but you will lay up an eternal inheritance, that will never perish. A character that is molded into the very image of the first born in a vaaaaaaaast family of brothers, as God said to Abraham as many as the stars in the sky and the dust on the earth. That's a very, very large family. And you will never be lonely over their, for you will have family everywhere you turn, and you will long enjoy your inheritance together and all thine offspring with you.

61 Let us bow our heads in prayer.