

➤ **Obedience in the face of the impractical**

*Jeremiah 32:1-2*

*1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. 2 The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.*

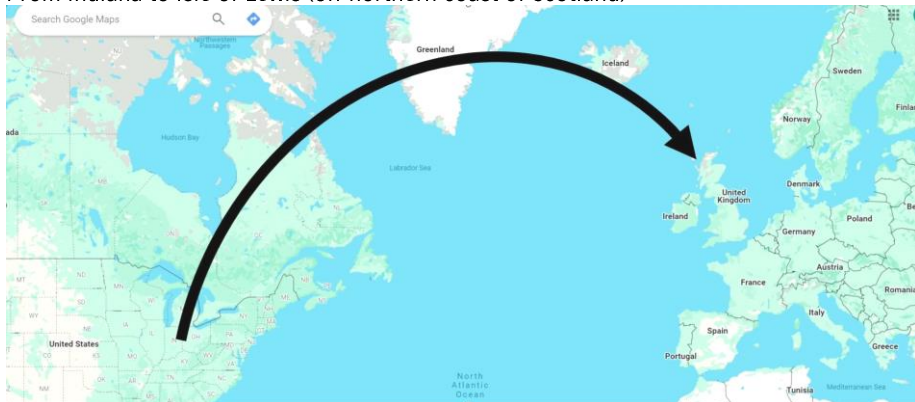
*Jeremiah 32:8-9*

*8 "Then, just as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.' "I knew that this was the word of the Lord; 9 so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver.*

Anathoth = Jeremiah's hometown, 3 miles north of Jerusalem

"Jeremiah knew that buying that field looked impractical and foolish. It was against history, against reason, against public opinion. But he didn't buy the field on the advice of his broker, but by the leading of God. He was not planning a retirement cabin on the property; he was witnessing an involvement in the continuity of God's promises." – Eugene Peterson

From Indiana to Isle of Lewis (off northern coast of Scotland)



➤ **Doubt intermingled with faith**

*Jeremiah 32:16-17*

*16 "After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the Lord: 17 "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

*Jeremiah 32:24-25*

*24 "See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. 25 And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign Lord, say to me, 'Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.'"*



"To struggle with one's faith is often the surest sign that we have one." – A.J. Swoboda

Jeremiah's prayer = grounded in the *character* of God and traced the *history* of God

### Jeremiah 32

18 You show love to thousands...

19...Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve.

20 You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day

21...You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders

22...You gave them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors

23... they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them.

### ➤ Confidence in God's power to deliver

#### Jeremiah 32:26-29

26 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 27 "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? 28 Therefore this is what the Lord says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. 29 The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down...

#### Jeremiah 32:37-43

37...I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. 38 They will be my people, and I will be their God...40 I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul. 42 "This is what the Lord says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them. 43 Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians.'

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