

Jeremiah 33:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Analysis

This verse contains one of Scripture's most encouraging invitations to prayer and divine revelation. 'Call unto me' uses qara (קְרָא), meaning to cry out, summon, or proclaim—suggesting earnest, deliberate prayer, not casual mention of God. The promise 'I will answer thee' employs anah (אָנָה), meaning to respond, testify, or speak in reply—guaranteeing divine response to those who genuinely seek Him. 'Shew thee great and mighty things' uses the Hebrew nagad (נָגָד, to declare or make known) with gedolot (גְּדוֹלֹת, great things) and betsuroth (בְּצָרוֹת, hidden or fortified things). The latter term, from batsar (בָּצָר), can mean inaccessible, guarded, or mysterious—truths beyond human discovery that only divine revelation can disclose. 'Which thou knowest not' (lo yada'tam, לֹא יְדַעַּתָּם) emphasizes human limitation and dependence on God's self-disclosure. This invitation promises that prayer opens access to divine wisdom, future plans, and spiritual realities inaccessible to human reason alone. The context (Jeremiah imprisoned during siege) makes the promise remarkable—even in dire circumstances, God invites relationship and reveals His purposes. This anticipates Christ's promise: 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find' (Matthew 7:7) and the Spirit's role in revealing divine truth (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

Historical Context

This promise was given to Jeremiah around 588-586 BC while he was imprisoned in the court of the guard during Babylon's final siege of Jerusalem. King Zedekiah had confined Jeremiah for prophesying the city's fall—deemed treason during

wartime. The historical irony is profound: while the nation rejected Jeremiah's earlier calls to repent and avoid judgment, God still invited the prophet (and by extension, the faithful remnant) into communion and revelation. The 'great and mighty things' God promised to reveal included:

1. immediate prophecies about Jerusalem's fall and restoration
2. the New Covenant promise (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
3. Messianic prophecies about the Branch of righteousness (Jeremiah 33:14-16),
4. details about the seventy-year exile and subsequent return.

Archaeological evidence confirms the siege's brutality—destruction layers, arrowheads, and famine conditions. Yet amid this catastrophe, God promised to answer prayer and reveal His redemptive plans. Daniel later received revelation about the seventy weeks (Daniel 9:24-27) after praying and studying Jeremiah's prophecies. Paul referenced divine revelation of mysteries hidden from ages past (Ephesians 3:3-5). The ultimate fulfillment came in Christ, God's supreme self-revelation (Hebrews 1:1-2), who invites believers into intimate knowledge of divine truth through the Spirit (John 16:13-15).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge the notion that prayer is merely about presenting requests rather than receiving divine revelation and wisdom?
2. What 'great and mighty things' might God want to reveal to you that require calling upon Him rather than relying on human understanding?

Interlinear Text

אַל־יְהִי־זֶה־אֵלֶיךָ	unto me and I will answer	וְאֶתְתֶּן־לְךָ	וְאֶתְתֶּן־לְךָ	לְגָדָל־זֶה־תְּהִלָּתְךָ
Call H7121	H413	H6030	H5046	H0 H1419
and mighty things H1219	H3808	which thou knowest H3045		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:12 (Parallel theme): Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Isaiah 65:24 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Isaiah 48:6 (Parallel theme): Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (Parallel theme): But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Psalms 145:18 (Parallel theme): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Deuteronomy 4:7 (Parallel theme): For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Acts 2:21 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

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