

“Now let me ask you a question: Do men give birth to babies? Then why do they stand there, ashen-faced, hands pressed against their sides like a woman in labor? In all history there has never been such a time of terror. It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel. Yet in the end they will be saved!” Jeremiah 30:6-7 NLT

[lectio] // JEREMIAH 30:1-17

God asks Jeremiah a funny question. “Do men give birth to babies?” Of course, there is the quick and simple answer - NO. Why does God ask him that? He tells Jeremiah, the guys stand around, with hands on hips, looking pale! Are they in pain? Yes. Are they fearful? Yes. They stand like women about to give birth because they are OVERWHELMED and want this national turmoil and doom to be OVER. I’ve never carried a child but I have been around my wife when she says, “I just want this baby OUT! I just want this whole pregnancy thing to be OVER.” She wants the “wait” to be over, she wants the pain and discomfort to be over, she wants HER BODY AND LIFE BACK. She has stood, hands on hips, with her breathing and focus rhythms and she was SO DONE! God tells Jeremiah, you have no idea how intense this baby, this birth is going to be. There has NEVER been a time (baby) like this. Was this word for the captivity and eventual freedom of Israel, or was it the captivity and freedom for the ENTIRE planet? It was both and. God’s words to Jeremiah scanned their current circumstances and yet projected thousands of years to a parallel event that would change all of humanity. It’s as if the “pregnant” acting man would be posed for centuries waiting for THE birth of the Christ child. All of humanity, all of creation WAITING to delivered! Did Jeremiah know? He might have.

[oratio]

Dad,
It’s funny/not funny to think of being in that amount of anticipation over thousands of years. That picturesque pose of standing, hands-on-hips, slightly bent, breathing through braxton-hicks for eons! And yet it is true, the Christ child was born and all of humanity was freed. Now we wait in a different season, we anticipate a completion, the paruosia, the second coming. Jesus’ birth was proof of your promise and now we feel a different tension - the Kingdom of God, here, yet still approaching. We feel the angst of fulfillment, of finality. It makes sense that the apostles would write, come quickly Lord Jesus! We are no longer pregnant with a hope for deliverance, are eyes are now fixed on the horizon and the skies, waiting for the baby now grown to come back and wrap things up.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root