

December 3, 2021

## God's Love Can Build a Bridge, but What Then?

### [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

*<sup>14</sup> The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.*

One event in West Virginia history had a lasting impact on countless lives in the United States. The Silver Bridge collapse in Point Pleasant in 1967 brought about a series of sweeping changes all over the country that strengthened the safety of our highways and roads and saved countless lives over the years. As a former bridge inspector for the state, my pre-college job was a product of those changes.

From that training, I know that once a bridge is built, no matter how solid the construction, it requires continuous inspections and routine maintenance over its lifetime to ensure its longevity and safety for those who use it.

There was a point in time for most of us where we needed sweeping changes to wake us up to God. God builds us a bridge, so to speak, of grace and love and forgiveness, crossing into salvation if we choose, but just like a concrete and steel bridge, the rust and corrosion of sin can damage our lives. If left unchecked, it can lead to deterioration and destruction. We need the constant monitoring, guidance, and love of God, our one true bridge builder, to allow us to see where sin is sneaking into our lives.

Just like Judah and Jerusalem in our scripture reading, we all want to live safe and saved from the dangers of the world, both physically and spiritually. God gave them hope and peace, even in the midst of their trials and tribulations, by promising to raise up a righteous branch to do what was just and right – to build a bridge for their safety and salvation.

Let's remember this Advent season that God promises us, just like Judah and Jerusalem, that we have a glorious future and a life, with Him, no matter what our circumstances. He is our righteousness!

***Prayer:** Dear God of Judah and Jerusalem, just like you did with your people, give us peace and hope, in our anticipation of the Advent season, to take whatever life throws at us and to consistently inspect our lives, to remain safe and secure in God. Amen.*

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