



Handout June 23, 2023

Plant Now
Jeremiah 29:1-14

Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.'

Most of us know this promise. If you did not, now is a good time to learn it.

1) God's _____ then, stand _____ now.

Romans 15:4 'For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.'

Well, how do we obtain this promise today? After all, this was written to a captive people thousands of years ago. In fact, it starts out with a subtitle - "*Jeremiah's Letter to the Captives*".

2) _____ comes in many forms.

So obviously this would be very applicable in prison.....

Verse 4 talks of the Israelites being carried away captive.

'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:'

Let's talk about Israel's captivity.... Their rebellion.

My question to you is *where are you being held captive --- emotionally, spiritually, mentally?*

Did you know:

3) We can become _____ in our own _____ !

Are you living in fear? Have you lost things that once seemed essential? I am sure the Israelites could relate..... They lost everything. Yet they held on to hope. I know we all have serious issues: family, health, kids, relationships, mental health.....

God continued to speak to them in **Jeremiah Chapter 29** through this letter in **verses 5-9**.

⁵Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. ⁶Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. ⁷And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. ⁹For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the Lord.'

BUILD --- PLANT --- GROW

4) Despite obvious _____, keep pressing in!

In today's crazy world, where everyone seems to be against everyone, God says seek peace and prosper..... emotionally, spiritually, and mentally! God says, be content and grow in your situation. Don't wait until after!

Look what the text says to Israel. What is it saying to you?

You see, there is no glorious future if we stay in fear, focused on the impossible, believing in the worst. Are we in a worse condition than Israel? Maybe you feel you are...

We know **Jeremiah 29:11**, but what about **Jeremiah 29:10** and **12-14**?

10'For thus says the Lord : After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.' Jeremiah 29:10

12'Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you, says the Lord , and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord , and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.' Jeremiah 29:12-14

Are we getting a better picture?

Verse 10: God says after you have done this, I will visit you.

Do you want peace from the captivity of living in fear, of having no hope? I know we have real issues in a real world, but my God, Your God, is in control of it all.

5) In **verse 11**, God reveals His_____.

Wow --- do we believe that?

Verses 12-14 --- call and He will listen...

Do you know that after this captivity, Israel never returned to false gods!

Where do you need assurance and peace? God said He has thoughts of peace for you...

How can you build?.....

How can you plant?.....

How can you grow?.....

Let's Pray