

**ABATT**  
**Jeremiah 29**  
 Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

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**Jeremiah 29**

- One of the most used scriptures on graduation cards, tee shirts, plaques, and inspirational pictures.
- We love this kind of news from God!
- Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” NIV

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**Jeremiah 29**

- The context of scripture; where any verse is lifted from, is important when considering a promise of God.
- When the verse is used today it is cast as though God’s plan for you is a bright future AND one that is imminent.
- However, is that what God was saying to Israel? 3

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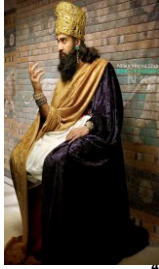
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Jeremiah 29

- When God gave these words to Israel they were in a very bad place in their history.
- They had just been carried off to Babylon to serve what amounted to a punitive prison sentence of 70 years.
- A whole generation of people would turn over while Israel is in Babylonian captivity.



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Jeremiah 29

- So did God not really mean what he had Jeremiah write in a letter to the children of Israel?
- Yes, He meant every word of what he wrote.
- However, with God, time is frequently an issue when it comes to our making sense of His promises.

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Jeremiah 29

- Jeremiah 29:11 is a promise of what God would do for His people, but the fulfillment of the promise was a full 70 years in the future.
- In the meantime, His people would be in captivity in a foreign land, in a foreign culture, and in a place that was not Jehovah friendly.
- They were being punished and punishment has no meaning if it isn't hard.

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**Jeremiah 29**

- The promise was to the Jew, but there are lots of applications to the Christian.
- We can learn a lot about how to live in enemy occupied territory from the instructions Jeremiah sent to Israel in captivity.
- What Israel experienced in Babylon, we experience in our Babylon to one degree or another.

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**Jeremiah 29**

• Jer 29:4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 **“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”** 8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: **“Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,”** declares the Lord. 10 This is what the Lord says: **“When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.”**

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**Jeremiah 29**

- Like Israel in Babylon, we live in a place that is ruled by the enemy.
- John 17:14 I have given them your word. And **the world hates them** because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 **I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.** NLT
- Israel was in Babylonian captivity, but they were not to behave as though they have no influence on their conditions.

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Jeremiah 29

- The temptation for the Christian is hunker down, keep our heads down, and try to quietly get through life.
- Often, we want only Christian friends, only Christian neighbors, and to work in a Christian church or company.
- But as tempting as that may sound, is it God's will for us?

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Jeremiah 29

- Too often we want the promise of Jeremiah 29:11 without the 70 years of captivity. 😊
- We want lemonade, but we live in the land of sourness.
- That is why Jeremiah was so direct with his people when they entered Babylonian captivity – his message was this will be hard, but you have responsibilities no matter how hard things are.



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Jeremiah 29

- As we look at Jeremiah's words to Israel we will see that they were told to get busy living their lives despite the awful conditions.
- They were to normalize their lives as much as one can when imprisoned.
- Resist feeling sorry for yourself and do what you can to live the kind of life that would have kept you from all of the pain you have now.

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Jeremiah 29

- In effect Jeremiah is saying, “God will restore you because you’ve been chosen by Him, but do you really want to continue the lives that got you to this wretched place?”
- When God restores you to your land, do you really want to go back in the same condition that got you evicted?
- Would it not be far better to prepare now for the life that God wants to give you?

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Jeremiah 29

- So that is kind of where we all live – we are living in a foreign land that is hostile to our beliefs and presents clear and present threats to us everyday.
- But we have clear promises from God that are unshakeable about our future.
- Like Israel we know that we have promises, but we also know we have time between now and the ultimate fulfillment of the promises.

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Jeremiah 29

• Rev 21:5 And the one sitting on the throne said, **“Look, I am making everything new!”** And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” 6 And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 **All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.** NLT

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**Jeremiah 29**

- We look at Israel in Babylon and see how just as God promised captivity for their sin, He also delivered perfectly on His promise to restore them at the time of His choosing.
- Psalm 139:16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. NLT



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**Jeremiah 29**

- Now, let's apply the promises of Jeremiah to us.
- Jer 29:10 This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.
- God has promised limits on the lives we have now, and He promised He would see them home.

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**Jeremiah 29**

- Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
- As it turns out, the Four Spiritual Laws are spot on – God has always had a wonderful plan for your life.
- Some of His plan plays itself out in this world, but most of it plays itself out in the next.

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Jeremiah 29

• So let us all stipulate that we live in a cruel sinful world ruled by the devil and includes hard times.

• Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. NASB



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Jeremiah 29

• Rev 21:1 **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared.** And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 **He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.** All these things are gone forever." NLT

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Jeremiah 29

• Other religions, other people and many books tell us that heaven is more of a state of existence than a place, but there is ample evidence to the contrary.

• We need to stop trying to spiritualize everything we cannot understand and start believing what we read in the bible.

• "Stop closing your eyes trying to imagine the unimaginable. Open your eyes and imagine this earth without the effects of sin". Randy Alcorn.

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Jeremiah 29

- Isa 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. NIV
- Isa 66:22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. NIV
- 2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. NIV

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Jeremiah 29

- "If God's plan were just to take us to the present heaven (the intermediate state) or a place of just spirit beings there would be no need for a new heaven or new earth." Randy Alcorn
- Jesus did not die to make the most of a bad situation, he died to redeem us and to restore all things.
- Reconcile, redeem, restore, return, renew, regenerate, and resurrect all point to a restoration and not an alternative plan.

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Jeremiah 29

- We are fallen people living in a fallen world, BUT we will be redeemed people living in a redeemed world.
- "If God were to end history and reign forever in a distant Heaven, Earth would be remembered as a graveyard of sin and failure. Instead, Earth will be redeemed and restored." Randy Alcorn
- An accurate accounting of what God has promised us will make us hungry for, even excited about going to Heaven.

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Jeremiah 29

• Isa 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. NIV

• The Old Testament saints were not looking to go to a distant Heaven ..... They were expecting to live on a restored Earth.

• We do not long for something we have never seen or have any reference to; we long for things to be set right on Earth much like they were in our lives when we came to Christ. 25

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Jeremiah 29

• Isa 66:22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. NIV

• The fact of a new Earth is written in many places in the Old Testament.

• The Old Testament saints were not looking for a new Earth because it was all they could relate to. They were looking for a new Earth because that is what God promised. 26

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Jeremiah 29

• Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus. 21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes **for God to restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. NIV

• The prophets promised a restoration of the Earth and the Old Testament saints believed God. 27

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Jeremiah 29

**"Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly. For all that can be shaken will be shaken and only the unshakable remains."**

C.S. Lewis

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**Questions**

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