

Sermon Discussion

19 July 2020

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14 together.

Dig Deeper

Jeremiah sent a letter to all the Judahites who had gone into exile in Babylon with King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) in 597 B.C. We do not know the date of its composition, but Jeremiah probably wrote it within a few years of 597 B.C. The letter was really a message from Yahweh. The exiles needed to recognize that He had sent them to Babylon; they were not there primarily because of Nebuchadnezzar. This reminder would have assured them of His sovereign control over the affairs of their lives.

That's why Jeremiah's message to the exiles is to get on with a normal life where they are, and even to pray for the welfare of Babylon. This is important instruction for God's people in all ages as we become the agents of God's righteousness in all the places to which his providence calls us...agents of gospel transformation in the world in which we live.

The exiles were also to seek the welfare of the city to which they had gone rather than plotting its downfall. They were even to pray for Yahweh's blessing on it. They would prosper as the city prospered.

1. If you have kids (or want to have kids) what kinds of plans do you or did you have for them?
2. Read v. 11. Why do you think this verse is such a popular verse and why do we like to read it without considering the context? Who was the promise in Jeremiah 29:11 for?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and Philippians 1:29. How does this help correct the DISTORTED good news of Jeremiah 29:11?
4. What plans do you have for God that you need to swap with His plans for you?

Application & Prayer

- This series is designed to encourage us to spend time reading the Bible. How has this sermon encouraged you to spend more time in the Bible? What one thing can you do differently this week?
- What are you up against that you need to see God's good plans in? Pray together for God to reveal His good plans.
- Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically...*"God, we've gotten too good at putting our words in Your mouth. Forgive us for putting our plans ahead of Yours. Will You instead put Your words and plans in our hearts? Will You reveal Yourself to us this week as we seek out and live out Your good news for the world?"*
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- Share some of ideas for studying Scripture on your own. What do you do to put the verse in context, how do you find other relevant passages to help you interpret a difficult verse, how do you apply what you have learned, etc.? Do you journal?