

Loving Your Community

Jeremiah 29:1-14 - NCBC, September 5, 2021

Main Point: **Live out your future hope as a spiritual exile...**

- ...even when your world is falling apart (1-3)
- ...wherever God has sovereignly placed you (4)
- ...to fulfill your God-given purpose (5-7)
 - Through patient multiplication (5-6)
 - Through prayerful ministry (7)
- ...while rejecting the lies of this world (8-9)
- ...in light of your eternal hope (10-14)
 - God's plan and promises fulfilled (10-11)
 - God's grace sought and found (12-13)
 - God's kingdom eternally restored (14)

Application: **Prayerfully seek to bless your community for God's glory.**

Opening Announcements:

- **Ladies Bible Study** begins this week! September 7 and 8.
- **This month's recommended resource** is a wonderful children's book called *The Garden, The Curtain, and The Cross*.

<<Facing a Task Unfinished>>



May God help us to go into all the world with His kingdom hope unfurled!! Because no other name has power to save but Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we interrupt our study of the **Gospel of Matthew** to consider how God calls us to love our community. You may recall our ministry theme this year is *Loving Our Community*, and so we have set aside 4 Sundays this year to specifically focus on topics like evangelism and reaching farther into our communities.

Back in May, Peter Lindell preached two messages from **John chapter 4** teaching the model of Jesus' Outreach and the responses to Jesus' Outreach. Now today we turn our attention to **Jeremiah chapter 29** to consider more carefully our responsibility to love our unbelieving neighbors as spiritual exiles in this world.



If you need a Bible, simply raise your hand and we will gladly give you one to use or take home as our gift today.

And while you are opening to **Jeremiah 29**, I want to quickly highlight our fall plans for our Goodfield ministry:



This week we start a new Wednesday Night Bible Study on the topic of *“Living as the Church”*. The 6:45 pm start time will allow parents to drop off children here at New Castle and still be able to attend this study. So if you are not already serving here on Wednesdays, please join us for this Wednesday night Bible Study in Goodfield this fall.

This summer we were able to engage with most of the Goodfield community through our door-to-door outreach. But we still have approximately 100 homes to connect with. So please join our Thursday night ministry at least once this fall. Simply meet us at 6pm at the Goodfield church on Thursdays, and let’s see what God will do through our humble dependence upon Him.

After all, today’s message reminds us of our responsibility to,



Love our communities, so we pray that these opportunities for you to reach farther into Goodfield will greatly serve your joy.

Now before we read **Jeremiah 29**, I need to set the table a bit and remind us of what **Jeremiah** is all about.

Jeremiah was a prophet to God’s people right before and during their Babylonian exile. Therefore, the book of Jeremiah is all about Judgment and Hope. Judgment is coming. Evil Babylon will conquer God’s people and carry them away into exile.

But judgment is not God's last word for His people. There is also a future hope, when God will restore His people back into intimate fellowship with Him again.

So Jeremiah is all about: Present Judgment with Future Hope. But Jeremiah also contains a third focus we might call the "battle of the prophets." Because all throughout Jeremiah, Jeremiah's message is contrasted with the message of lying prophets who are deceiving God's people with false hope.

Today we are looking at **Jeremiah chapter 29**, but **chapters 27, 28, and 29** all are particularly focused on this battle of the prophets. Repeatedly in these 3 chapters, you will find the phrase, "*it is a lie they are prophesying to you.*"¹ In other words, Jeremiah is trying to convince God's people not to listen to the false hope of the false prophets.

God has clearly said through Jeremiah that their sin would result in exile to Babylon for 70 years.² But the false prophets said God would never want His people to be conquered by an evil king, and that God would never bring suffering into His people's lives. After all, they were God's people!

Therefore after the first batch of Judah was carried off to Babylon, these false prophets started saying God would soon overthrow Babylon and cause His people to return to the promised land. In **chapter 28**, one prophet even told the exiles they would only be in Babylon for 2 years before God would bring them back home!³

But Jeremiah knew these prophets were lying. Therefore, **Jeremiah chapter 29** is a letter Jeremiah wrote to God's people already living in exile in Babylon.

Jeremiah is still back in Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar first conquered Jerusalem in 597 BC, he carried off King Jeconiah and all the officials of Judah and installed a "puppet king" over Judah to reign over the territory on his behalf. The puppet king of Judah was Nebuchadnezzar's uncle,⁴ a man by the name of Zedekiah.

Zedekiah would periodically send a delegation from Judah to Babylon to update King Nebuchadnezzar on how things were in Judah. And here, Jeremiah convinces one of these delegations to take along a letter from him to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. He's writing to expose the false prophets' lies. He knows God's people will not fulfill God's purpose for their exile if they are hoping in the lies of the false prophets.

Therefore **Jeremiah 29** is a letter to these suffering exiles which seeks to recenter their hope on God's promises.

With that background, please stand in honor of the reading of God's word. We're going to just focus on the first **14 verses** today, and hopefully excite your desire to go and read all of **chapters 27 through 29** later.

Jeremiah 29, verse 1, in the English Standard Translation reads,

¹ Jeremiah 27:10, 14, 16; 28:15; 29:8-9, 21; c.f. 28:2-4, 10-11; 29:23, 31-32

² Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10

³ Jeremiah 28:2-4, 10-11

⁴ 2 Kings 24:17-20; 2 Chronicles 36:10-14

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: 4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be

found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

This is God's Word. Please be seated.

Let's pray.

Just like sport's Most Valuable Player award, we could say that many Christians have a Most Favorite Verse.



And one of the Scripture verses in high contention for this MFV award would have to be Jeremiah 29:11. And this verse indeed is worthy of the attention, for it is a wonderful promise that encourages God's people to patiently trust God's plan to bring them through suffering.

But that's not how **Jeremiah 29:11** is typically understood, is it?

When people read the pillowcases and framed art saying,

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope...

Most typically we interpret this to mean that it is God's will for me to be healthy, wealthy, and successful. God never wants me to suffer, right? Doesn't this verse teach that God's future for us is always optimistic and bright? Therefore, if we are not experiencing God's prosperity, we must have somehow departed from God's plan for our life. We must not have enough faith to name and claim and believe and receive God's prosperity for us!

But ironically, this popular interpretation of **Jeremiah 29:11** is exactly the opposite of its good meaning in its context. **Jeremiah 29:11** doesn't teach that God will *keep us from* suffering or evil; rather **Jeremiah 29:11** teaches that God will *bring us through* suffering or evil, and that we can patiently trust His persevering grace even when suffering comes to stay in our lives.

Jeremiah's letter in **chapter 29** is urging the Jews in Babylon (and by extension us today) to,



Live out your future hope as a spiritual exile.

Babylon was not their home. And church, this world is not our home. Spiritually speaking, Christians living today are exiles as well. Jesus has made us all citizens of a heavenly city,⁵ but in the present we are living in the midst of this world's communities as spiritual exiles.

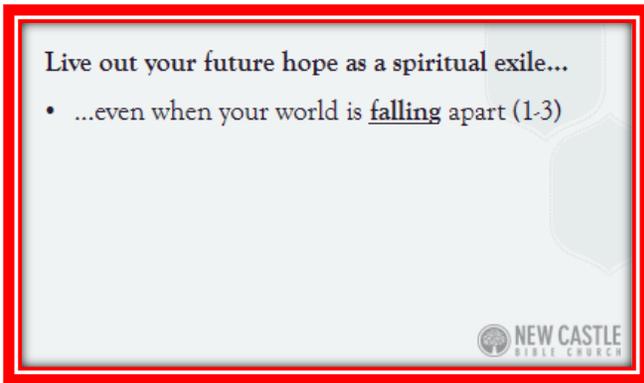
1 Peter picks up on this theme in the New Testament.⁶ In fact, I believe **1 Peter** is the New Testament parallel to **Jeremiah 29** in the Old Testament.⁷

So Jeremiah writes this letter to urge God's people to live out their future hope as spiritual exiles,

⁵ Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 13:14; c.f. Ephesians 2:19

⁶ 1 Peter 1:1; 1:17; 2:11

⁷ I'm indebted to James Street for this helpful insight:
<https://www.wordboard.org/jeremiah29v11>



...even when your world is falling apart.

After all, don't miss the painful emotion behind the historical setting found in **verses 1-3**.

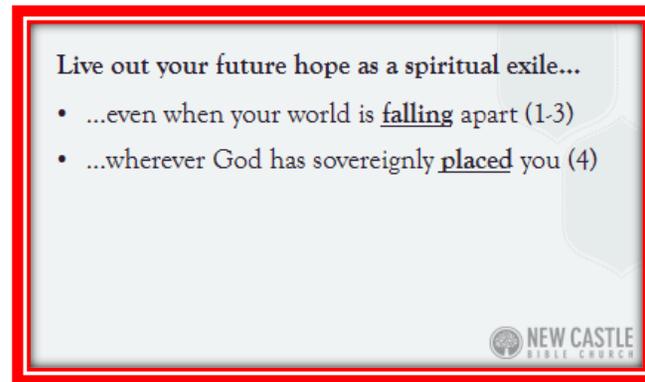
God's people had just been forcibly and violently removed from the promised land. Their temple had been destroyed! Their women and children had been violated; their young men had been murdered. Both personally, and corporately as a nation... their world was literally falling apart, evil was winning, and it seemed like all hope had been lost.

It's probably hard for us to relate to what it would feel like to have ISIS violently invade our communities, take over our nation, and fly some of us back to Kabul Afghanistan to live out the rest of our days. But this truly was the reality for Jeremiah's audience. Babylon was the most evil and wicked nation on the earth at the time. The trauma and horror that God's people experienced at the hands of the Babylonians was unspeakable.

Yet still Jeremiah writes to remind them of their future hope. Just because our world is falling apart does not mean that our hope is lost.

So when your government becomes oppressive, or your loved one suddenly dies, or your child is born with special needs, or your spouse leaves, or your business fails, and it seems like your world is falling apart... you must not lose hope dear child of God.

Instead, you are to live out your future hope, like an exile,



...wherever God has sovereignly placed you.

Verse 4 must have shocked the Jews in Babylon when they heard it:

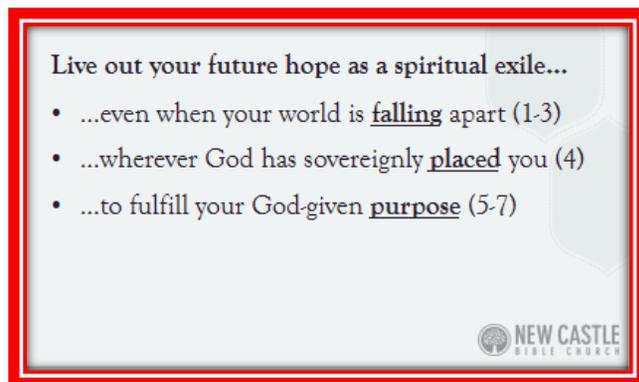
Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon...

Underline the words, *I have sent*. Notice Nebuchadnezzar wasn't ultimately responsible for moving the Jews to Babylon. *God* sent His people to live in Babylon. God had plans for His people to fulfill even while they were living in the middle of the most evil city of the world... so what about us today?

Have you forgotten that God has put you right where you are for His glorious purpose? It doesn't matter if we change physical locations voluntarily or involuntarily. It doesn't matter if we think we choose which dorm or subdivision we're going to live in, or whether we think our company or the military determined which city we now live in. Behind every human decision is the sovereign control of God Himself,⁸ and He is purposefully planting His people in the cities and communities that He has chosen for His greater glory and joy.

Just think about this for a moment. God has sovereignly placed you in the community you are in right now. Where you live, and who you live next to, is not a coincidence from God's perspective.

So even when our world seems to be falling apart, you must live by the power of your future hope wherever God has placed you, all in order,



...to fulfill your God-given purpose.

God has a purpose for the entire length of time you live in your current place, among the people with whom you currently live. For as long as you live where you live... God desires for you to serve His glory and proclaim His goodness!⁹

Remember Jeremiah's audience was being influenced by lying prophets to believe that they wouldn't live in Babylon for very long. Therefore they were being tempted to thwart God's purpose by either 1), living completely disengaged and isolated from their community, or 2) they were tempted to incite a righteous revolution against Babylon since the prophets were saying God would destroy Babylon very shortly.

In other words, the Jews in Babylon were falling short of God's glory in either a "fight or flight" response to their Babylon. But God had sent His people to Babylon for the sake of His glory, and God's glorious purpose would not be fulfilled if the people listened to the prophets' false hope.

Back in **Jeremiah 24** God used an illustration of good and bad figs to clearly reveal that any Jew who remained in Jerusalem, and did not go to Babylon in exile, would be utterly destroyed.¹⁰ Only the Jews whom God sent to live in Babylon would be preserved.

Therefore, in a surprising twist of God's providence, Babylon was going to be the womb where God preserved His people, multiplied them, and kept them safe until He could bring them back to Jerusalem after 70 years.

⁸ Proverbs 16:9, 19:21; Jeremiah 10:23

⁹ Matthew 5:13-16; John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; 1

Peter 4:11

¹⁰ Jeremiah 24, especially verses 8-10.

This is why Jeremiah tells them in **verse 5**,

Build houses and live in them... in other words, throw away your tents and settle down.

Plant gardens and eat their produce. Yes, it takes time to grow a crop before you can harvest it, and sell it, and make income for yourself. But put roots down. Make a living for yourself.

Verse 6: *Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters...* in other words, get busy growing your families.

I've sent you to Babylon to preserve My people for Myself ... *so multiply there, and do not decrease.*¹¹

Exiles fulfill their God-given purpose for living where God has sovereignly placed them,

Live out your future hope as a spiritual exile...

- ...even when your world is falling apart (1-3)
- ...wherever God has sovereignly placed you (4)
- ...to fulfill your God-given purpose (5-7)
 - Through patient multiplication (5-6)

NEW CASTLE BIBLE CHURCH

¹¹ Interestingly, back in 16:1-4, Jeremiah had told the Jews in Jerusalem not to get married or have children. After all, anyone born in Jerusalem prior to the exile would only face the horrific judgment of God. But now that the Jews were already in exile, these “good figs” were now safe in God’s

Through patient multiplication.

Contrary to the false prophets’ message, God’s plan is for them to stay in Babylon for the next 70 years. Think about that... most of the people who read Jeremiah’s letter died before their exile ended.

For them, Babylon was a life sentence. So they must not waste their living there. Instead they must fulfill God’s purpose for their exile through patient multiplication and in **verse 7**,

Live out your future hope as a spiritual exile...

- ...even when your world is falling apart (1-3)
- ...wherever God has sovereignly placed you (4)
- ...to fulfill your God-given purpose (5-7)
 - Through patient multiplication (5-6)
 - Through prayerful ministry (7)

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Through prayerful ministry.

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Seek to bless Babylon. Pray for Babylon.

nursery of Babylon, and God wanted His people to increase and multiply in Babylon so that He would have a people to restore back to the promised land at the end of the 70 years of judgment.

Do you feel the shock of how the exiles must have heard this? What? Seek the prosperity of ISIS? Pray for the ones who slaughtered and violated my people and destroyed God's temple?

You see, loved ones, even though the church today is not under a 70 year exile like the Jews in Jeremiah's day... God still has planted each of us in the community we live in for the purpose of His glory!

And while the primary means for God's glory today is not reproduction of the physical Jewish people, God is gloried today through the reproduction of His spiritual family today.

Let me say it clearly: one of God's reasons for planting you in the middle of the community you presently live in, is so that you would multiply disciples who follow Him. So that you would *keep your conduct honorable among the Gentiles...*¹² *so that you would give them a reason to ask of the hope that is in you.*¹³

In fact, how we respond to oppression and suffering in our community is one of the most effective means of communicating that our hope is not in this world.¹⁴

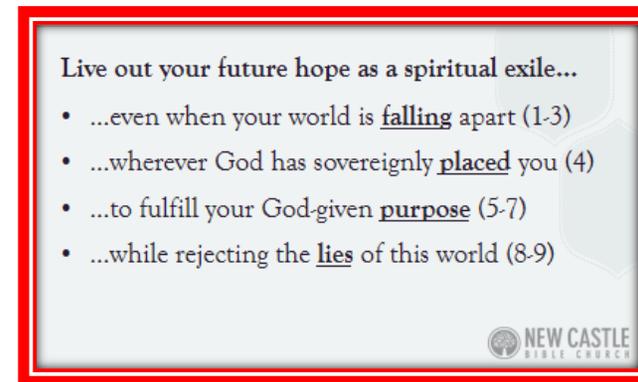
So think honestly for a moment about how you are living in your neighborhood and city. Have you forgotten that God has sovereignly put you next to these very people ... for such a time as this... so that when our world is falling apart... they would have a witness to an eternal hope?

¹² 1 Peter 2:12

¹³ 1 Peter 3:15

Do you pray for the welfare of your community? Are you praying for all people, and for presidents and governors and all who are in high positions so that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, all for the greater purpose that sinners may come to the knowledge of salvation?¹⁵

Church, God calls us to live out our future hope as spiritual exiles wherever He has planted us, even when our world is falling apart, so that we might fulfill our God-given purpose,



...while rejecting the lies of this world (8-9)

Verses 8 and 9 offer a strong warning for the exiles in Babylon to not be deceived by the lies of false hope.

So we must not put our trust in the false hope of this world. Even though we are living in a different time and place than the original audience of Jeremiah's letter... we are still surrounded by many voices today who claim to speak for God, that promise that if we just have enough

¹⁴ 1 Peter 3:14-17

¹⁵ 1 Timothy 2:1-6

faith, God will bring us out of suffering quickly, and give us prosperity and success now.

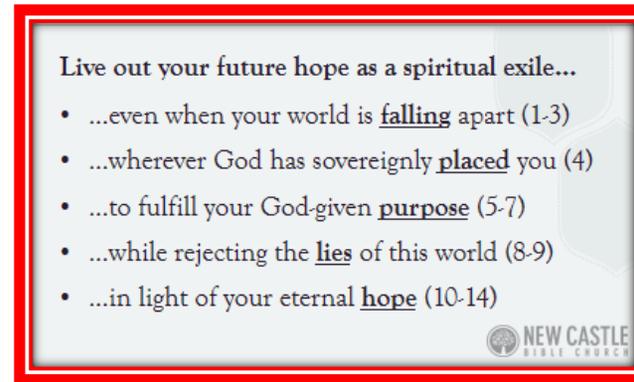
Some of the fastest growing churches in our nation preach the false hope of this “prosperity gospel”... preaching crowd-pleasing words like how the cross of Jesus brings physical health and financial prosperity along with the forgiveness of sin.

But this false hope that God promises to keep His people from suffering is a lie and must be rejected. Nowhere in the Bible does God promise to keep His children from suffering. No where does God promise that if we have enough faith, our suffering will always be shortened.

No. Instead, God prepares us that often suffering will come to stay.¹⁶ True eternal hope is only found in the promise that God will always cause His children to endure to the end!¹⁷ God doesn't will to keep you from suffering, but God promises to bring you through it.

Now of course... sometimes we'd prefer the self-serving optimism of false hope, wouldn't we? Most of us want God to work out His plan for our good in the next week...not in the next 70 years.

But God's grace empowers Christians to wait for future hope.¹⁸ Spiritual exiles are enabled to keep patiently trusting in God and living for His glory, even when our world is falling apart,



...in light of our eternal hope.

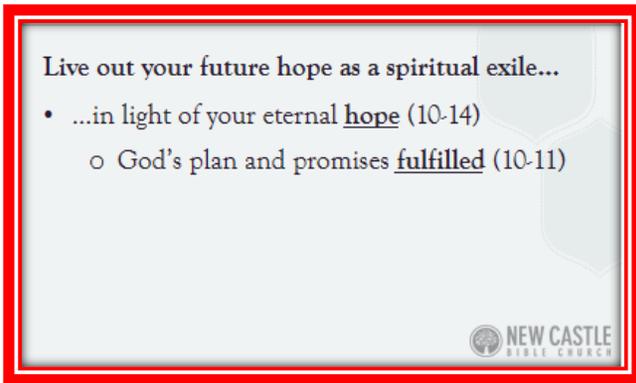
Verses 10-14 contain the substance of biblical hope for spiritual exiles! This is the thrust of Jeremiah's letter to His vulnerable kinsmen who were suffering in Babylon.

They must trust God's promises, rather than their feelings or their optimism, for their future. Mere positive thinking, or well-meaning optimism, or the wrong belief that God will always take my suffering away if I just name it, claim it, believe it, and receive it... will always cause you to miss your God-given purpose and fall short of His glory.

¹⁶ 1 Peter 4:12-19

¹⁷ 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 1:6; Jude 24-25

¹⁸ Titus 2:11-14



So first, in **verses 10-11**, Jeremiah makes it clear that our future hope rests only in **God's plan and promises fulfilled**.

*For thus says the Lord: [in **verse 10**] when seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to [Jerusalem].*

God's Word is clear. The Jews will stay in Babylon for 70 years. This suffering will last most of their lives. But judgment is not the end. God's plan is not complete until He Himself restores and returns His people to the promised land.

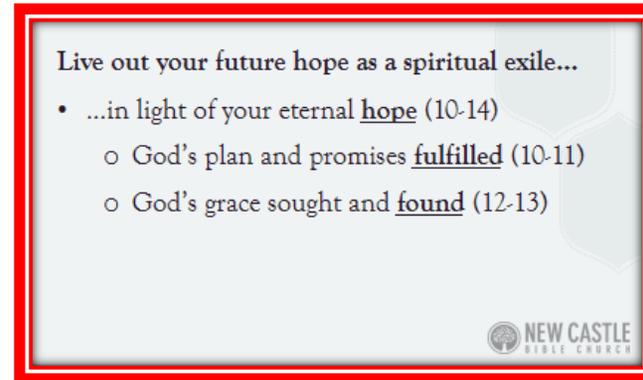
This then helps us rightly understand the wonderful promise of **verse 11**,

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Everything is all under control. God knows His plans for his children. Their exile, and our suffering today, is never

an accident. God's plan is being worked out for our eternal good...even through our suffering.¹⁹

Then **verses 12-13** reveal the definition of the welfare that is God's good plan for us. It's not physical health, or worldly success. No, the hopeful future which God has planned for His people is that,



God's grace would be sought and found.

God's plan for our lives always includes the promise of God's grace in our lives. And so God promises that whosoever prays to Him will be heard by Him. And whoever seeks Him sincerely will be found by Him.

And eventually, once the Jews seek God with their whole heart, and receive God's Messiah by faith, **verse 14** promises that,

¹⁹ Romans 8:28-29

Live out your future hope as a spiritual exile...

- ...in light of your eternal hope (10-14)
 - God's plan and promises fulfilled (10-11)
 - God's grace sought and found (12-13)
 - God's kingdom eternally restored (14)



God's kingdom will be eternally restored.

Jeremiah's prophecy contains both a near and a distant fulfillment. **Verse 10** was fulfilled by Cyrus' decree when the Jews returned to rebuild Jerusalem after the completion of their 70 years in Babylon.²⁰ But since **verses 12-13** really point to the realization of the New Covenant promises,²¹ the Jews will not experience the fulfillment of **verse 14** until they receive Jesus Christ as Lord when He gathers them from all the nations, not just Babylon, to establish His millennial kingdom on earth.²²

But church... don't miss the wonder of this: Since God's grace has revealed Jesus to us... we are now beneficiaries of these New Covenant promises today! God's plans for us include intimacy with us forever! God's plan for our patient trust and faithful witness in our sinful communities is secured by the fact that God Himself takes responsibility to bring us through our suffering.

²⁰ Ezra 1-2

²¹ Jeremiah 24:6-7; 31:31-37; 32:39-40; 33:6-22; c.f. Ezekiel 36:22-32

6 different times in **verses 10-14** God emphasizes "I will." He wants to make it abundantly clear... that though our suffering may last 70 years or longer... we indeed have an eternal hope as spiritual exiles that is much better than the world's lies and will empower us to live for God's glory in the exact community where God put us, even while our world is falling apart.

So then, here's my encouragement for us from **Jeremiah 29** today, church. In light of God's amazing grace and our eternal hope of intimacy with Him forever,



Prayerfully seek to bless your community for God's glory. Even while you see our world falling apart around you, reject the lying voices who are trying to convince you that God wants you to have your best life now. Resist the unbelieving responses of fight or flight. Instead, set your hope on God, who has done everything Himself to secure your salvation and eternal intimacy with Him.

Rest in the future hope which God has secured for you while you seek to overcome evil with good. Shine God's

²² Cf. Jeremiah 24:6-7

love into the community where you live. Pray for your community leaders, instead of withdrawing and disengaging. Bless them, and do not curse.²³

Remember that God has put you in your community for the sake of His glory, not the sake of your comfort or earthly prosperity. So be careful that you never embrace the values of this world. For if you look like an unbeliever, and talk like an unbeliever, and respond like an unbeliever, what light will there be in your darkness?²⁴

Learn from **Jeremiah's** letter to the exiles today, and rest in God's good plan for your eternal welfare. For God is working all things together for our Christ-likeness according to His plan, so that we might further His glory as we bless our communities with prayer and the multiplication of disciples.

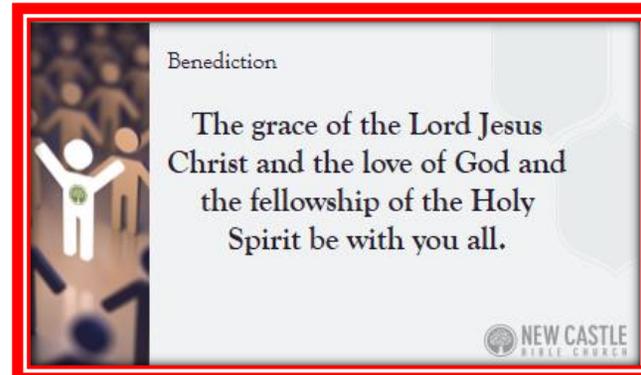


Let's pray.

<<O Church Arise>>

<<Reminder to Stack Chairs>>

Let's pray our benediction together:



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

²³ Romans 12:14-21

²⁴ Matthew 5:13; 6:23

Recommended Resources on Loving Your Community:

- Deuteronomy 4:26-31; 30:1-6
- Matthew 5:13-16; 22:37-40
- Luke 6:27-36
- Romans 12:14-13:10
- Galatians 4:26; 6:10
- Philippians 3:20
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 6:18
- Titus 3:1-2, 8, 14
- Hebrews 13:2
- 1 Peter 1:1, 17; 2:11-17; 3:8-17

- <https://mynCBC.org/media/series/loving-your-community-online-class/>
- <https://www.wordboard.org/jeremiah29v11>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Te38q2VIQ2Y> (David Platt)
- <https://gotherefor.com/offer.php?intid=29593>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/seek-your-citys-good>

- *Loving Your Community*, Stephen Viars
- *The Art of Neighboring*, Dave Runyon & Jay Pathak

- “Evangelistic Citizenship” sermon on 1 Peter 2:13-17 preached at NCBC on June 3, 2018
- “Evangelistic Exiles” sermon on 1 Peter 3:8-12 preached at NCBC on July 15, 2018

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review Jeremiah 29:1-3. How do you typically respond when your world is falling apart? What Scripture gives you hope and anchors your perspective when you are suffering?
2. Review Jeremiah 29:4. Who sent Israel into exile in Babylon? Does this surprise or concern you? (c.f. Job 1:21; 2:9-10) List a variety of reasons why God may be wise and good to lead you into a season of significant suffering. (c.f. 29:11; Job 23:8-10; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Peter 1:7)
3. Review Jeremiah 29:5-6. How does God’s exhortation to exiled Israel differ from His commands to the church today? C.f. Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:2; Hebrews 13:14.
4. Review Jeremiah 29:7. How can you practically seek to bless the city where you live? How do you pray for your unbelieving neighbors? What does God want you to learn from Jeremiah 29?
5. Review Jeremiah 29:8-9. What lies are you tempted to believe which try to get you to set your hope in your present rather than God’s future for you? (c.f. Matthew 10:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
6. Review Jeremiah 29:11. How does the immediate context of this verse increase its meaning and significance for Christians today? Have you yet personally experienced the joys of verses 12-13?