

- Anything I say is something that God is teaching me, something that I need to hear or learn
- The last year or so has been very difficult for me, esp the last couple of months
 - a lot of changes and upheaval
- July I went to Messiah Conf which I always look forward to
- One of the main things I look forward to is the prayer times with Kokeb.
 - Always an anointed time, and Kokeb always has a good and accurate word from the Lord
- Went up for prayer, and Kokeb basically said he heard Jer 29:11. ***For I know the plans that I have in mind for you," declares Adonai, "plans for shalom and not calamity—to give you a future and a hope.***
 - I was quite upset by that.
 - Felt unseen by God, brushed off – wasn't expecting an explanation, but was hoping for something to help me understand why all this was happening
- Last night of the conf bought the latest book from Jonathan Cahn and he signed it for me.
 - Wrote Jer 29:11 in it
 - Checked with a friend who had gotten a book signed to see if he just wrote that in everyone's books. Nope
- A few days after I got back, a friend texted to say that she thought that I might be feeling discouraged, and the Lord told her to send me a specific scripture. You guessed it, Jer 29:11
- Never been a fan of that verse.
 - Overuse
 - Worked at local Christian bookstore Alpha and Omega for almost 10 yrs
 - Certain scriptures were used over and over on giftware, cards, bookmarks, mugs, bracelets etc
 - This particular verse was used on every piece of graduation merchandise

- Also felt very trite because I felt that it was saying that circumstances would change, that everything would get easier, because God had a plan for my shalom. This often didn't seem to be the case
- Any time anyone says that have plans for me, my first response is uh oh. Their plan isn't usually something I'm going to enjoy. Usually something like your Grandma has plans for you to spend the morning weeding the garden
- So I was like Ok Lord, what are you trying to tell me?
 - When given a verse, first thing I do is go read the verse in context
 - Jeremiah was a prophet who lived during the final days before Judah was taken into exile to Babylon
 - The book of Jeremiah is a collection of the prophecies that God gave him during that time, and during much of the exile
 - Jer 29 is a letter that Jeremiah wrote to the exiles who were already in captivity Jer 29:1 ***Now these are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the elders remaining in exile, as well as to the kohanim, the prophets and to all the people Nebuchadnezzar had carried off captive from Jerusalem to Babylon***
 - Told them to accept their exile, which was the opposite of what the other prophets of the time were saying, and to continue to live their lives Jer 29:5-7 ***"Build houses and live in them; also plant gardens and eat their fruit; 6 take wives and have sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 Also seek the shalom of the city where I took you as captives in exile, and pray to Adonai for it—for in its shalom will you have shalom."***
 - Told them how long they would be in exile Jer 29:10 ***For thus says Adonai: "After 70 years for Babylon are complete, I will visit you, and fulfill My good word toward you—to bring you back to this place."***
 - After he gives them this information, he then tells them that God still has a plan for them Jer 29:11 ***For I know the plans***

that I have in mind for you,” declares Adonai, “plans for shalom and not calamity—to give you a future and a hope.

- God then details what He means by a “shalom, a future and a hope” Jer 29:12-14 ***“Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart. 14 Then I will be found by you,” says Adonai, “and I will return you from exile, and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” says Adonai, “and I will bring you back to the place from which I removed you as captives into exile.”***
- When we read that, it doesn’t sound like what I think of when someone tells me I have a future and hope
 - I think of a good job, a family, good health, basically a peaceful life
 - But that is not what God is saying
 - He is saying that praying to Him is their hope and future
 - Being heard by Him is their hope
 - Finding Him is their hope
 - What is He not saying?
 - He is not saying they won’t have any troubles
 - He is not saying that they will have prosperity
 - He is not saying He will remove them from places that are a trial
 - As a matter of fact, He is saying that they will be there for awhile
 - This kind of surprised me, because like I said, I always took the scripture to mean that everything would immediately get better. But that is not what it’s saying at all
- Some people say these verses only about the nation of Israel during that time
 - Can’t appropriate the scripture for ourselves

- That is partially true in that we need to pay attention to who is being addressed in the Bible and the original context that scripture is written in
- But if we look at the Bible as a whole, we see that God applies this principle to believers as well
 - He tells us in Matt 7:7 that if we seek Him, we will find Him ***“Keep asking, and it will be given to you; keep seeking, and you will find; keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”***
 - Like Sterns translation because it shows continuous action – don’t knock once and be let in, don’t look just one time, ask more than once, keep in continuous connection with God
 - He tells us that we will have problems in this world, but we are to rejoice because He has overcome the world John 16:33 ***“I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris. But be brave! I have conquered the world!”***
 - He tells us that He is preparing a place for us, an end to our exile in this world Rev 21-22
 - He tells us that He is working all things out for our good Rom 8:28 ***Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;***
- In light of the whole Bible, we can see that the principles laid out in Jer 29:11-14 applies to us as believers
- It used to be easy for me to believe God has plans for cosmic good
 - Harder to believe He has plans for my personal good
 - Food but not yummy
 - Place to live but not a nice place
- That has changed as I have grown closer to God
 - If I truly believe that the Bible is written by God, and that He keeps His promises, then I have to believe that He is looking out for my

personal good like He says He is Rom 12:2 ***In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the 'olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.***

- To me that says that He will give us the yummy food, He will find us a place to live that we like. But more importantly, His priorities and values will become our priorities and values
- I've come to believe that I am worth God having plans for my personal good
 - Not because of my own intrinsic worth, but because of the worth I've been given by His son Isaiah 64:5, ***For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousness is like a filthy garment, and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away, like the wind.***
Ephesians 2:8-9 ***For you have been delivered by grace through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but God's gift. 9 You were not delivered by your own actions; therefore no one should boast.***
- Worth enough for Yeshua to come and die to make atonement for so we could have a relationship with God Romans 5:8 ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.***
- I've learned to try and not ask why
 - Instead ask what can I learn
 - When we are going through hard times, we need to ask what God is trying to change, what is He trying to reorder in your life
 - Favorite Christian musician Jason Gray has album Order, Disorder, Reorder where he explores the idea that this is a cycle that we go through many times in our lives as God remakes us into who He wants us to be. Not a one time process, and can often be quite difficult but is necessary to become like Hiim

- Order – place where we feel like we have it all under control, and often where we are more distant from God
 - Disorder- our lives are disrupted in some way, and this is where we end up turning back to God and recognizing that we can't do this on our own
 - Reorder – this is where God brings our lives into better alignment with His will and we begin to walk in that alignment
- Sometimes this reordering process is very painful, it can feel like the end of all we have known, end of our hopes and dreams – ex broken bone heals wrong and needs to be rebroken and set correctly
- Trust the plan
 - Trust that God can give us new hopes and dreams that align with His divine plan and will for our life
 - He can and will carry us through the pain
 - We will be better for it on the other side
 - Broke arm, discovered lack of trust in God, now much stronger in my faith
- We are all born for this specific time
 - Esther 4:14 can apply to each of us ***For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place—but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows whether you have attained royal status for such a time as this?"***
 - Took great comfort in that in the beginning of the lockdown
 - Wasn't sure I could handle what was coming
 - Realized I wouldn't have been born at this time if God didn't think I could handle it
 - He needs each of us in the time we were born in
 - None of us are superfluous Ephesians 2:10 ***For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do.***

- True tragedy of abortion – not just the lives that are lost before they even lived, but all the things that God trying to accomplish through those who were killed are not happening
 - Thankfully He knows all and His will still comes to pass
- Because He has a plan for us, because we are created to be connected to Him, because we are created for this specific time, then we can take comfort in the fact that have a very specific identity and value that He has given to each of us
- Identity is made up of many things
 - Where we grew up
 - Families of origin
 - Our accomplishments
 - Our likes and dislikes
- Our names are tied to our identity
 - We are given a name at birth, and that name becomes a part of who we are
 - That name can change when we get married
 - It can be added to if we get degrees or certifications
 - Our names can change as our roles change – mom/dad, aunt/uncle, cousin
- One thing that will never change is the core of who we are
- My core name has never changed
 - Always has been Elisheva bat Yehudah (Elizabeth daughter of James)
 - Elisheva bat Diane (Elizabeth daughter of Diane)
- But also will always be
 - Elisheva bat Elyon (Elizabeth daughter of the Most High)
 - Elisheva bat Adonai Tsa'vot (Elizabeth daughter of the Lord of Hosts)
- Nothing that happens to us can change that identity
 - No matter what role we take on or lose
 - No matter how much disorder comes into our life
 - No matter how much changes around us
- Are we walking in that identity?
 - I say we because I need to ask this question of myself as well

- Are we living that reality?
- Are we allowing the world to rename us?
 - Worthless
 - Failure
 - Ugly
 - Unclean
 - Fearful
 - Not enough
 - Stupid
 - Boring
 - Irrelevant
 - Unseen
- What does God call us?
 - Beloved
 - Child
 - Conqueror
 - Known
 - Redeemed
 - Healed
 - Blessed
 - Sufficient
- We can be set free of the names that we, our families, and the world has given us that don't line up with the word of God
- We can walk in the power and authority of the names that He has given us
 Isaiah 43:1 ***But now, thus says Adonai—the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are Mine.***
- We need to renounce the lies that we have believed and claim the truth that God has given us
- That is the true definition of shalom, and the way that God wants us to prosper, by bringing us into alignment with His thoughts, His goals, His plans regardless or even because of our circumstances – loves us too much to leave us unchanged

- If you let Him, God will radically reorder your life to bring about His plan. He will turn your life inside out, upside down, remove people, relocate you, whatever it takes to bring about His plan and good work.
- If you want to say goodbye to the ordinary, and agree that you want what God has for you, which is to be extraordinary, then pray with me
 - Change my life
 - Repent and ask You to remove anything that is hindering Your will from taking place
 - Pride
 - Unforgiveness
 - Doubt
 - Bitterness
 - Anger
 - Fear
 - Resentment
 - Fill me with your Ruach HaKodesh, and help me to completely surrender all that I am and all that I will be to you
 - Show me the next step that You want me to take to bring about Your amazing plan for my life