

A. SLIDES

SLIDE #1 SERMON TITLE

BUILD | PLANT | GROW

Jeremiah 29:4-14

SLIDE #2

SUGGESTED CHRONOLOGICAL READING OF JEREMIAH

- Chapters 1-4:4
- Chapters 7:1-9:26
- Chapters 16:1 - 17:4
- Chapter 11:1-17
- Chapter 17:5-27
- Chapters 47-49
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 26
- etc.

SLIDE #3

CONTEXT OF CHAPTER 29

- 608 B.C. First wave of Jews are deported to Babylon (Daniel 1)
- 598 B.C. Second wave of Jews are deported to Babylon (Jeremiah 29)
- False prophets spread a false hope of a short return to Jerusalem (Jeremiah 28)

SLIDE #4 SCRIPTURE READING

This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive." (Jeremiah 29:4-7, CSB)

SLIDE #5 SCRIPTURE READING (CONT.)

For this is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, says: "Don't let your prophets who are among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't listen to the dreams you elicit from them, for they are prophesying falsely to you in my name. I have not sent them." This is the LORD's declaration. (Jeremiah 29:8-9, CSB)

SLIDE #6 SCRIPTURE READING (CONT.)

For this is what the LORD says: "When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place. For I know the plans I have for you" - this the LORD's declaration - "Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you" - this is the LORD's declaration - "and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you" - this is the LORD's declaration. "I will restore you to the place from which I deported you." (Jeremiah 29:10-14, CSB)

SLIDE #7

TRAIL MAP

- I. THE PROBLEM
- II. THE CURE
- III. THE HOPE

SLIDE #8

I. THE PROBLEM

For this is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive." (Jeremiah 29:4-7, CSB)

SLIDE #9

I. THE PROBLEM

The sin of Israel was their idolatrous hearts that constantly sought freedom from God's sovereign reign.

- 1 Samuel 8, 15
- 2 Samuel 11
- 1 Kings 11

SLIDE #10

I. THE PROBLEM

EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN

For this is what the LORD says: "When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place. For I know the plans I have for you" - this is the LORD's declaration - "plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:10-11, CSB)

SLIDE #11

I. THE PROBLEM

"For I know the plans I have for you" - this is the LORD's declaration - "plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Two Options:

- 1) His definition of well-being, disaster, future and hope are wrong.
- 2) My definition of well-being, disaster, future and hope are wrong.

SLIDE #12

II. THE CURE

You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you" - this is the LORD's declaration - "and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you" - this is the LORD's declaration. "I will restore you to the place from which I deported you." (Jeremiah 29:10-14, CSB)

SLIDE #13

III. THE HOPE PROPHESED

“Look, the days are coming” - this is the LORD’s declaration - “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt - my covenant that they broke even though I am their master” - the Lord’s declaration. (Jeremiah 31:31-32, CSB)

“Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days” - The LORD’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them” - this is the LORD’s declaration. “For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.”

(Jeremiah 31:33-34, CSB)

SLIDE #14

III. THE HOPE REALIZED

“You show that you are Christ’s letter, delivered by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God - not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God. It is not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God. He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not out of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

(2 Corinthians 3:3, CSB)

“Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness.” (2 Corinthians 3:12, CSB)

Hope = elpis < G., “joyful and confident expectation in eternal salvation”

Boldness = Parrésia < G., “freedom or unreserved”

SLIDE #15

BUILD | PLANT | GROW

*This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: “**Build** houses and live in them. **Plant** gardens and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. **Multiply** there; do not decrease. Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.” (Jeremiah 29:4-7, CSB)*

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Without speaking politics, what was your initial reaction to government mandates, stay-at-home orders, mask requirements, etc. and what do you think this revealed about your heart and need for control?

- 2) Read Jeremiah 29:4-14 and discuss:
 - a) Are you more prone to rebellion or submission of authority?
 - b) Are you more prone to public protest (activism) or silent protest (not building, planting, growing in the city)?

- 3) How do you reconcile Jeremiah 29:10 with Jeremiah 29:11?
 - a) How might your view and God's view differ on:
 - i) *Well-being* | *Disaster* | *Future* | *Hope*
 - b) How does this play out in your own attempts to control?

- 4) Read Jeremiah 31:33-34 & 2 Corinthians 3:3-5
 - a) How does being on the *realized* side of HOPE give confidence to our current circumstances?

- 5) What does it look like to **BUILD | PLANT | GROW** in the midst of the pandemic, regardless of your individual circumstance?

- 6) Prayer & Praise!