

For The City
We Are to Invest In Our City
Jeremiah 29:7

“In the first year of his reign, I Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.” Daniel 9:2

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, & pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

Main Idea: I have been Sent by God to Invest in My City

I. Pursue Wholeness for My City

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile..” Jeremiah 29:7a

Welfare: *Shalom, wholeness, completeness & peace, deep & lasting*

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was disturbed by a dream none of his advisors could interpret, but Daniel volunteered to do so, & the king was thrilled with Daniel.

“Then the king gave Daniel high honors & many great gifts, & made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon & chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel made a request of the king, & he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.” Daniel 2:48-49

“It would be easy for the Jews to wage constant warfare against their idolatrous Gentile captors, but Jeremiah instructed them to strive to get along with the Babylonians. The exiles were to be peacemakers, not troublemakers...” Warren Wiersbe

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Romans 12:17-18

“Whatever shalom the Hebrews offered to Babylon, Christians are able to offer a much greater peace to the postmodern city. What we offer is eternal peace with God through the work of Christ on the cross. That peace is the basis for everything else we do in the city. It is what makes us neighborly, compassionate, & charitable. When the city finds peace with God, all will be well with the city.” Philip G. Ryken

II. Pray for Peace in My City

“...and pray to the LORD on its behalf...” Jeremiah 29:7b

The Jews had been accustomed to gathering in their temple back in Jerusalem to pray for the peace (*shalom*) of Israel & Jerusalem, but also to offer bitter cries for God’s vengeance against their enemies.....

“O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones & dashes them against the rock!” Psalm 137:8-9

But now God was telling them to gather & pray for *shalom* in...Babylon?

“Love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

“He got down on his knees three times a day & prayed & gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.” Daniel 6:10b

Prayers for New York City (modeled after Psalm 122):

- **Prosperity of Our City**
- **Safety of Our City**
- **Politics of Our City**
- **People of Our City**

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

III. Prosper with the People of My City

“...for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7c

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Three ways to be an Ambassador in Your City:

- **Christ’s Ambassador AGAINST My City:** I hunker down with other Christians like me to keep from being tainted.
- **Christ’s Ambassador OF My City:** Whatever the culture is selling, I’m buying & expecting my Christian friends to get on board, too.
- **Christ’s Ambassador FOR My City:** I live my life in the midst of, & for the good of, my city to the glory of God.

Jesus prayed: *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” John 17:15-18*

“Every aspect of human life & culture is ripe for Christian witness. Every dimension of culture, whether it is art, science, or politics, is an arena in which we can speak about Christ with our lips & reflect him with our lives. We thank God for the existence of culture & recognize whatever is good in it, while at the same time seeking to redirect whatever is not good toward Christ.” B. Ashford

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Like the exiles of Jeremiah’s day, we have all sinned and stand condemned under the judgment of God. But Jesus, knowing we could not save ourselves, stepped into our mess, lived the perfect life we couldn’t live, died the death we should have died & rose again victoriously. That’s the gospel the entire world needs. Once we embrace it, we can effectively be sent to live in & invest in our City for the Glory of God!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Jeremiah, Lamentations* – F.B. Huey (1993)
- *Jeremiah & Lamentations* – Phillip G. Ryken (2001)
- *Be Decisive* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Commentaries on Jeremiah & Lamentations* – J. Calvin (2010)
- *Jeremiah & Lamentations* – R. Davidson (1983)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson (1994)
- *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – J.C. Laney & R.B. Hughes (2001)
- *Insight for Living: Jeremiah* – Chuck Swindoll
- *Every Square Inch* – Bruce Riley Ashford (2015)