



How to Have Hope When You're Hurting Now
Jeremiah 29:1-14

Believe God has good plans for you, despite any/all thoughts to the contrary!

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.

Text Message:

- One of the challenges we face with the Bible is knowing what applies to us, and what applied to someone else back then.
- This letter was not written to us, but for us. It was written to Jewish exiles (Verse 4) living in the 6th century BC.
- *Question: How can we know if this also can be applied to us*
Answer: Interpret this through the "lens" of Jesus.
- In other words, does the message of Verse 11 reflect what we know about Jesus?
- **If not:** We read this as a message for a particular people, time, and place and what we can learn from it.
If so: We apply it to us today because it reflects God's heart.
- God calls His people here to believe He has good plans for them, despite any/all thoughts to the contrary!
- Interestingly, Verse 1 the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar is responsible exile; in Verse 4 it is God.
- This is a reminder to us, as it was for them, that God is bigger than our "exiles" and His plans will be fulfilled.

Act as if God has good plans for you, despite any/all feelings to the contrary!

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.

Text Message:

- Notice the word "Then." When we see a "then," we ask "when," and the answer for this is in Verse 10.
- If we look at the bigger picture here, we see:
 - 1) The people were currently in exile (Verse 1).
 - 2) God had not given up on them but in the future would bring them back to their homeland (Verse 10).
 - 3) They would call upon, pray, seek, and find God (Verse 12).
- In the meantime, they were to trust that God has good plans for them (Verse 11) and act accordingly until they saw God move!
- And this is precisely what we are to do because this is what faith looks like in action!

Wrestle with the "What about" questions, despite any/all evidence to the contrary!

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Text Message:

- When we walk by faith, there will always be "what about" questions!
- Two "Do Nots" and One "Do" as we walk by faith.
 - 1) We do not **trivialize** it. These are sincere and serious questions to be wrestled with, not ignored.
 - 2) We do not **spiritualize** it.
 - 3) We do **realize** it.
- The best way to realize it is to recognize that we are "now and then" people:
- For **now** we see in a mirror dimly, but **then** face to face. **Now** I know in part; **then** I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12, emphasis mine.



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