



WRITTEN BY: UNKNOWN, POSSIBLY EZRA

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PURPOSE: RETELL ISRAEL'S STORY & THE HOPE OF A MESSIANIC KING THAT WILL RESTORE THE TEMPLE AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jeremiah 29:4-14

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives He has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in My Name. I have not sent them," says the LORD. This is what the LORD says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. **For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.** In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

2 Chronicles 16:7-9

And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

Lessons on Relying on God from King Asa:

1. Asa started well by relying on God. *2 Chronicles 14:2-7*
 - Chronicles 15:17b - "Nevertheless the heart of Asa was loyal all of his days."
2. Asa moved from God-reliant to self-reliant.
3. Trust God's plans. *2 Chronicles 16:9*
 - Matthew 10:29-31; Romans 8:28