

Bless Our Communities

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Jeremiah 29:4-6

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **“Build houses and settle down**; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. **Increase in number there; do not decrease.**”

Jeremiah 29: 7-9

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29: 10-11

This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. **For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Judah's Options in Captivity:

- **Assimilate** - (become like the Babylonians)
- **Isolate** - (& hopefully quickly return to Palestine)
- **Fight back** - (& be destroyed)
- **Bless Babylon?** - (trust God's timing & be a godly influence)

Israel & Judah's Godly Leadership Examples:

- **Daniel** – (VP to 3 pagan kings)
- **Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego** – (Babylonian administrators)
- **Esther** – (Queen to King Xerxes of Medes & Persians)
- **Mordecai** – (Prime Minister to King Xerxes)
- **Nehemiah** – (King Artaxerxes security guard & Judah's Governor)
- **Joseph** – (Egyptian Pharaoh's Prime Minister)



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- Through Our Community's Programs & Leaders

“... seek the peace & prosperity of your (community)... Pray to the Lord for it...” (Jeremiah 29:7)