



Facing The Truth About How We Got Here (Embracing a New Reality)

February 13, 2022

Goal of the study: A Contextual Study of Jeremiah 29:11

- 11 **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. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Statement: Israel could no longer run from the truth about their rebellion and the consequences it brought into their lives.

Series Summary

1. They Needed to Embrace a New **Reality**
2. They Needed to Embrace a Mature **Attitude**
3. They Needed to Embrace the Truth About Some Religious **Leaders**
4. They Needed to Embrace a New **Timeline**

Five Truths Israel Needed to Embrace

Introduction: This is a **truth-walk** through the facts that brought Israel to this point. (Jeremiah Chapters 1-4)

Summary: Jeremiah 29:1-14

- This is the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) 3 He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

1. They Needed to Embrace Their New Reality

- 4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “**Build houses and settle down;** plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 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.**”

- **Question:** How good are you at embracing new realities?

2. They Needed to Embrace A Mature Attitude (God is in this season)

- 7 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.”

Question: Can you be mature when things are unfair?

Side Question: Can you take the “long-view” during complex seasons?

Personal Observation: We need to work to raise our natural and spiritual children to be mature thinkers that see the long-view.

3. They Need to Be Embrace The Truth About Some Religious Leaders

- 8 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.
9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.

Big Question: How do leaders grow into bad leaders?

Answer: Bad parenting and **no** accountability

4. They Need to Embrace the timeline of 70 years

- 10 This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.

Question: Who wants to wait seventy years to be delivered from anything?

5. They Needed to Embrace God's Plan During This Season

- 11 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. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

- A. He plans to **prosper** you (v11)
- B. He plans **not to harm** you (v11)
- C. He plans to **give you hope** and a future (In this captivity season) ...v11
- D. He plans **for you to find him** when you genuinely seek him (v12-14)
- E. He plans to **gather you from all nations** and places (v14, c.p. 1948)
- G. He **plans to punish them** if they don't repent (v15-19)
- H. He **plans to punish specific religious leaders** by name (v20-32)



Next Time: Part Two The Truth About How We Got Here (**Embracing a Mature Attitude**)