

## Do All Of Us Prosper? (Jeremiah 29:10-14) *When God is Misunderstood* sermon series by Pastor David Hillis, 7.02.17

**BIG IDEA:** God's plans for our lives aren't always what we want, nor are they always understood, but they can be trusted.

The only way to know what any verse we are reading in the Bible really means is to look at its context; to look at the greater chapter, section or story it's in, to understand why it was said, and to whom.

### How God Is Misunderstood in Jeremiah 29:11

1. **These promises were for a specific nation (Judah), at a specific time in history.** (v1, 4) This was written for the Hebrew people arriving in Babylon who thought God had abandoned them.
2. **God wasn't promising them personal comfort or financial success.** (v11) The Hebrew word for "prosper" is the word "shalom", which isn't about personal comfort or financial success. It is about peace; it's about physical and spiritual salvation.
3. **Jeremiah 29:11 wasn't promised to its readers, but for those who would be alive 70 years later.** (v5-7, 10) Although God's plans for our lives aren't always what we want nor understood, we can, like Jeremiah, trust His plans, whatever they are.

### How Is Jeremiah 29:11 Relevant To Our Lives?

- We are reminded that God keeps His promises, and that there can be serious consequences for our sinful actions from which God may not spare us.
- When we set our hearts right and seek God, we can always find Him.
- God has the power to turn anyone's life around and restore them when they repent and turn to Him.
- Everyone's life includes some significant elements of adversity.
- As followers of Jesus, we have hope and a future.
- Sometimes God's plan is a long-term plan that we cannot see the purpose for when we're in the middle of it.
- God desires for us to remain faithful and trust Him, even in times of waiting and hardship.

**MY NEXT STEP:** *Are there any areas where you struggle with trust? Is God asking you to learn to embrace or resist the adversity in your life today?*

## QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. Read chapters 27-29 of Jeremiah to get a perspective of what was going on at the time God spoke the words in 29:11.
2. How has your perspective of God been impacted by this message? Why do you think we like to read Jeremiah 29:11 without context? Would you rather serve a God whose plans always line up with your plans, or one who promises to be with you when you call on Him?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10. How do you see your life as one of God's unique masterpieces? As you walk along the canvas of that painting being created with only an ant's perspective, do you have any idea what God is painting, and why? Pray for God to give you perspective.
4. Read Proverbs 4:18, 2 Timothy 3:12 and Romans 8:18-39 alongside Jeremiah 29:11. Do you think these verses contradict each other? Or do you see how these verses are consistent? What is God's plan for our lives when it comes to prosperity and adversity?
5. Next week we will be continuing this series by looking at another commonly misunderstood verse, Philippians 4:13. We will answer the question, "Is Nothing Impossible for Me?" How would you answer that question?

## PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Freedom for Those Persecuted Around the World for Their Faith

*Pray for persecuted believers to know the hope that God gives and that the Holy Spirit would strengthen them. May God provide protection and safety for those who are risking their lives to share the good news of Jesus.*