

Jeremiah 29 Discussion Guide

Read Jeremiah 29:1-3 (Context)

Who: Jeremiah (author/dictator), Baruch son of Neriah (scribe/compiler), Elasah son of Shaphan (courier), Gemariah son of Hilqiah (courier), King Zedekiah of Judah

What: Jeremiah sent his message, authorized by King Zedekiah, to King Nebuchadnezzar

When: After 597 B.C. (major deportation under the reign of King Jehoiachin) but before the ultimate fall of Judah and destruction of the temple in 587 B.C.

Where: The written message was carried by couriers from Judah to Babylon (see map)

Why: Jeremiah had a prophetic word for the Judean community living in Babylon after the 597-B.C. deportation (recorded in 2 Kings 24:8-20).

Read Jeremiah 29:4-9

1. What specific instructions does God give the exiles?
2. Imagine that you were exiled along with the Judeans. How would this message impact you?
3. What does this passage reveal about human nature and tendencies?

Read Jeremiah 28:1-4

1. What was Hananiah's message?
 - a. How does it compare to Jeremiah's?
2. How can believers discern whether a message truly comes from God?
3. Why do you think God's plan was better than the quick solution promised by the false prophets?

Read Jeremiah 29:10:11

1. What are some common ways people use or reference this passage today?
2. Having considered its historical context, how has your understanding of this passage changed or deepened?

Read Jeremiah 29:12-14

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Although the Judeans must wait 70 years to be released from exile, God's presence is with them.

1. How does an awareness of God's presence help a person persevere through a long season of waiting?
2. When your focus begins to shift away from God, what helps you redirect your thoughts back to Him?

God's plan for your future does not eliminate His purpose for your present.

God wants us to grow where we are planted, seek the welfare of the city, plant harvest that we will not see, and trust His future for us with the resources that we have today.

1. Where do you feel God has developed you the most in this season: confidence in His plans, commitment to your community, contentment where you are, or faithfulness over time?
 - a. In what area would you like Him to grow you?
2. What might happen if every believer in our church embraced these principles for the next year?

Prayer Ideas

- Patience / resisting instant gratification
- Trusting God with the future
- Submitting to His plan and timing
- Faithfully stewarding our resources