

Abiding in Christ, Living in Babylon

Jeremiah 29:1-14

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Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

January 31, 2017

Jeremiah 29 These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.

³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: ⁴“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Table Discussion Questions:

(15-20 minutes):

1. In what ways do you notice our world changing? What encourages you about these changes? What makes you nervous?
2. Where do you feel tension between your loyalty to Christ and your life in culture? How do you cope with that tension?
3. What stands out to you most about the instructions in Jeremiah's letter to the exiles? Where do you feel challenged?
4. Why is the promise toward the end of the letter ("For I know the plans I have for you...") so critical to doing the commands earlier in the letter? How does God's commitment to take care of our future shape how we live in the present?

(15-20 minutes):

Spend time discussing ways to seek the welfare of our city. Spend time praying for the welfare of our city.