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## Daily Bible devotional; Daily Rice 2024 August 06

YouTube Prayer Link

God give us peace

Jeremiah 29 is a letter from Jeremiah to the exiles of Israel in Babylon who told them how to live and serve God in the Gentile land. At the center of this chapter God has decided that the Israel will be exiled to Babylon for seventy years, where they must settle, build families and businesses, pray for peace and prosperity in the land, and not listen to the lies of those who claim to be prophets, who speak with their own thoughts and desires, not by God's revelation. God would listen to the prayers of the captives and deliver them when they returned home. Jeremiah also assured them that God had a good plan and that he would fulfill it. Therefore, the Israelites must continue to believe in God and wholeheartedly seek the promise of the Babylonian exiles that they will be favored and live, all in the time of Zedekiah.

At this time, Judah had become a vassal state of Babylon, and Babylon did not prohibit the exchange of letters between Jerusalem and the captives, nor did it mistreat the captive people. This is the fulfillment of God's promise that I will care for them as good figs, and will care for them for their good. The root cause of the exile was because of the work of God's hand, and the exiled people were to be obedient and wait for God's promise. Jeremiah describes how being beaten by Babylon was not just a punishment for sin, but a spiritual process that matured the faith (Job 23:10). That is, through the captive life, the Jews will re-establish their relationship with God and have the opportunity to discover themselves and hone themselves. For the Jews, the advice of this article has the meaning of the times. For they had always believed that prayer and sacrifice were only possible in Jerusalem, where the temple was located, and now Jeremiah proclaimed that it could be done in Babylon. Christ has taught us to "neither be on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, but worship him with spirit and sincerity" (John 4:21-24), which is consistent

with the idea of this article. God called the people to prayer, and God warned the exiles not to continue to live in false peace, but to await God's deliverance in obedience (v.10). God is omnipresent and "does not forsake His saints" Psalm 37:28 No creature can "separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:39). So no matter how lonely and miserable we feel, if we seek God with all our hearts, we can find Him in any unexpected place!

Jeremiah sent a letter to the Babylonian captives, telling them to live there in peace and prosperity and to have sons and daughters. Jeremiah received God's Word prophesied that the Israel would be exiled for seventy years, so they told them not to believe the false prophet in Babylon who said they would return after two years of exile. Jeremiah persuaded them to settle in Babylon and multiply. "And the LORD said: I know that the thoughts I have set upon you are the thoughts of peace, and not of evil, that ye may have hope in the end. (29:11) The people were exiled for their peace, where they had hope and preservation, so the exile was a blessing, and God's mind was higher than ours. God's purpose in commanding the exiles to settle in Babylon was to eradicate the expectation of false prophet prophecy. If they believe in false prophecies, they will be disappointed and frustrated, and they will fall into an even more miserable situation. Another purpose is to make them repent and confess their sins by obedience to commands, and to show that only God's grace can restore them. There is a great deal of fertility and multiplication, and the hope of return must not be lost, and at the same time the meaning of suffering must be understood. 29:11 "I know that the thoughts I have set for you are peace and not evil, so that you may have hope in the end."

Jeremiah's letter told the captives that they would not return soon, but that they would settle in the land, marry and have children, and return after seventy years. This letter is primarily a message of consolation, announcing the fate of four categories of Judah: 1, the exiled Jews; 2, the men of Judah, who were about to be taken into exile; 3, false prophets who have been taken into exile in Babylon; 4, The false prophet Shemaya.

God commanded the people of Judah to pray for the peace of the enemy nation, because Babylon was directly related to the life of Judah's captives. We pray for our families, our jobs, our societies, our countries, and our nations because they are directly related to our lives. Jeremiah's warning is a wake-up call for two groups of people today. 1. Workers who preach only blessings in the face of the saints who are still on their own path; 2. The saints who do not like words of reproach, but prefer only words of comfort and blessing.

29:24~28 False Prophet's Rebuttal: The false prophet's response to Jeremiah's letter is very sensitive. They vigorously refuted Jeremiah because they believed that their opinions were infallible. More important, however, were their fear that Jeremiah's letters would reveal the truth. The false prophet Shemaiah wrote to the priests and people of Judah, accusing and cursing Jeremiah in the holy name of God, and publicly refuting Jeremiah. Instead of feeling the slightest condemnation of their own faults, they attacked Jeremiah, the wickedness and ignorance that characterize false prophets. In order to justify their injustice, they gladly use their power and encourage others to join in it.

29:29~32 Judgment on Shemaiah: God decided to punish Shemaiah for the following reasons: 1. He was not called to be a prophet (v.31). It is also a warning to those who do not have an inner calling, but who are engaged in the work of the Holy Works. 2. His prophecy brought fatal damage to the people. Jeremiah had no defense in the face of Shemaiah's slander. This is quite unique. For the faithful, the slander and slander of others will not hinder them in the slightest. Christianity is based on the Word of God, so those who reject God's grace while still breathing; The Bible says that they are "not entitled to partake of God's saving grace."

Let's pray together:

Abba Heavenly Father, please give us the faith of Jeremiah, help us to trust God in the midst of hardship, to reject all pleasing hearts, to look to God alone, and to faithfully proclaim what God has commanded us. Lord Jesus, we thank You that the thoughts You have for us are peace-giving thoughts. Even in the process of discipline, in the process of purification, there will be suffering, but the thoughts You have for us are definitely not the thoughts of bringing calamity, and in the process of tempering, you will give us hope in the end. So, Lord, we choose to believe in You, surrender to our circumstances, and cry out to You in prayer and seek You with all our hearts until we find the Lord!

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

## Jeremiah 29

29:1 Jeremiah the prophet sent letters from Jerusalem to the priests, the prophets, and the people, and the surviving elders, from whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken captive to Babylon.

29:2 (This was after the king of Judah, and the queen, and the eunuch, and Gedaliah, and the princes of Jerusalem, and the craftsmen and blacksmiths, all left Jerusalem.) )

29:3 He sent it by the hand of Eliaha, the son of Shaphan, and Chemarai, the son of Heleai. The two of them were sent by King Zedekiah of Judah to Babylon to see King Nebuchadnezzar.

29:4 The letter says, "The God of Israel, the Lord of hosts, says to all those who have been taken captive, whom We have brought from Jerusalem into Babylonian captivity,

29:5 Build a house, dwell in it, plant a field, and reap what is thereof.

29:6 Take wives and have children, and wives for your children, and give birth to your daughters, and have adopted daughters, and there are many people to raise, and not to be few.

29:7 For the city into which we have brought you captive, pray for peace and pray to the Lord for it, for peace is in that city, and with it you peace will be peace.

29:8 Thus saith the God of Israel, Yahweh of hosts, Do not be deceived by prophets and divination among you, nor listen to your own dreams.

29:9 for they have made false prophecies unto thee in my name, and I have not sent them. this is what ye and hua said .

29:10 This is what Jehovah says, After the seventy years set for Babylon have come to an end, I will take care of you and give you my word of kindness so that you may return to this place.

29:11 And Yahweh said to them, I know that the thoughts I have for you are the thoughts of peace, not of calamity, that you may have hope in the end.

29:12 Call to me, and pray to me, and I will answer you.

29:13 You seek me, and if you set your heart on me, you will find me. 29:14 And Jehovah said, I will be found by you, and I will bring your captives back, and I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, and bring you back to the land from which I have taken you captive.

29:15 And ye say, Yahweh has raised up prophets for us in Babylon; 29:16 So Jereah says of the king who sat on the throne of David and all the people who dwelt in this city, the brothers who have not been taken into exile with you,

29:17 Thus saith Jehovah, the host of ten thousand, Behold, I will bring upon them the sword, and the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like a very bad fig.

29:18 And with the sword, and with famine, and with pestilence, I will pursue them, and I will throw them into the midst of all the nations of the heavens, and in all the nations to which we have driven them, to curse, and to be amazed, and to be laughed at, and to be dishonored.

29:19 And Jehoah said, Because they have not listened to my words, which I have sent my servants and prophets from the morning, but they have not listened. this is what ye and hua said .

29:20 Whoever you have been taken captive, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon, give ear to the words of Jehovah.

29:21 Thus saith the God of the Israel of hosts, concerning Ahab the son of Coraiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, saying, "They prophesy to you in my name; I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylolum, and he will kill them before your eyes.

29:22 And all the captives of Judah, who dwell in Babylon, will put a curse on them, saying, May Jehovah make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon burned in the fire.

29:23 These two men committed adultery in Israel, committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and said in my name what I had not commanded them. I am the one who knows and I am the one who bears witness . this is what ye and hua said .

29:24 And when it comes to Shemaiah the Neherainite, say,

29:25 Thus saith the God of Israel in Jehova, of hosts, Thou hast sent in thy name to all the people of Jerusalem and to Zephaniah, the son of Maaseiah, the priest, and to all the priests. say

29:26 And Jehohua has made you Zephaniah a priest and a substitute priest Jehoiada and a ruler in the house of Yahweh, so that all those who call themselves prophets in arrogance may be put in chains. Lock lock.

29:27 Now Jeremiah the Anatholite, who calls himself a prophet to you, why have you not rebuked him?

29:28 For he wrote to our people in Babylon, saying, The captivity will be long, and you will build houses, live in them, plant fields, and soak up the fruits thereof.

29:29 And Zephaniah the priest gave this message to Jeremiah the prophet.

29:30 And the words of Jehovah came to Jeremiah, saying,

29:31 Send a letter to all the captives, saying, "Jehovah says about Shemaiah the Nehehemite, Because Shemaiah prophesied to you, I did not send him, but he put you in lies.

29:32 So this is what Jehoah says, I will put an end to Shemayah the Neherainite, and to his descendants, and there will be no one left among this people, nor will he see the good that I will give to my people. for he had spoken rebellious things to Yahweh. this is what ye and hua said .

Jeremiah 29 is a letter from Jeremiah to the Israel exile in Babylon who tells them how to live and serve God in the Gentile land. The central idea of this chapter is that God has decided that the Israel will be exiled to Babylon for seventy years, where they must settle down, build families and businesses, pray for local peace and prosperity, and not listen to the lies of those who claim to be prophets, who speak with their own thoughts and desires and not rely on God's revelation. God will listen to their prayers and deliver them when they return to their hometowns. Jeremiah also assured them that God had a good plan and that he would fulfill it. Therefore, Israel must continue to trust God and seek His face with all their hearts.

Here are some of the key verses from Jeremiah 29 and their explanations:

1. "These are those who were migrated to the land of Babylon, that is, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who had migrated from Jerusalem to Babylon, including the queen, the eunuchs, the captains of the army, and the craftsmen of Jehoiakim king of Judah, ten thousand men in all." —Jeremiah 29:1.

This passage introduces the background of the Jews who migrated to Babylon. These included kings and queens, leaders and commoners. This scripture reminds us that the consequences of sin are real and cruel and affect not only the individual but the entire group as well.

2. "And the Lord said, I have brought you to this place, and I have caused you to be moved. Pray for peace in this place, for peace may be found in the cities in which you are located. (Jeremiah.)

29:7)

This scripture is God's word through Jeremiah to the people of Judah who migrated to Babylon. God pointed out that it was God's will for these people to be migrated to Babylon, and that they should serve faithfully in a foreign land and pray and work for their cities in order to have a stable life. This verse reminds us that no matter where we are, we should do our best to pray and work hard for the peace and prosperity of our communities.

3. "And the LORD said, When ye call upon me and pray unto me, I will answer you. Ye shall seek Me, and if ye shall seek Me with all your heart, ye shall find Me. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

This verse is God's promise to the people of Judah who migrated to Babylon. Even if they are relocated, God is still willing to listen to their prayers and help them live in a foreign land. God also points out that we can find Him if we seek Him with all our hearts. This verse reminds us that God is always the God who hears our prayers, and that we can trust Him and bring our needs to Him.

Jeremiah 29 records Jeremiah's letter to the exiles of Judah in Babylon. In this letter, Jeremiah told them God's will and gave them guidance. Here are just a few of the important theological central ideas and theological takeaways:

**God's plan:** In Jeremiah 29, Jeremiah delivers God's Word to the Babylonian exile. God let them know that He arranged for them to be taken captive to Babylon and settled there for a purpose, for their sake

benefits. God's plan transcends human comprehension, and His decisions are based on human good.

**Promise and Hope:** In Jeremiah 29, God conveyed promise and hope to the exiled Judah through Jeremiah. God said that when they cried out to Him and prayed to Him in the land of Babylon, God would answer them, and He would answer them.

This shows God's love and mercy for them and gives them hope and a future.

**Faith and Patience:** In Jeremiah 29, God encouraged the exiled Judah to establish a home, plant a farm, and settle there while they were in Babylon. God encourages them to remain faithful and patient in difficult situations, and His plan is good, and God will care for them regardless of their circumstances.

**True Preaching:** In Jeremiah 29, Jeremiah is the true preacher who represents God for the taken

The Word and Guidance of God in Judah. Jeremiah's words are true because he was a prophet sent by God.

Overall, Jeremiah 29 emphasizes God's plan and will, His love and compassion for the exiled Jews. The central idea of theology is the emphasis on God's wisdom and God's plan beyond human comprehension, and His will is based on the good of man. Jeremiah's faith and patience were encouraged and supported in his message. Finally, Jeremiah, as a true preacher, delivers a true and credible message on behalf of God, and God's Word is reliable and we can trust.