

## Plans for what?

### Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV2011)

<sup>10</sup> 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.

Context: The Jews will be sent into exile. Why? They didn't do what God said.

It is a prophetic statement resulting from the Jews not listening to God's warnings. (In other words they sinned.

Would it have been different if they obeyed? Yep.

Does this transfer to our modern day? Ok let's think about that. Does God chastise His people today? How? Does He send us into exile for continuous disobedience? Perhaps. The thing is God will deal with it however He chooses.

If we do the wrong thing – Don't expect to be blessed.

The same goes for individuals and churches. Obedience – listening to God is to be our future.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

Even with all this obedience or lack of obedience, God has plans for you, for us.

Notice a few things here:

1. God has plans
2. He wants us to prosper
3. He doesn't want to hurt us
4. He wants to give us hope
5. He wants to give us a positive future.
  
6. God has plans -What are those plans?
7. He wants us to prosper – How does He want us to prosper?
8. He doesn't want to hurt us -But will He if I disobey?
9. He wants to give us hope -Why do I need hope?
10. He wants to give us a positive future.-What will that future look like?

11. God has plans -What are those plans? They are His plans –

We need to look at what He wants, how He wants us to live.

12. He wants us to prosper – How does He want us to prosper? What is God's prosperity?

What does a successful life look like in God's eyes. If His plans for us are to be His, then what will those plans result look like?

13. He doesn't want to hurt us -But will He if I disobey?

God doesn't want to harm us, but if we don't keep our end of the bargain He will react.

We usually learn by punishment, let's be realistic about that.

14. He wants to give us hope -Why do I need hope? Remember, hope in the bible is a sureness of the event happening. God wants us to be positive and expectant.

15. He wants to give us a positive future.-What will that future look like? Future with God will be exciting, rewarding and down right scary.

Follow God is always a challenge, Our belief in God and Jesus confronts people, causes anger, makes people uncomfortable and we see that in our political situation here in Australia right now.

Interesting after these points the writer says:

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

When you realise this is what you want, you will respond to God and as the passage says "call on Him" What does that mean?

In our thinking calling on someone is like visiting them. Making a phone call is to make contact with them. That is one way of looking at this concept. When we recognise where we are at with God and where we need to be we will make contact.

Look at this:

<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

This is about being really serious with our relationship to God. Notice it says all your heart. Its not a token search. It's a really in depth investigation. Its being really serious about who we are in relationship to God.

Notice to it is about seeking. Looking into who God is, looking into what God expects of us. Hey this kind of means we have to put effort into it. Investigating God, investigating what God expects. That's our job.

Actually it's a really good time to start doing that. If we can get into a habit through January, there is a chance it will stay with us for the year.

Look at this next bit.

<sup>14</sup> 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."

When we are right with God, He places us where we should be in our relationship to Him.

Notice a few things.

- a. **I will be found.** If we really investigate God He will show Himself to us.
- b. **God will bring us back.** No matter where we have been, how far away from God how disobedient we have been, God will bring us back.
- c. **He will place us back where we belong.** For the Jews, that was Jerusalem, what about us, where should we be?