

YOUR GOD HAS PLANS FOR YOU (part one)

“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11) [NAS] This verse is an excerpt from a letter Jeremiah written to the Judean exiles in Babylon.

The first three verses of chapter 29 contain five details about this letter to the Judean POWs.

- The writer is Jeremiah (Jer.29:1) (597BC)
- The recipients are Judean leaders and people (Jer.29:1)
- The historical royal footnote (Jer.29:2)
- The diplomatic envoy is named Elasah (Jer.29:3)
- The letter will be delivered to king of Babylon, to be delivered to the recipients (Jer.29:3)

An interesting phrase is used as a marker to outline this letter. This special phrase is, “Thus says the Lord.” It is used nine times in chapter 29 (vs’ 4, 8, 10, 16, 17, 21, 25, 31, and 32) [NAS].

We will divide chapter or letter by the following two parts for study without the Introduction verses of Jer.29:1-3.

- Jer.29:4-14 **Future hope amidst tribulation.**
- Jer.29:15-32 False prophets amidst tribulation.

Today’s lesson will come from the first part (Jer.29:4-14). We will outline it by the following five homiletical points.

- **Pursue a normal life** (Jer.29:4-6) Build houses, plant gardens, marry and have children while in tribulation.
- **Pray for your enemy** (Jer.29:7) Pray for peace and prosperity for every exile city of Babylon while in tribulation.
- **Pay attention to false teachings** (Jer.29:8-9) Don’t be deceived by false teachings while in tribulation.
- **Promise of a future** (Jer.29:10-11) God is always faithful to His promises. After 70 years, the Judean’s will return because God has a plan for them even while in tribulation.
- **Practical doctrines** (Jer.29:12-14) Judah is still the custodian of the word of God and evangelism while in tribulation.

Today we will study FOUR aspects of the lesson entitled, GOD HAS “PLANS” FOR YOU

God has “Plans” for you, even when you are under divine discipline. The point I want to emphasize in Jeremiah’s letter to the exiles is stated in Jer.29:11 – “For I know the plans that I have for you, declared the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

1. God has a Plan, which you became involved in the moment you believed the Gospel!

The Gospel: “That Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give you eternal life” (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9; John 3:16).

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love.” (Eph.1:4)

“This is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Tim.1:9)

Every Believer enters the Plan of God under perfect timing – “for he says, ‘At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you;’ behold, now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘the day of salvation.’” (2 Cor.6:2)

2. The specifics of the Plan of God, that Church Age Believers become involved with is dispensational.

For example, Jeremiah is writing from the Jewish Age perspective. He is writing to the Judean divine agency (southern kingdom) that is suffering under the 5th cycle of divine discipline (Deut.28:63-68).

- Discipline of the church, as the divine agency works differently in the Church Age dispensation.
- For example, the church would not go under the 5th cycle of divine discipline but has its own unique divine discipline as described by the seven church of the Book of Revelation.
 - The removal of local church (Rev.2:5)
 - The Lord fights against them (Rev.2:16)
 - The Lord allows great suffering (Rev.2:21-23)
 - The Lord will come against the church, like a thief (Rev.3:3)
 - The Lord will spit them out of His mouth (Rev.3:16, 19)

3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit gives us a specific role in the dispensational Plan of God (John 14:16, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Matt.3:11; Acts 1:4-5).

Let me mention just SEVEN ministries.

- Every believer receives eight works of the Holy Spirit at moment of salvation (1 Cor.6:19-20).
- There is the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18).
- There is the walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17).
- There is the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22-23).
- Each CA believer has a spiritual gift ministry to the rest of the church (1 Cor.12).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit has power over the Devil (1 John 4:4).
- The CA ministry of the Holy Spirit holds back evil in the world (2 Thess.2:7).

4. Yet, there is a standard role for every Church Age Believer, in the Plan of God that expands dispensations.

The laws of Divine Establishment or FIVE Divine Institutions:

I’ve listed them in the order of their appearance in Book of Genesis.

DI #1 – Freedom (Gen.1:26-27; 2:17)

DI #2 – Work / Employment (Gen.2:5, 15; 3:17-19; Ex.23:12; Eccl.5:18-20; Col.3:22-24; 2 Thess.3:10-11)

DI #3 – Marriage (Gen.2:18-25)

DI #4 – Family (Gen.3:15-16; 4:1)

DI #5 – Nation (Gen.10-11)