

# THE PLAN OF GOD IN THE SUFFERING WE EXPERIENCE

## *The Story of Scripture, part 18*

*Jeremiah 29:11 - 13, ESV*

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### **JEREMIAH 29:11 - 13**

For 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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

### **2 KINGS 17:6**

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

### **JEREMIAH 29:8 - 9**

For 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, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

### **JEREMIAH 29:4 - 7**

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take 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. But 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.

### **JEREMIAH 29:10**

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.

### **THREE PROMISES TO GOD'S PEOPLE THEN . . .**

1. "I will bring you through your suffering."

### **JEREMIAH 29:14**

I 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.

### **THREE PROMISES TO GOD'S PEOPLE THEN . . .**

2. "I will hear your prayers to me."

### **JEREMIAH 2:32**

. . . my people have forgotten me days without number.

### **THREE PROMISES TO GOD'S PEOPLE THEN . . .**

3. "I will reward your pursuit of me."

### **JEREMIAH 9:23 - 24**

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

### **THREE IMPLICATIONS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY . . .**

1. In the middle of suffering, we can know God has good plans for us.

### **FALSE HOPE**

God wills to keep you from all suffering.

Your suffering will end in a short time.

### **TRUE HOPE**

God wills to bring you through all suffering.

Your suffering will end in the long term.

### **GOD'S PLAN CALLS FOR PATIENT TRUST.**

### **GOD'S PLAN COMES WITH PERSEVERING GRACE.**

### **PSALM 121:1 - 2**

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.



## **THREE IMPLICATIONS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY . . .**

2. In the middle of suffering, we can know God hears all of our cries.

### **OLD COVENANT: INDIRECT ACCESS TO GOD FOR PARTICULAR PEOPLE.**

#### **JEREMIAH 31:31 – 34**

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

### **NEW COVENANT: DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD FOR ALL PEOPLE.**

In the middle of suffering, we can experience supernatural joy.

#### **ROMANS 5:1 – 8**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand . . . and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**OUR JOY IS NOT FOUND IN OUR EVER-CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**OUR JOY IS FOUND IN GOD'S NEVER-CHANGING PROMISES.**



## **DON'T MISS THE PICTURE**

Jesus is the resurrected prophet from Jonah . . . the faithful husband from Hosea . . . the burden bearer from Amos . . . the restorer of the lost from Joel . . . the Prince of Peace and Sacrifice for Sinners in Isaiah . . . the everlasting ruler from Micah . . . the covenant keeper from Jeremiah.

## **DON'T MISS THE POINT**

God keeps all of His promises in Jeremiah 29:11 - 13 to all who are in Jesus!

