**“Plans to Give You the Future You Hope For”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 29:4-14

**INTRODUCTION**

The people of God have turned away from following God. Rather than trusting the Lord they have chosen to trust in other powers. In this case other nations. They have been conquered by one of those nations – Babylon. Many have gone into exile in Babylon. God speaks to them about their captivity through Jeremiah.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 4 This is what the LORD, the God of angel armies, Israel’s God, says to all I taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you’ll thrive and not decrease. 7 Seek the welfare and wholeness of the city to which I have carried you and pray for its welfare and wholeness so that you may be whole. 8 Yes, this really is what the LORD Almighty, Israel’s God says, “Don’t let all those so-called prophets and religious know-it-alls take you in with their lies. Do not listen to their dreams that they are coming up with to please you. 9 They are telling you lies in my name. I never sent them, believe me.”10 This is what the LORD says. “After seventy years are completed in Babylon, I will be there to fulfill my gracious promise to bring you home from the place you have been in exile.” 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to make you whole and complete and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen. 13 When you come looking for me, you’ll find me.14 Really, when you are serious about finding me and want it more than anything else you will find me. I will turn things around for you and bring you back from all the countries which I drove you. I will bring you home from the place which I sent you into exile.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. If you were in captivity in Babylon how would you feel about God’s commands in verses 5-7?

2. Jeremiah has been warning the people about false prophets who are promising their captivity will be over quickly. According to verses 10-11 who will be saying when the exile will be over and who is in charge of the plans? What does that mean for you personally in your life right now?

3. From these verses what do you gather is God’s reason for both extending and ending the exile?

4. In what ways do you think God uses the hard things in life to accomplish good?

5. Have you ever seen God bring good out of bad situations like in these verses? What happened? Could there have been an easier way to learn it?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for the future and hope that He has given to you.

\*Ask the Lord to give you the faith to trust in His future and hope for you.

\*Ask Him to help you to bloom where you are planted.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

God has a future and hope for you. How will that change how you live this week?