

FUTURE PLANS
JEREMIAH 29:11 / 9-20-20 / WED

I. WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES?

- A. It's found in Jeremiah 29:11.
- B. This is a popular verse of the Bible.

II. THERE IS A CATCH TO GOD'S PLANS, THOUGH.

- A. The catch is apparent when you look at the historical context in which Jeremiah wrote this promise of God.
 - 1. Jeremiah wrote these encouraging words immediately after the Southern Kingdom was defeated by the Babylonians.
 - 2. Their defeat occurred because of their rebellion against God.
 - 3. God's promise to prosper them came on the heels of the previous verse—Jer.29:10.
 - 4. After reading about being enslaved for 70 years, Israel must have wondered what God meant by His plans to prosper them and not to harm them.
- B. Why wouldn't God deliver them immediately instead of waiting 70 years? Its obvious God wanted them to learn some lessons.
 - 1. One lesson for Israel is that there is a price to pay for our poor choices.
 - 2. Another lesson for Israel to learn is that life is usually hard.
 - 3. Still another is that no matter how hard it would be in Babylon, God would not forget them. Jeremiah 29:11 is proof of that.

III. WHAT ARE GOD'S PLANS LIKE?

- A. For one thing, it's comforting just to know that God has a plan for each of us.
- B. For another thing, we need to know that God's plans aren't just about us and our comfort or success. They are about God—I Cor. 6:20.
- C. From Jeremiah 29:11 notice four specific plans God has for each of us.

1. First, God plans for us to acknowledge His Lordship in our lives—" **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord.**"
2. Second, prosperity means something different to God than it means to us—" **plans to prosper you**"—Luke 12:15-21.
3. Third, God's plans may not be easy (70 years), but ultimately, they are for our own good—" **not to harm you**"
4. Fourth, God's plans are long term—" **plans to give you hope and a future.**"— Eph.1:9-10, Phil.1:6.