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 then 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.