

# MESSAGE NOTES

## “Practical Teaching for Everyday Living”

### LIVING IN LIMBO Jeremiah: the Weeping Prophet Kevin T. Hardy February 20, 2022

***Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.** 2 This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. 3 **He sent the letter with Elasah** son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah’s ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah’s letter said:  
(Jeremiah 29:1-3)*

#### The Most Famous Verse in Jeremiah

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING IN LIMBO

*Then the LORD reached out his hand and **touched my mouth** and said to me, “Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to **uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.**” Jeremiah 1:9-10*

#### 1. BUILD FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_

*“**Build** houses and **settle** down; **plant** gardens and **eat** what they produce. (Je. 29:5)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ are activities that bring some **sort of permanency** in the midst of disruption brought about by their uprooting from their own land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ show activities that bring **enjoyment to the life** of the exiles.

***Marry** and **have sons and daughters;** find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. **Increase in number there; do not decrease.** (Je. 29:6)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ - Be Productive, Grow, Show Progress

*Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but **the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied** greatly and **became exceedingly numerous,** so that the land was filled with them. (Ex 1:6–7).*

## 2. SEEK THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CITY

Also, **seek the peace and prosperity of the city** to which I have carried you into exile. **Pray to the LORD for it**, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Je. 29:7)

- **SEEK \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ - means order, harmony, and reconciliation

Read Psalm 137 - shows the wretched ugliness of the mood of the exiles on first arriving in Babylon, with their longings for home and their understandable desire for vengeance on their enemies

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.** I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

- **PRAY FOR \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pray for the peace** of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.

**May there be peace within your walls** and security within your citadels.”

For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, **“Peace be within you.”**

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, **I will seek your prosperity.** (Ps. 122:6-9)

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DARKNESS

This is what the LORD says: “When **seventy years are completed for Babylon**, I will **come to you** and fulfill **my gracious promise to bring you back** to this place. (Je. 29:10)

- \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_

**For I know the plans I have for you,**” declares the LORD, **“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** (Je. 29:11)

Then **you will call upon me and come and pray to me,** and I will listen to you. 13 **You will seek me and find me** when **you seek me with all your heart.** (Je. 29:12-13)

**I will be found by you,**” declares the LORD, “and **will bring you back from captivity.** I will **gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,**” declares the LORD, “and **will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.**” (Je. 29:14)