


***Our Theme for This  
Year By Popular***

***Vote:***

***Becoming a  
Better You  
In 2022!***

***Galatians 2:20; Matthew 6:33***





Is God In Your  
Plans For this  
Year?  
Jeremiah 29:11

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

***“.....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.....”***

**The Pandemic and its “fluidity” has caused many plans to change since its beginning**

**If you are in school or have school-aged children, haven't your plans changed (virtual and/or in-person learning)?**

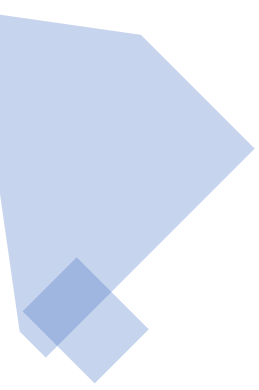
**If you are working from home, have your hours of work been modified or changed to a different schedule?**

**Have you had to find childcare facilities that can meet the changes in your schedule?**

**Have you had to change vacation times, reschedule doctor's appointments, or cancel them all together?**

# Observations

- **Jeremiah 29:11** gives us some insight into God's children who may have had some similar feelings as ours
- This was part of a letter that the Lord had the prophet Jeremiah to write around 600 B.C., to a Jewish population that was now living in Babylon, about 400 miles east of Jerusalem
- They weren't living there by choice, but had been ripped away from their families and ancestors by the Babylonians and forced to live and work in exile, in a land that was not theirs (sound familiar?)
- These were exiled children of God! Verse 10 says that their exile would last 70 years (for us self-quarantining for 2 weeks is too long!)

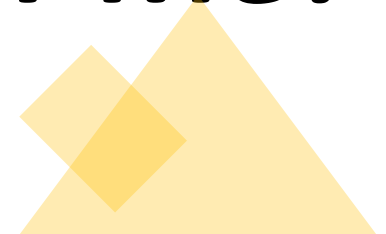


How Often  
Must They  
Have  
Wondered:

***What's Next?***

***Where is the  
Lord?***

***God, What  
are Your  
Plans for Me?***



# God Assured His Children That What They Were Experiencing Was Part of His Plan!

**What Purpose Was In His Plan For Them?**

**Threefold: To Prosper Them, To Provide Hope, and a Future**

**Question: While in this Pandemic, do you occasionally feel like those exiled children of God?**

**How many of you feel worried, being separated from your loved ones for now (exiled), and who knows for how long?**

**How many feel that though “vaccinated and boosted,” they will get COVID anyway? Where is the Lord in all of this?**

**Here’s My Point: Doesn’t God Still Say Through Jeremiah, “I’ve Got Plans For You?”**

**“I Have a Purpose For What You Are Going Through!”**

## Observations

We will hear encouraging remarks: *“We’ll get through this!”*

Though tremendously encouraging, the question is :

*“Is Just Getting Through This,” All That God Wants for Us?*

*What Else Does God Want to Accomplish In Us?*

Remember, He Wants Us to Prosper! (Romans 5:3-5) Spiritually

The Jews living in Babylon were there because of their  
“spiritual apathy” towards God

Though they were God’s people, their lifestyles had become no  
different than their unbelieving neighbors (Babylonians)

They bowed to the “god of selfishness, greed, and injustice!”

God had sent His people prophet after prophet, but they  
wouldn’t listen. They wanted to *“Live their best life!”*

God’s final straw, to get their attention, was to exile them

## **Is There a Parallel Today in What God is Allowing to Happen to the World?**

- **God has the same “prospering plans” for us - Jeremiah 29:11**
- **But Airlines are suffering massive flight cancellations all over the country (*Our Best-Life Vacations are being cut out! Cruises Have been shut down as of this date*)**
- **Pharmacies close because there are not enough pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to keep them open for Rx.**
- **Doctors and other healthcare providers are dying of COVID**
- **Over 824,000 Americans have succumbed to a disease that didn't exist just 3 years ago (over 11,000 in our state alone)**
- **Large sporting events play to empty arenas or not at all**
- **Thriving companies are now closing stores due to an inability to adapt to the “new normal,” causing millions of people to go without jobs, counted on to feed their families (Domino Effect)**



# Observations

- Rather than ask questions like, “Where is the Lord,” the better questions may be:

***Where Have We Been?***

***What Have We Been Doing?***

**For many, the Pandemic has taken earthly securities away!**

**So For the Child of God:**

**If the Pandemic removes your job (security), what do you do?**

**If the Pandemic removes your health (security), what do you do?**

**If the Pandemic removes your religious family member (security), what do you do?**

***Is The Lord Asking Us To Look At Whom Or What We Rely On For Our Security?***

***“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.***

***My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth.” Psalms 121:1-2***

- We quote this verse, but often use the Lord’s power only as a “spare tire” when our own selfish plans fail
- This year, don’t wait until your selfish goals are destroyed to allow God to plan your life



# There Are Two Areas of God's Plans For You

## #1 The Known Plan (I can read it in scripture)

- God's plan has ALWAYS included YOU to spend eternity with HIM, not in this world of sickness and sadness, Ephesians 1:4

*“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for the adoption of sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.”*

- God PLANNED that Jesus would go to the cross to die for the punishment our sins deserved 1 John 2:1-2
- He purchased us with His blood, Acts 20:28
- We accept that purchase through our obedience to God; Hebrews 5:8-9

## #2 The *Unknown* Plan

(What I Can't Read In Scripture)

- I cannot read in the Bible: *“J.W., thus saith the Lord, once you graduate from high school, I command you to go to the University of Alabama and major in Biology and Pre-Medicine. Eventually you must end up at Meharry Medical College and study medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. After becoming a doctor, I command you to go to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where you will learn how to be a doctor; and there you will find a future wife to marry, even though you already knew her in Nashville while studying at Meharry, because you both attended the same church (but that’s another story)!”*

*Then I will command you to relocate in Birmingham Alabama..... you know the rest of your story like I know mine”*

**But The Trust Factor We Must Have Is  
Magnified in the Unknown Plans We Have For  
God (*To be a Better You in 2022*)**

***“Trust in the Lord with all of thine heart; and  
lean not unto thine own understanding,  
In all thy ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will direct thy paths.”***

***Proverbs 3:5,6***

***Your Free Moral Agency Is In the Unknown  
Plans! Deut. 30:15 (Life/Death)***



**GOD**

Careers, Affections, Close Friends, Worship ,  
Ethics (Your Plans Should Revolve Around God! )

# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**                      **Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**                      **Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**                      **Acts 8:38**