

GOD'S LOVE LETTER

v1 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. v2 (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) v3 He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: v4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: v5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. v6 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. v7 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." v8 Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. v9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. v10 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. v11 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. v12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. v13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. v14 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." **Jeremiah 29:1-14**

I. GOD KNOWS WHO AND WHERE YOU ARE?

A. God Knows About Your PAST – God knew all about Israel's sins! There was nothing in their hearts or their lives that He did not know.

Heb. 4:13. Nothing is hidden from God! He sees through everything, and we will have to tell him the truth. Psa. 90:8, "you know all of our sins, even those we do in secret."

B. God Knows About Your PRESENT – God knew everything there was to know about the sufferings of Israel. He knew about the wickedness of the Babylonians. He knew about their cruelty. Nothing was hidden from Him!
Rom. 8:28. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

1. **Don't fight your circumstances** – v5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.
2. **Prosper where you are** – v6 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. v7 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."
3. **Don't follow false promises** – v8 Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. v9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

II. GOD'S TIMING IS PERFECT?

v10 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.

A. It's often LONGER than we think – SEVENTY YEARS!!!!

B. Everything has a SEASON – When seventy years are completed for Babylon.

C. God's PROMISES are IMMUTABLE - Unchanging over time or unable to be changed.

Hebrews 6:13-20 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, v14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." v15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. v16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. v17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. v18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. v19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, v20 where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

III. GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS REDEMPTIVE?

A. God's PLAN seeks the GOOD of OTHERS – v11 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.

B. God's PLAN is RELATIONAL – v12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. v13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. v14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD,

C. God's PLAN is REDEMPTIVE – v14 ... "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."