



Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“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.’”

Our Father’s Good Plans Jeremiah 29:4-14

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (NIV)

This what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 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. 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." 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. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. 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. 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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 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."

The Father’s Good Plans will always give us:

I. Discernment in all our Difficulties

Verse 4 – “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.”

Luke 8:22-23 (NIV)

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let’s go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

II. Contentment in all our Conflict

Verses 5-7, 10

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; ...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. "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.

Psalm 138:7-8 (NIV)

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.

III. Hope in all our Hardship

Verse 11-14 "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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and will bring you back from captivity.'"

"These are very real inconveniences. But they are more than that. They are very real opportunities. An opportunity to remind yourself that following Jesus is a daily death to personal convenience. An opportunity to remind one another that being together is a gift so precious that no inconvenience can diminish its luster. An opportunity to remind the world that Jesus is worth following, even when that road is filled with dangers, toils, and snares. ...and facemasks."

– Pastor Hopson Boutot; Poquoson Baptist Church