

God's Plans for You

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The setting is made plain in verse one when it states: **These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.**

The Jews had turned from God and worshiped idols. Finally the Lord had had enough and they were carried off to Babylon. Now they were near the end of their 70 year exile. They had repented and turned back to the Lord. In Psalm 103:8-10 God comforts all his children with these words:

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

The Lord had sent Cyrus of the Medes and Persians to overthrow Babylon and set the prisoners free. God also sent Jeremiah with the wonderful news concerning His plans for them.

God had prepared these plans with great care. His mind does not know the word "chance." He omitted no detail because it was "too small." He had planned out what he would do, and it was all for their good. His purpose and his goal was "not to harm you, but to prosper you." His desire was to give them a future and hope, a lively expectation of something good to come, a good he himself had promised. (PBC)

Plans are made and goals set every day. But because of lack of preparation on the part of the planners and poor execution not many plans succeed. Because we are sinful people living in a sinful world we may have plans that are selfish and not necessarily good for others. But God's plan for us are always good as expressed in Romans 8:28 where says: **We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.**

Because Jesus suffered, died and rose again our sins are forgiven and forgotten. Some of our days may be filled with frustration and pain but, we have been given the promise that we will never be given more than we can handle. Our future is even better than that of the returning Israelites. Our future is an eternity with Christ in heaven.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you giving us comforting news concerning your plans for us. Amen.