

Dear Church: Twisted Scripture Part 1
Jeremiah 29:11 The Plans I Have for You
A Bible study for individuals, groups or classes

Background scripture:

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.

Podcast Sections:

00:00 Introduction to series
01:08 Context is key to understanding scripture
01:34 A narcissistic approach to scripture
06:30 Some people don't know how to make a Godly decision
08:50 God doesn't always answer prayers as we wish
12:05 The real context of Jeremiah 29:11
18:25 The takeaway from this passage
20:32 Can we claim this verse?
22:16 Applying Jeremiah 29:11 to a job search
23:40 Contrasting Jeremiah 29:11 with Hebrews 1
24:55 We've gotten too settled
27:35 Limitations of a prosperity gospel
28:28 Paul's view of life
30:17 The reason for the program

Discussion questions:

1. Jesus prays three times in the garden and God didn't deliver him (Matthew 26:39-45). How should this passage influence our expectations of God's response to prayer?
2. Discuss Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). How should this passage influence our expectations of God's response to prayer?
3. Discuss how the meaning of Jeremiah 29:11 shifts when read along with Jeremiah 29:1-10 (Hint: discussed in video starting at 12:05).
4. Contrast the popular view of Jeremiah 29:11 with Hebrews 11 (including verses 1-2 and 13).
5. Based on this program, how do we apply scriptures to ourselves appropriately?

Scriptures related to this study

Matthew 26:39-45 (referenced at 9:30)

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." 40 And he came to the disciples and found

them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

II Corinthians 12:7-9

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Jeremiah 29:1-10 (referenced at 13:00)

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. 2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: 4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. 10 "For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Hebrews 11:13

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Philippians 4:11-13 (referenced at 28:28)

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

All scriptures are from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.