



Jeremiah 29 is possibly one of my favorite chapters in all the Old Testament.

Judah was in captivity. Judah's sin, Idolatry. God had Judah taken captive and shipped off to Babylon by then King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar took the choice young men and had them serve in his Palace.

Although there is nothing to indicate the four Hebrews; Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego had ever bowed to any God but Yahweh; they were taken with those who sinned against God.

Jeremiah 29 tells us of God's grace, His plan and His restoration. The Prophet Jeremiah writes to those in captivity telling them that after seventy years were completed, they would return home.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 "For thus says the Lord; After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future, and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you . And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me, with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all nations and from all places where I have driven you says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive."

Have you ever wondered why Israel had to call upon God, pray to God, seek God and search for God, when He told them His timetable? When seventy years are completed; "I will bring you to the place from which I caused you to be carried away captive."

God knew He would redeem those He caused to be carried away, but He

wanted them to ask Him. God knew the timetable, yet after seventy years, He wanted Judah to call for Him, pray to Him, to seek and search for Him.

It was His plan all along to rescue His Judah, just as it is His plan to rescue the lost from their present captivity. By the way, (Judah means Praise!) and God inhabits the praises of His people. He wants to hear our praise in captivity. He remains a God that is near.

You may be in a "taken away place," but God has an expiration on your captivity. No, God does not cause His children today to be taken captive, but He does allow it.

Within your difficulty is a "future pull." A future pull is God's plan for your life. Rest assured, no demon in hell can permanently interrupt God's plan for your life. It's His plan that protects you, that pulls you ever forward to a future place.

Your trial, your broken situation, even that tortuous difficulty will end. God's love, His care and His oversight of our lives, knows no end.

He wants us to cry aloud to Him. To call, to pray, to seek and search for Him with all our heart, even though He's there all the time.

God's sweet hand rest gently upon you.

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