

# Living as Exiles

Jeremiah 29: 1-10

## 29:1-3 | A hard, new reality

- ❖ Israel's humiliation is complete
- ❖ All the elites are in exile
- ❖ How to live? For how long?

## 29:4-6 | Lived with purpose under the promise

- ❖ The sovereign God sent you there
- ❖ So settle in
- ❖ Steward and cultivate
- ❖ *Echoes of Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 35:10-11*

## 29:7 | Doing the (seemingly) impossible

- ❖ Seek *shalom* for all
- ❖ Work and pray. Lament.
- ❖ Even for the hostile
- ❖ *Echoes of Genesis 12:3, Matthew 5:43-48*

## 29:8-10 | For the whole time

- ❖ False prophets don't speak for God
- ❖ Audiences help create false prophets
- ❖ Not 2 years...70!

## How should we live in exile?

- ★ Holding onto our true identity, like Christ | John 13:3-5
- ★ Confidently hastening a promised good end | 2 Pet 3:10-13
- ★ Entering even hostile environments, for "the whole time" | 1 Pet 2:10-12
- ★ With ordered affections | 1 Pet 2:17
- ★ Genuinely wanting, working for good of neighbors (even enemies) | 1 Pet 3:13-14
- ★ Dwelling in Christ, our savior and elder brother who was also exiled | Heb 13:11-16

## The Big Idea

As those sent into exile far from home, we work and pray for *shalom* for our city...living with purpose under the promise...holding onto our identity in Christ and confident in a good end (which will be the best beginning).



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Reflection questions for later today or this week...

1. **In what ways do you think your identity shapes how you live in a place, especially as a "temporary resident"?**

Are you living as an owner, caretaker, or a visitor? How does that influence your priorities and relationships?

2. **What would it look like for you to live with purpose in a community or city that doesn't align with your values or beliefs?**

What does it mean to "thrive" in a place that may not feel like home?

How might you contribute to the well-being of that place even if it feels foreign or uncomfortable?

3. **Think about a time when you felt displaced or like an outsider.**

How did that experience shape your understanding of God's sovereignty and purpose in your life?

4. **How do your expectations about "how long" you will be in your current circumstances affect your attitude and actions?**

How might adjusting those expectations impact the way you live today?

5. **What role does prayer play in your efforts to bring peace and flourishing to the places you live?**

How does the act of praying for your city or community shape your involvement in it?

6. **In what ways can you resist the temptation to withdraw or isolate yourself from people who don't share your faith?**

What are some ways to engage with the world while holding onto your core beliefs and identity in Christ?

7. **Reflect on Jesus' example of humble service in the midst of suffering.**

How might he be calling you to walk a similar path this week?