

Living as Exiles

Jeremiah 29:1-10

*Work to see that the city where I sent you
as exiles enjoys peace and prosperity.
Pray to the Lord for it. For as
it prospers you will prosper.
Jeremiah 29:7*

**How do you feel about a place when
you are staying there temporarily?**

How much do you invest in or care for that place?

Things you do
to take care of
your house or
apartment...

Things you do
to take care of
your AirBnB or
hotel room...

‘I will utterly destroy this land, its inhabitants, and all the nations that surround it and make them everlasting ruins. I will make them objects of horror and hissing scorn.

I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, to the glad celebration of brides and grooms in these lands. I will put an end to the sound of people grinding meal. I will put an end to lamps shining in their houses.

This whole area will become a desolate wasteland. These nations will be subject to the king of Babylon for seventy years.’

Jeremiah 25:9–11

How long?

Chapter 26

Jeremiah is put on trial as a false prophet

Chapter 27

Jeremiah doubles down

Chapter 28

Jeremiah confronts an actual false prophet, Hananiah

The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to the exiles Nebuchadnezzar had carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon. It was addressed to the elders who were left among the exiles, to the priests, to the prophets, and to all the other people who were exiled in Babylon.

He sent it after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the palace officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had been exiled from Jerusalem.

He sent it with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah. King Zedekiah of Judah had sent these men to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

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How long?



The letter said: “The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says to all those he sent into exile to Babylon from Jerusalem,

‘Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Marry and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and allow your daughters to get married so that they too can have sons and daughters. Grow in number; do not dwindle away.”

Jer 29:3–6

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Jer 29:3–6



God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth and subdue it!”

Ge 1:28



Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

Ge 9:1



So God named him Israel. Then God said to him, “I am the sovereign God. Be fruitful and multiply! A nation—even a company of nations—will descend from you; kings will be among your descendants!”

Ge 35:10–11

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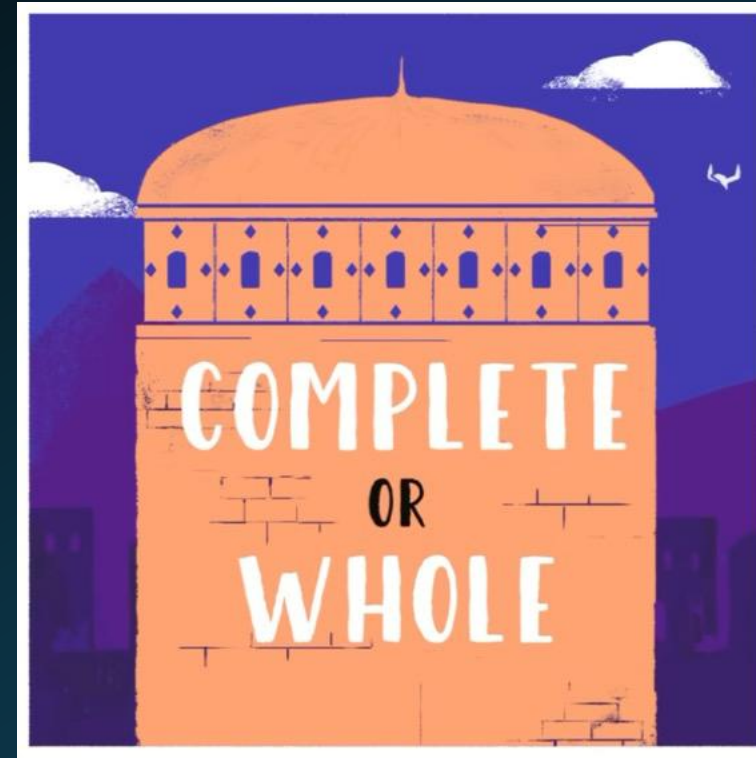
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I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Ge 12:3

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’ and ‘hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don’t they? And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don’t they? So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Mt 5:43–48

“For the Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, ‘Do not let the prophets or those among you who claim to be able to predict the future by divination deceive you. And do not pay any attention to the dreams that you are encouraging them to dream.

They are prophesying lies to you and claiming my authority to do so. But I did not send them. I, the Lord, affirm it!’

“For the Lord says, ‘Only when the seventy years of Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for you. Then I will fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore you to your homeland...

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What about us, today?

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Jn 13:3–5

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare.

Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must we be, conducting our lives in holiness and godliness, while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze!

But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides.

2 Peter 3:10–13

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2 Peter 3:10–13

You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to keep away from fleshly desires that do battle against the soul, and maintain good conduct among the non-Christians, so that though they now malign you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God when he appears.

1 Peter 2:10–12

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1 Peter 2:10–12

Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God,
honor the king.

1 Peter 2:17

For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is
good? But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is
right, you are blessed.

1 Peter 3:13–14

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
- ❖ Engaging even hostile environments “the whole time” | 1 Pet 2:10-12
- ❖ With ordered affections | 1 Pet 2:17
- ❖ Genuinely desiring, praying, working for good of neighbors (even enemies) | 1 Pet 3:13-14

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).