

Lesson 5
Jeremiah 29
January 1, 2023

God's New Year's Resolution for You

INTRODUCTION

It's that time of year when we make a new year's resolution. This is a wonderful time to seek what God has planned for our lives. In this week's journal, we'll learn about how teachers can influence us in the wrong direction.

We're going to be reading through Jeremiah 29, which talks about how God encourages His people that were earlier exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon. God's plan was for His people to settle and prosper for 70 years until God fulfilled his promise to return them to Jerusalem. We'll learn how false prophets turned God's people away from Him, and because of their bad behavior, He planned to punish them.

It's important to pay close attention to teachings and how they may influence you. There are people who can turn you away from God. From this passage, we must learn how meaningful it is to stay faithful by turning to God's plan for your life instead of your own plan.

Memory verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"—Jeremiah 29:11

Pray, and read Jeremiah 29:1-32. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What did God tell His people, who were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon? (Jeremiah 29:5)
2. What does the Lord say He will do by fulfilling His good promise? What place is He referring to? (Jeremiah 29:4, 10)
3. What will happen when you seek the Lord with all your heart? (Jeremiah 29:13)
4. What did the exiles and those that remained in Jerusalem not do? (Jeremiah 29:19)
5. What did the Lord say about the false prophet, Shemaiah the Nehelamite? (Jeremiah 29:32)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. From Jeremiah 29:8, how can you tell if a prophet is deceiving you? (Deuteronomy 13:1; 1 John 4:1-3)

2. What do you think is the best way to safeguard against false teaching? (Psalm 119:160; John 1:1, 17:17; Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:2)

3. Practically, what does it mean to seek the Lord? (1 Chronicles 22:19; Colossians 3:1-2)

4. In Jeremiah 29:11, what do you believe is meant by God having a plan for you? (Jeremiah 1:5; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 2:10)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Do you know God's plan for your life? If so, how do you know, and are you living your life according to His plan? If you do not know His plan, or are not following His plan, what have you learned from this lesson about seeking God and what He requires of you that could help.

2. Do you encounter people who speak against God? What do you do to seek God and stay true to Him when people attack your faith?

3. Pray to God to protect you from false teachings and to stay faithful to His word. Ask that His plan for you gives you hope for a successful future in Christ.