**Jeremiah 29:10-23**

***“When Our Plans Fall Apart”***

Introduction:

1. Have your plans fallen apart? God says, *“I know the plans I have for you”*

2. Jeremiah 29:10-23 was written to answer that question.

Have your plans fallen apart? God says, *“I know the plans I have for you”*

**I. PROVIDENTIAL PLANS 29:10-14**

God makes the plans…knows the plans and carries out the plans.

 ***A. The Source***

**1.** God makes the plans.

**2.** *Thus saith the LORD “I”* is used 10 times. *I* is repeated in the Hebrew for

 emphasis. ***I*** *know the plans* ***I*** *have for you…*

\*We do not know what the plans are ahead of time.

 \*These are God’s plans for us, not our plans for God or even our plans for us.

 \*God insists on His right to know and fulfill His plans, which is why His plans are

 so good. **God is good!** What happens at any moment may not be ‘good’.

***B. The Substance***

**1**. God knows the plans.*I know the plans I have for you.*

\*God who is good, righteous and holy has something in mind.

 \*God is working out that something on a daily basis. We are part of something

 BIGGER!

  **2**. God carries out the plans.

 \**I will be found…I will gather…I will turn away…I will gather…I will bring you.*

\*God will do the finding, the gathering and the bringing back.

 \*Since God made the plan…knows the plan…**It makes sense for Him to fulfill**

 **the plans.** God know the plans for Israel, but also for each individual. God

 has plans for this church. God does know His plans for each and every Christian.

 (Rom. 8:28) *All things work together for good to those who love God to those*

 *are called according to His purpose.*

\*God knows the plans for you, and He always has!

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**II. PROMISING PLANS 29:10-14**

 ***A. It’s All Of Grace 10*** *I will visit…I will fulfill my* ***gracious*** *promises*

**1.** The exiles thought they had every reason to be pessimistic.

 **2.** *God has plans to give hope and a future 11b*

**3.** When 70 years is completed (605 B.C. to 536 B.C.). The exile will not last forever.

 Even though God’s people were going through the worst of times, things were

 promising. **God knew the plan He had for them.**

 ***B. It’s All Of God 14*** *I will…*God does it!!

 **1.** To fulfill what He promised…He will do it!

 **2.** To make something out of nothing…He will do it!

 **3.** To take a negative and turn it into a positive…He will do it!

 **4.** *I caused you…*no situation is beyond His permissive will!!

 ***C. It’s All Good***

**1.** If God’s plans are for the future, the Christian must not complain about the present.

 **2.** One of the dangers of grumbling about what God is doing is that whatever it is, God

 is probably not finished doing it.

 **3.** *Plan* By its very nature is something not completed until sometime in the future.

 As long as you are alive there is a plan! Once a plan is completed it is no longer a

 plan. **It is but history**.

 **4.** If God has plans for hope and a future, you must give Him enough time to work out

 those plans. **We live by faith!** During those 70 years…long years of captivity…the

 word of God and His promises were all they could cling to!!

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**III. PROSPEROUS PLANS 29:10,11,14**

1. ***Patience***
2. You can imagine hearing **70 years.** No matter how promising, **I’ll be dead!** Do the

 math! 70 years is a long time…we just remembered D-Day 1944 that was 75 years.

1. Most people would like for God to work out their problems by the end of the week, not the end of the century!!
2. What about now? The plans of God may go beyond our lifetime. **We are just part of the puzzle. We are not the puzzle!**
3. ***Promises 10*** *Gracious (v. 10) NIV*
4. Grace is unmerited favor. We do not deserve it!
5. God owes us nothing! What Judah deserved was to stay in captivity for as long as God pleased.
6. He promised to give them something they did not deserve. **He promised by His grace to bring them home.**
7. He saves us then He gives us: *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc.* **He will take us home!**

 *Gracious…I know the plans I have for you.* God’s grace is available NOW!

 ***C. Peace 11*** *thoughts of peace*

**1.** *Shalom* means order, stability, health and safety.

 **2.** *Shalom* is all-encompassing peace. Right now peace I leave….Peace I give…right where you

 are! Rest…cease from your labor and enter into His rest!

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**IV. PERSONAL PLANS 29:12-14**

*God fulfills His plans through us.* Note: *You…Ye (if you have KJV ☺)*

***God’s purpose in all plans is to bring His people into an intimate relation with Him****.* This

 relationship was to begin right away.

1. ***Pray 12***
2. *Then* is sometimes misleading, making God respond after they return. *And* is the same as vss 13, 14 *you will call upon Me.*
3. He invites them to a personal relationship right away in Babylon, in the midst of their suffering. You don’t need to wait to pray. Whenever we pray, He answers!

***B. Pursue 13***

**1.** This is a wonderful verse, if you are seeking. *You will seek Me and find Me when*

 *you seek for Me with all your heart.*

**2.** That happens when you get into a fix you can’t fix! What is the seeker really looking for?

 Jesus Christ!

 **3.** *(Mt. 7:7-8) Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock , and it shall be opened*

 *unto you; for every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it*

 *shall be opened.*

**4.** Seek Him! Don’t merely seek about Him or a way to Him. Seek Him!

 ***C. Pleasure 14***

**1**. He comes through...you will find Him or He finds you!

 **2**. He sets you free.

 **3.** I will gather. He separates you to Himself. He sets you apart.

 **4.** I will bring you. He sees me through, and takes me home. Which I have caused.

 ***God is bringing us to the end of ourselves to find Himself! HE IS ENOUGH!!!***

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**V. PROBLEMATIC PLANS 29:15-23**

 ***A. Some Stayed 15-19***

**1**. Do you believe that from beginning to end, God’s plans for His people are good?

 Although in Daniel’s case there were moments of suffering.

**2***.* Do you believe there is not one single item of evil in God’s plans for His children?

**3***.* Do you believe that whatever God does is all for the best, and could not possibly be any better?

 4. Do you believe that God’s plans for His children are only good? Even if God sends

 suffering their way…**it will be for their good? If you are God’s child, God is not out to hurt**

 **you. He wants you to look more like His Son.**

1. ***Some Stray 20-24***

 These did not live by faith and there is always a heavy price to pay.

***Seek Me and you will find Me if you search for Me with all your heart.***

***He wants us to find Him!!***