*July 31, 2022*

**Living in Exile**

**Jeremiah 29**

• This is God’s Word.

• It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.

• It has God for its author,

• salvation for its end,

• and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

• It is the supreme source of truth

• for what we believe

• and how we live.

**Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah 29:1**

**The people of God were in exile because of God’s Judgment!**

**This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: Jeremiah 29:4**

**What to Do While in Exile**

**1. Enjoy life.**

**“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! Jeremiah 29:5-6**

**2. Work to make the place you live better.**

**And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile…. Jeremiah 29:7**

**3. Pray for the welfare of the place your live.**

**…Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7**

**4. Don’t be deceived by false prophets.**

**This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,” says the LORD. Jeremiah 29:8-9**

**5. Hold on to God’s promises.**

**This is what the LORD says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the LORD. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.” Jeremiah 29:10-14**