

**INTRODUCTION:**

CHAPTER 28:1-17 Hananiah spoke to Jeremiah in the Temple soon after Zedekiah became king of Judah. Hananiah says that the yoke of Babylon would break in two years, and all the things that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, removed from the Temple would be brought back. Jeremiah the true prophet said *"Amen, I agree...May the Lord do such..."* in response to what Hananiah had said, as the priest and people heard this. It was a sarcastic remark, for Jeremiah had specifically told them that God was sending them into captivity for 70 years of exile in Jeremiah 25:11-12—while in Jerusalem—did not listen; and 29:10. In Chapter 27 God spoke through Jeremiah to warn king Zedekiah, king of Judah to put his neck under the yoke of king Nebuchadnezzar, of Babylon, and serve him and his people, for if he does, he will live and not be killed. Jeremiah says that there have been many prophets, and people can recognize whether the LORD has sent him, and that the prophet's words will happen only if the LORD has sent him. Hananiah became angry, and broke the yoke that was on Jeremiah's neck. Jeremiah had been wearing the yoke on his neck to give the people a visible sign of their captivity. Then the prophet Jeremiah tells the false prophet Hananiah, *"Listen, Hananiah! The LORD has not sent you, but you have persuaded this nation to trust lies, therefore, this is what the LORD says. 'I will remove you from this earth. This year you are going to die. You have taught the people to turn against the LORD.'"* And in the 7th month of that same year, the prophet Hananiah died.

LESSON:**I. JEREMIAH 29:1-3**

29:1 Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;— Jeremiah, the true prophet by the inspiration of God chronicled the words of this letter to send to the residue of exiles (elders, priests, prophets, and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar taken captive) from Jerusalem to Babylon. The *"residue"* meant that there had been more elders than were living now. They were taken from Jerusalem as a result of their disobedience to God. The letter delivers God's directives for their lives in captivity.

29:2 (After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;— King Jeconiah or Jehoiachin of Judah are the same. And in 597 BC: Nebuchadnezzar deported the next wave of people: King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, and eunuchs; court officials; leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, and all the capable workers including craftsmen; ones with special skills and the young prophet Ezekiel (2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezekiel 1:1-3) from Jerusalem to Babylon into exile. He removes deports thousands.

29:3 By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom



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Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying,— Jeremiah entrusted the letter by giving it into the hands of **Elasah**, the son of Shaphan, and to **Gemariah**, the son of Hilkiah whom Zedekiah, the now king of Judah, sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

Elasah and Gemariah's fathers played a vital role in the discovery and reading of the Book of the Law. It had been missing for over 60yrs. According to 2 Kings 22:8 *"And **Hilkiah the high priest** said unto **Shaphan the scribe**, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it."* I guess you can say that the Book was lost in the House of the Lord (The Temple)! **Elasah and Gemariah** were entrusted with some very important letters, and so were their fathers. This connection suggests a lineage of faithfulness to God's Word. As the saying goes: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. They were trustworthy!

Elasah and Gemariah took Jeremiah's letter with them on their official business into Babylon. The letter was to the whole group in exile. The letter contained God's instructions and promises to the captives.

II. JEREMIAH 29:4-7

29:4 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;—Jeremiah reminds the people of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel who sends this message. And second: He is the One who had sent them into Babylonian exile. He is the One who has caused them to be carried away from their home in Jerusalem into Babylon.

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS.

29:5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;— Therefore, God through Jeremiah advises the exiles to accept their situation. It is the God of Israel whom they disrespected. He's the One sending them into exile, therefore they should live in a normal way. They should not waste time or pity themselves. Instead, they should make permanent houses for themselves—Build houses and remain there— Plant the gardens—Eat what they produce. They should expect success with the crops that they had planted.

29:6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. They should have children and grandchildren. The book of Ezekiel shows that they had freedom to do that. They had their own organization and they had leaders (Ezekiel 8:1; 14:1). When God is with you, you shall not want for anything. God has given them freedom to have a wife, have children, and they have children, so that there will be another generation (grandchildren) having children. God does not want His people to be diminished, but that there will be an increase of productivity in their lives. He's still watching over them!

29:7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. The people from Judah should work and pray for the peace of the city of Babylon. They should desire its peace and success. That was the best way to make sure of their own security, success, and peace. Whatever job you're on, and you don't like it, pray for the peace and wellness of that job—of



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that marriage—of your church. There is always an assignment operating in you from God!

III. JEREMIAH 29:8-9

29:8 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. This is what the most powerful LORD, the God of Israel says. *"Do not let the prophets make you believe wrong things. Some people say that they have secret knowledge. Do not believe them. Do not listen to people who try to explain their dreams to you."* This shows us that there are mimics even in this time and era. The dreams from the so-called prophets were not to be sought after or respected over God's Word. This is why Jeremiah had to send the letter.

29:9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord. God is talking about the false prophets of whom they should not listen to. The people from Judah should take no notice of other people who told lies. *"The LORD had sent none of those men, and they were disturbing the people with their false promises. All of them were prophesying lies when they spoke God's name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.* They were disturbing the people with their false promises.

IV. JEREMIAH 29:10-14

PROMISE OF RESTORATION

29:10 For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. Those false prophets were trying to persuade the people from Judah that soon they would return back home. However, in Jeremiah 25:12. The LORD had plans for the future of His people after their 70 years in Babylon. And *"He would also punish the king of Babylon and that nation for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans...will be desolation."* The LORD's people had to be completely sincere when they returned to the LORD, and He would answer their prayers, and take them back to their own country from wherever He had sent them.

GOD'S PLANS FOR GOOD

29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. This is far beyond anyone's knowledge or imagination. God's thoughts and plans are already known by Him about His people. He desires thoughts of peace, and not of evil; not of harm. God desires an expected end; to give a future and a hope. There are no limits to the way God loves us. This verse reassures the exiles of God's good intentions.

CALL TO SEEK GOD

29:12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

1. **Calling** out to God is the first sign of your relationship with Him, for He's the only One who knows everything. Then you're not leaning to your own understanding!
2. Second, **praying** unto God meaning you're seeking His wisdom and not you your thoughts and plans!
3. Thirdly, and God says **He will listen** to you. His ears are attentive to what you're saying.



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So, if it leaves you with peace, God has answered you. It's not enough for Him to listen, the next verse tells you something else to do. Your Will will line up with His Will when you seek Him!

29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. This verse emphasizes the importance of seeking God wholeheartedly:

4. **Seek God** means calling upon God; coming to Him; getting alone with Him to pray; searching in His Word.
5. **Find God** means listening for His voice to resonate spiritually. He's able to speak!
6. **When you Search for God with all your heart** means you've stayed there in prayer, in reading, in meditation until God has spoken, and you received His peace in your heart. You didn't give up, even if you had to do it everyday until He decided to speak to your heart! It's always God's timing when He decides to speak. And He's always on-time!

I was searching for my grandson's pillow he had gotten after surgery where all the nurses and doctor signed it after being in the hospital. It bothered me that I couldn't find it. It was always on the bed. I searched, I asked God, I thought somebody took it, I thought I threw it away. Yes, all those thoughts swarmed in my head. It took three days before God showed me where the pillow was because I didn't give up. All of a sudden, God led me to one of the pillows on the bed. And yes, it was tucked inside one of the bigger pillows. My God! It was me that didn't realize that I had did it when changing the pillowcases! My My My! God is good!

29:14 And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive. God is never lost, but the people of Jerusalem needed assurance that God will be found. He tells them in the above scripture to do something: **Seek Him, and Find Him when they Search for Him with all their heart.** God's plans for them when their captivity is over means they were prepared on their part. What they're going through right now is hard, but it will have made them better because they will have made Babylon better when they sought the welfare of the city, and were not deceived by the false prophets and diviners. They will have a different mind-set, for their trust in God, for He intends to gather them from all the nations, and places that they were driven into.

SUMMARY:

JEREMIAH'S LETTER TO THE EXILES

VERSES 1-3 – THE LETTER SENT

¹Jeremiah dispatches a written message from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile. The letter travels with Shaphan's son Elasah, and Hilkiah's son Gemariah, ambassadors of King Zedekiah to Babylon.

¹ <https://biblehub.com/chaptersummaries/jeremiah/29.htm>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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VERSES 4–9 – SETTLE DOWN AND SEEK PEACE

God tells the captives to build houses, plant gardens, marry, raise families, and “*seek the peace of the city*” where they now live. He warns them not to be deceived by self-appointed prophets promising a quick return.

VERSES 10–14 – HOPE AFTER SEVENTY YEARS

After seventy years, the Lord will “*bring you back to this place.*” His plans are “*for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*” When they seek Him with all their hearts, He will hear and be found, and gather them from every nation.

APPLICATION:

²Bloom where God plants you. Pray for leaders. Test every message by Scripture. God has a timetable, but His promises never fail. God speaks through even on paper! Let God speak to you through His Word.

² <https://biblehub.com/chaptersummaries/jeremiah/29.htm>
<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>