

A New Hope – Jeremiah 29:1-14

Reflect on Psalm 46:10-11

As we enter into 2021, there are a lot of mixed emotions.

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

Due to their disobedience, the Israelites were exiled out of the Promised Land and conquered by Babylon.

Many of them had been separated from families, experienced losing loved ones and their entire way of life was being uprooted.

Jeremiah's words were intended firstly towards the surviving leaders that had been taken into exile.

His first words in verse 4 address the people saying that God is the one who has sent the people into exile.

God was not surprised by the struggles our world experienced in 2020.

Jeremiah continues in verse 5-9 instructing the Israelites to start to settle down and establish a new way of living in Babylon.

They are not hitting pause on their families or their worship but tells them to increase in number and not decrease.

In verse 10 God states the Israelites will remain in Babylon for 70 years.

This prophecy does end up being true and 70 years later King Cyrus of Persia conquers Babylon and allows the Israelites to begin returning and rebuilding Jerusalem starting with Ezra and Nehemiah. God follows through with His promises.

Jeremiah 29:11 does not promise that Christians will have an easy life of health and wealth. This verse promises the Israelites that in

the face of a 70-year exile of their home, God has not forsaken them.

The sermon is titled “A New Hope” because God provides hope for us in two ways. He provides the eternal hope for the salvation of His people and the security and knowledge that God loves us and we will have eternal life. But He also provides a new hope in every situation.

New hope teaches that God will not let any new struggle break us.

Recognizing this new hope was hard for me in the beginning of the pandemic.

I realized that if God can give them a new hope in their time of need, He can give me also a new hope in the midst of my darkness.

In this prophecy, God tells the Israelites that when they return in 70 years, when God's promises are fulfilled, they will call upon God and God will hear them. When they seek God, they will find Him.

This is so important because in the face of adversity, it can be hard to see the hopeful end.

Israel did not like that they were exiled, but God still said, “you have hope, you have a future, and I have not forsaken you.” He tells them they have a purpose during their exile, and they are still God's people.

Be smart and be safe but continue to follow God's will for your life.

And when God does fulfill His promises, always turn to Him in praise, recognizing the good and faithful Father He is.

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