

Next Week Sermon

Jonah: The Fish Story Revisited

Jonah 1:1-17

PREACHER

Lee Yee Dian

16 February 2025

Hope Beyond the Grave

John 11:1-44

PREACHER

Brandon Wong

23 February 2025

Resilient Joy

Romans 8:18-39

PREACHER

Arnold Lim

God Greatest Plan In Life's Worst Pain

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





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The words

Jeremiah 29:11





"Our expectation of God's Plan for us may not actually be God's plan for us at all".



So when the unexpected, detours and deviation happens in our lives we cannot accept it. And get upset, irritated, discouraged and even enraged.

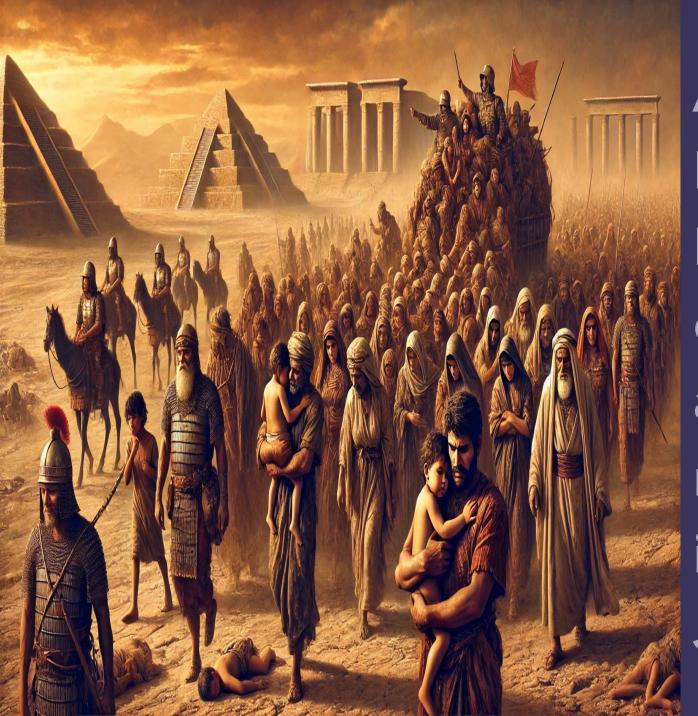


Our expectation of God plan for ourselves and our families may not be God's plan at all.

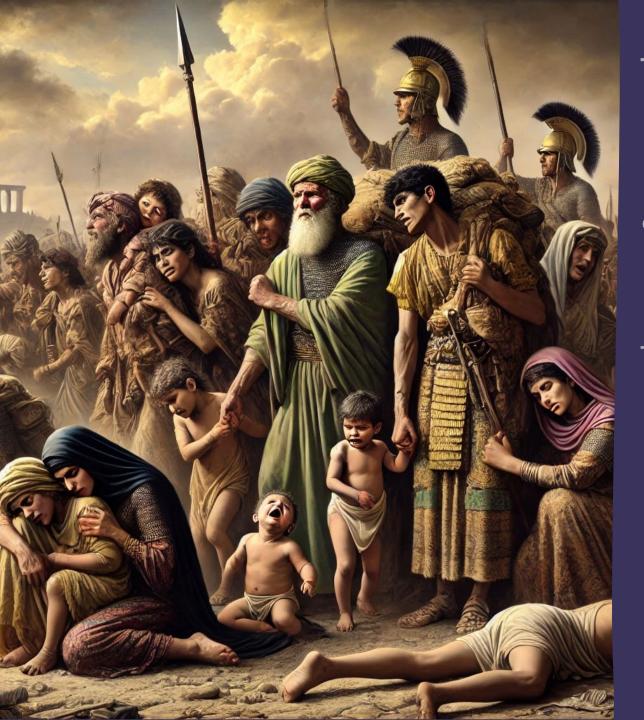


The condition is we will need to trust and obey even when we do not agree with His plans. That plan of obedience is like swallowing a bitter pill.

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:7)



Around 597 BCE, King Nebuchadnezzar of **Babylon attacked and** conquered Jerusalem and took captive many Israelites living in Judah and Jerusalem.



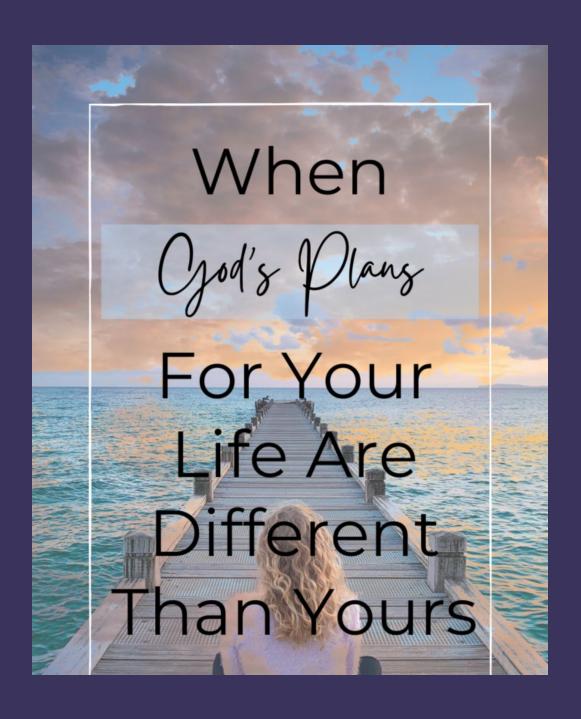
The exile, was a time of pain, suffering, difficulty and uncertainty for the Israelites, as they were forced to live in a foreign land under foreign rule.

Have you been or are in a situation where you are veryunhappy becausethe situation you are in is not of your choice.









What do you do whenactually God's plan in your life is different from yours?

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those

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carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Jeremiah 29:4

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, said the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. God canceled your plans to save your life.He sent you the other direction to avoid danger. He fights battles you know nothing about. His plan is better than yours. If you owe your entire life to God, thank Him with a grateful Amen!

	The plans I have for you	
For I know	plans to prosper (Shalom) you and not	declares the LORD,
(That means you don't know)	to harm you	
	plans to give you hope and a future	

- 1. Know Hebrew יָדַע ŷâda` yaw-dah' "To be certain by seeing"
- 2. Plans מְחֲשֶׁבֶת מְחֲשֶׁבֶת machăshâbâh machăshebeth it means something that has that has been crafted for you with an intention (KJV Thought)
- 3. **Hope** and **a Future** תִּקְוָה אַחְרִית tiqvâh 'achărîyth (reward expectation that I longed for)



Good plans do not equal to a good journey

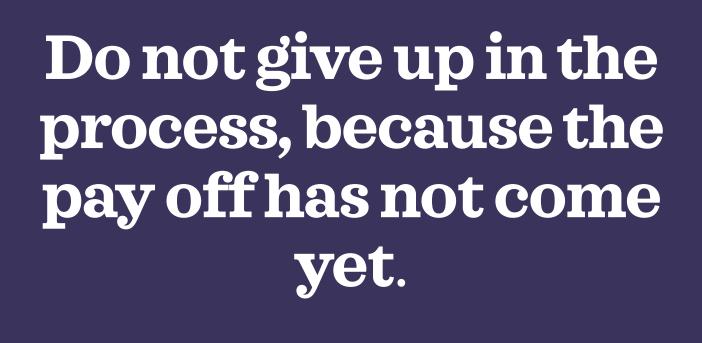
Like

Joseph (Dream) Pit – Prison - Palace

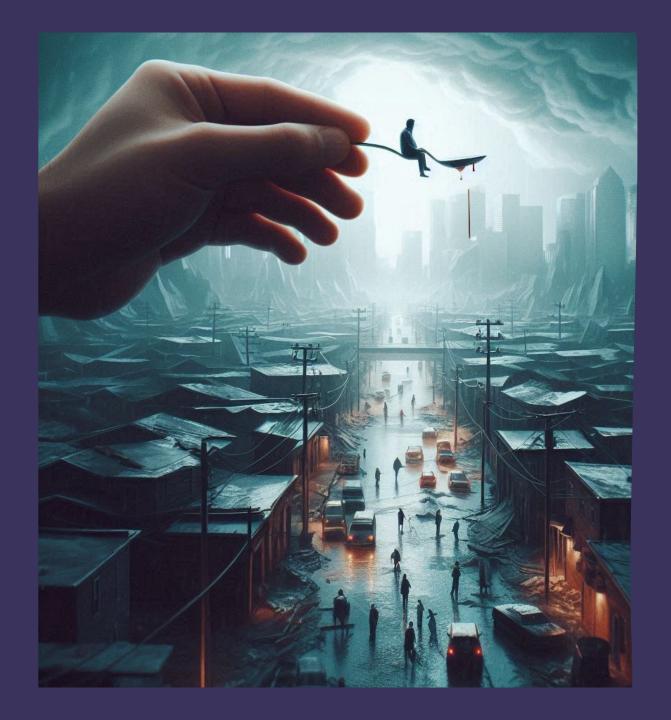
David (Promise) Pasture - Pain- Palace



Jesus is saying right now Will you still Love Me Will you still Serve Me Will you still Trust Me Will you still Surrender to Me Will you still Follow Me Even when you don't know or like the plans



John 16:33



We must realise that God's best purpose for us is sometimes found in life's worst situation.

God has plans to prosper you, not to harm you, and to give you hope and a future. However, his plan may also involve God's use of instruments of correction and discipline to shape you into the person He wants you to be.

In the case of the Israelites, God's instrument was Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians—hard, evil, and cruel people. They were used by God as instruments of righteousness to correct, discipline, and mould the Israelites. Though it was painful, it was for their good and part of God's plan to prosper and not harm them.

Yet, God will eventually judge Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians severely. They were a group of high achievers but also narcissistic and cruel people.

3 take away from this verse

- 1. **God's Faithfulness**: Despite the exile, God's plans for Israel remained intact. In spite of your difficult circumstances God is faithful to His plans and promises for you.
- 2. **Hope for the Future**: The promise served to sustain the Israelites during their long period in Babylon. God will strengthen you and will give you Hope and better future.
- 3. Call to Trust: The verse calls the people to trust God's timing and purposes, even when circumstances seem bleak.

God's Greatest Plan, In Life's Worst Pain

