

READING: **Jer 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.

Introduction:

Well-meaning people use this verse out of context without realizing it! Because these words from God are a part of a larger narrative one that addresses the fact that Israel to whom He has **an expected end**. Jer 29:4 gives us a look at the context; **“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;”**

This verse, often quoted to individuals who are struggling with life or discerning God’s will.

- Even though they are in need of rescue because of their own rebellion the fact remains that God wants to give those whom He loves even a whole group of people; any person or family, or even an entire nation!
- Concerning Israel Jeremiah writes in 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.*
- What an encouragement this must have been to the Israelites!
- And for us gathered here this evening we are all a part of this sin cursed world. A part of that curse even for those who are saved is the life that that we live in our earthly bodies is one where we are subject to bondage; Rom 8:20-22 **For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, (21) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the**

glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

- But we know there is an end coming for God's people that will free them from a sin cursed world!
 - Whether we are freed by the body wearing out and being destroyed as Orvil, Bob, and Bobby experienced.
 - Or when the shout is heard and we join the lord and our loved ones in the air!
- Until then however we can and should take heart concerning the principles that can be drafted from Jer 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.**

It is always awesome to contemplate the nature of God. Omnipotence - omnipresence - eternal omniscience. "IS THINKING OF YOU"

I. GOD THINKS OF ME. ; **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,**

1. He thinks of me constantly.
 - a. He knows when I sit down and when I stand.
 - b. Jesus said He "knows the number of your hairs..."
2. There are times in our lives when we are prone to think that God has forgotten us.
3. Jeremiah is writing to the captives in Babylon and His thoughts are of the 70 years they have struggled.

- a. The wonderful thing is that God was thinking of Them! **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,**
- b. In our darkest hour God is has **thoughts that He think toward you,**

II. GOD HAS PLANS FOR YOU. **thoughts of peace, and not of evil,**

A. Those who have that wonderful relationship to Him through Christ.

1. **thoughts of peace,**
2. **and not of evil,**

B. If I am His child, I have this promise Rom 8:28 **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

III. His thoughts are **to bring you to an expected end.**

1. The Hebrew word translated expected is an interesting word, difficult to translate into English. There is the thought of expectancy but more, you may be expecting something that is bad, or you may be hoping for something that is good.

The Hebrew word has the connotation of a hoped for expected end. It could thus be translated **"To bring you to a desirable end.**

4. God's thoughts concerning you are of peace, He desires that you spend your eternity with Him. This may require that

you spend some time in captivity, which will not be very comfortable, but He is looking at the end of the matter.

- a. God is not finished with you yet!
- b. God has a plan and purpose for you as you move forward in this next phase!
- c. God will see you through
 - The Pain of loss!
 - The frustration of moving into another phase of your life.
 - The anxious moments as changes take place!
 - The fearful moments that you will not survive!
- d. God has a new and rewarding life and ministry.
 - Different people we be a part of it
 - Different places may be a part of it.
 - Future ministry is a part of God's plan if you will simply step out by faith and believe and follow God!

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