

**The Hard Work of Hope:
Rebuilding life after the collapse**
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13

Proverbs 29:1 "A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy."

- **BUILD!** (vs. 5-6)

Genesis 1:28 "God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it...'"

"Cease striving and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10)

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit..."

- **BLESS!** (v. 7)

Matthew 5:25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison."

- **BE CAREFUL!** (vs. 8-9)

2 Timothy 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires."

- **BE PATIENT!** (vs. 10-13)

1 Peter 1:13 "...fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Psalm 137:4 "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13

¹Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, ⁵‘Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. ⁷Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.’ ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. ⁹For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,’ declares the Lord.

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.