

Have a Happy, Hopeful New Year!

“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).

I. Plans to give us hope

- A. Jeremiah 29:10-14 is set in the context of the worst kind of failure and trouble. Yet even the worst circumstances cannot overcome the supernatural hope that God gives.
- B. Hope is an inner, tangible, supernatural reality as real as the air we breathe and the ground we walk on (Romans 5:1-5).
- C. We can carry victory on the inside of us even before we see it manifest on the outside of us (Ephesians 3:13-20).

II. Plans for our future

- A. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).
- B. God promises these good things.
 - 1. We will look and act more like Jesus (Romans 8:29-30).
 - 2. God will graciously give us all things (Romans 8:31-32).
- C. We should not let any charge or accusation get in the way of the good plans God has for us (Romans 8:33-34).
- D. Jesus is praying for us (Romans 8:34), and our response should be to declare God’s good plans back to Him in prayer (Jeremiah 29:11-13; Hebrews 4:14-16).
- E. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” God’s good plans for our future even extend beyond this life (Romans 8:35-39).

III. Plans that surpass our expectations

- A. God’s good plans encompass every area of our lives (Jeremiah 31:10-14; John 10:10).
- B. Jesus’ first sermon announced good news (Mark 1:14-15).
- C. He gave this good news of the Kingdom to His disciples, and they preached and demonstrated this good news to the whole world (Matthew 10:5-8). All of this good news points to God’s ultimate plan for the future (John 3:16).
- D. God’s prescription for going through trials is two-fold.
 - 1. Believe and declare that God’s plans to give you a hope and a future will be fulfilled (Jeremiah 29:12-14).
 - 2. Until then, don’t put your life on hold. God has good plans for you even in the midst of your trials (Jeremiah 29:4-6). “His mercies are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23).
 - 3. Make it your ambition to bless other people around you in the midst of your trials (Jeremiah 29:6-7). This kind of testimony is the story of the gospel. We make the world taste good (Matthew 5:13). Examples of the Moravians and the Vikings.

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