

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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We Won! We Won!!!!

(We read the last chapter!!)

A dear Sister/friend in the Lord said to me recently that our Lord Jesus is not fighting a losing battle.¹ Amen and Amen! The victory is won; we need only to walk in that victory trusting the Lord with our lives as we walk in obedience to Him, to His Holy Word.

Satan has unleashed his fury, and this nation is walking with him. The Lord blessed this nation when she was walking with Jesus, walking in obedience to Him. But many years ago, she began walking like Israel, inviting others to come and bring their gods and lead us; God's wrath is like that in the Old Testament when Israel did the same.

Many years ago, we heard people say, "God will never let anything happen to this country." Look where Israel is now and where she was in the Old Testament times: walking in disobedience. Israel went into captivity for 70 years. Do you not think this nation will soon enter into captivity – or is she already in the entrance of captivity?

The sad part is that we who say we know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior have not made a difference in this nation. We have not taken a stand against those who know not the God of Israel. We have indeed applauded them. It was said in the late 1970's, "How wonderful that other religions are coming and building their 'buildings' here for our children to learn about them and their beliefs." The sad part is that it is indeed truth. The sad part is that few know the God of Israel or even read His Holy Word, the Holy Bible. A church marque says it well in their question, "Do you think more of tolerance than of Truth?"

Yes, our Lord won the victory for us; but, to enjoy the victory, we must walk in His ways, walk in obedience to Him, walk in His holiness. King David exhorted his son, Solomon, to walk in the ways of the Lord in I Kings 2.4. We must hear the Word of the Lord in these days to walk in the way of the King of kings and Lord of lords – even when it *seems* the enemy will win.

Remember that the Lord exhorted His people not to go down into Egypt, not to rely upon man's ways, but to trust Him in all things. Many times life is not as it *seems*. Jeremiah 42.10-12 is significant as God told His people to "abide in this

No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. (Jn 10.18)

Yes, it does appear that things are not well in this nation. But we **must walk on with the Lord God of Israel, with the Lord Jesus Christ**. We must read His Word. Oh! Read Revelation 22. We won! We won!!! Read the last chapter, Followers of Jesus Christ, Soldiers of the Cross. Shout it to the roof tops: Our God Reigns! He is King of kings and Lord of lords! He is the only Begotten Son of God.

He is the Lord, my Redeemer. He is the Lord, my Healer.
He is the Lord, Lover of my soul. He is the Lord, my all in all.
I know, I know. Oh, yes, I know. My Redeemer liveth.
I know, I know. He loves His Church.
I know, I know. He gave His life for Her.
Oh, yes! I know.

He is the Lord, my Redeemer. He is the Lord, my Healer.
He is the Lord, Lover of my soul. He is the Lord, my all in all. (drcc 2008)

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

¹ Yes! SMJL.

land.” These were the poorest of the poor who were not taken to Babylon when Judah was carried into captivity; however, they were also in captivity in their own land. They were under the rule of the king of Babylon. They sought a word from a true prophet of God, Jeremiah – promising to walk in obedience to whatever the Lord said, “whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Jeremiah came back to them after hearing from the Lord and this is what they heard.

Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him;

If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull *[you]* down, and I will plant you, and not pluck *[you]* up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you.

Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; **be not afraid of him,** saith the LORD: for I *[am]* with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

And **I will shew mercies unto you**, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land. (Jer 42.9-12)

They were desperate to hear from the Lord for their situation was desperate. Read on. When they heard that they were not to rely upon Egypt to help them, they forgot their promise and sought help from Egypt. It did seem to them that Egypt was stronger than Babylon and would help set them free.

Know that our enemies come with flowery words that are full of deceit. Satan is the father of deceit, and he uses whom he will to deceive us. The Lord says that we are to, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Pro 3.5). We cannot begin to see what the Lord Jesus Christ sees and knows. Our walk with the Lord must be one of faith and trust in Him and His Holy Word, the Holy Bible.

So, when things seem like they cannot get any worse, know that the victory is already won; and we must walk with the Lord Jesus trusting Him with all our hearts, with our whole being.

How many times have your parents, your mother or father, told you to do something that you did not understand. You could not see or know what they knew, so you thought you were wiser; you chose to walk in your own way rather than accept their wisdom. That is exactly what the children of Israel did over and over – always they thought they had greater wisdom than God or that they knew what was better for them.

Now, Jeremiah 29.11 is a passage often misused with intentionality by those hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage) of “churches” to cause their followers to trust in their ways and to walk with the world’s understanding. Be very careful of translations that you believe you can read with ease. It is probably true you can read it with more ease as they are written for your misunderstanding – all too often. They use words that will direct you away from what the Lord Jesus wants you to know and understand. One

example is found in Jeremiah 29.11. This verse has been taken out of context and a theology built upon it. I have heard taught and preached from this one verse that God wants to prosper you.

One translation reads: “I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.” Several translations use the word prosperity trusting that their followers will understand that to mean financial gain. When reading the Word of God, the Holy Bible, it is important that you know to whom a specific book was written, why it was written, what it was saying to those to whom it was written. Then – what is it saying to you and me today within the context of which it was written?

The Hebrew word that some translate as prosperity is shalom (שָׁלוֹם / shâlôm). It means completeness, soundness, welfare, peace (BDB). This is the promise the Lord gives to all who follow Him, who walk in obedience to Him – come what may. He is watching over His children with great care and love. Notice the above translation of that verse, “Plans to bring about the future you hope for.” Most translations read as follows, which aligns with the Lord’s ways. “**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**” (Jer 29.11). It is about what the Lord wants – **not** what we want, when we walk according to His ways. Read the verses following (12ff), and you will find that the Lord is saying if and when you seek Him, then will this come to pass. It is not automatic, it is not something the Lord hands to you on a silver platter. He is calling you and me to follow Him.

Also, note the preceding verses which deal with the children of Israel having walked in their own willful way. They are taken into captivity; and the Lord says that they will serve their 70 years; but if they seek His face, seek Him, and walk in obedience to Him, then

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 (Jer 29.11).

If we hope to say with conviction, “We Won! We Won!” we must walk with Jesus consistently, obeying Him in every battle faced. We must be humble before Him seeking His face, following our Captain – knowing He will lead us home in victory.

All of this has been said to say, Yes, Jeremiah 29.11 was a word for the children of Israel, but it is a word for those who are seeking to follow the Lord Jesus Christ today. II Chronicles 7.14 is important to us in this day.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The Lord God of Israel will accomplish His will with or without our walking with Him, but, oh, the joy and the peace to walk with Him all the way. Jesus Christ came to this earth and dwelt among us. He chose to give His life for you and me. We need to take this beautiful passage into our hearts.