



Mighty in the Word

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

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

The Wise Still Seek Him

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of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

I'll Stay Where You Want Me to Stay, Dear Lord

Oh, my Jesus, as I read the Book of Jeremiah, I wonder if we understand the words spoken by the prophet Jeremiah to Israel who sinned against the Lord and were sent into captivity for seventy years.

Sad to say, there are many who stand on a pulpitum, blasphemously expounding the Word of the Lord to ears that are tuned to hearing the voice of Satan, those who yearn to have their ears tickled, and hear how good they are, and how their god is going to prosper them, leading them to think money and more money.

But let us go to the Word of the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit: Jeremiah 29.

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).

The children of Israel were warned not to bring the peoples with other gods into their nation; however, they walked in disobedience for a long time, and God's patience was ended with them.

The above verse in different versions:

Jer 29:11 I will bless you with a future filled with hope--a future of success, not of suffering (CEV).

Jer 29:11 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 (GNB).

Oh! When these verses are read using words to entice people to donate by telling them they are going to prosper, hoping the people will think in terms of finances, money, the people open themselves to the lies of Satan.

Now, does it make sense that the Lord would send you into captivity for seventy years with the words, Hey, I am going to bless you financially, and all will be just fine when you get back to your homeland? What do you think the elderly would think of such a bargain. What about those who were ill, not in good health, what would they think?

But we must be willing to live, to be able to say to the Lord, "I'll Stay Where You Want Me to Stay." We must be willing to repent of our sin, and walk with the Lord in the presence of the enemy, seeking the peace of the Lord in our lives.

Take time to read the passage in the *Insert* of this *Message*, and take it to heart. Pray over it.

Seek the peace of the Lord where you are, and pray to the Lord that you might be able to say - from the depth of your soul and in the midst of the punishment that is so public to the enemy,

I'll stay where You want me to stay, dear Lord.
I'll stay where You want me to stay, dear Lord.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.
Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Oh, how evil to present a lie from the word of God to people to encourage them to walk in such sinful ways, endeavoring to place their minds upon the worldly life.

Oh, No! Jeremiah uses the Hebrew word for peace meaning peace, tranquility, contentment, dealing with the inner life. The Lord is teaching the Israelites what it is to know the will of God, and to have peace in their lives in Him, trusting Him with their lives.

שָׁלֹם / shalom

Isaiah 48.15 uses the word for prosperity in the correct sense as we who understand the English language will acknowledge as the word for "prosper, make progress, succeed, be profitable."

צָלָח / tsâlach / tsâlêach

Let us look at Jeremiah's prophecy and word from the Lord regarding the life of His people in bondage, how they are to live. I believe that the Lord God Almighty was indeed gracious to His people though allowing them to go into bondage for their sin against the Lord.

The following passage may be lengthy for you, but read it with your heart - and seek the Lord in His graciousness. Yes, the Lord punishes them for their sins, but the Lord is endeavoring to bring them back to their heritage in Him, to know Him, to walk with Him, and to be willing to be obedient to Him.

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; Build ye houses, and dwell *[in them]*; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.

And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *[be]* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

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.

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.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *[me]*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart (Jer 29.4-13).

The Lord tells them to build houses, and dwell in them (v.6). They are going to be there for 70 years! They are to stay. Oh, this was not an easy life, nor will it be for us when we soon shall see the Lord's hand in another disobedient nation that is seemingly a carbon copy of what happened to the children of Israel, their disobedience - and, perhaps, the punishment also.

Let us do some introspection, self-examination, soul-searching, of ourselves and the sin that doth so easily beset us, that has led us astray from the Lord in this nation - as were the children of Israel. Many who have their fine houses or humble houses may find themselves wanting to run from where they are, to seek solace elsewhere. But, I believe that will not happen. The Lord told the children of Israel to "seek the peace of the city" [Babylon] where they were to be taken.

Trust me. The word for peace, in verses seven and 11 in Chapter 29, are not dealing with prosperity in the sense that it is so often presented by those standing on a pulpitum. This word is shalom, peace in your spirit: peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment.

שָׁלֹם / shalom

Are we willing to stay where the Lord places us, come what may? Are we willing to seek the peace of the Lord in the midst of chaos, in the midst of hate, in the midst of those who may greatly harm the followers of Jesus Christ - who are being punished for their backsliding, turning against the Lord for the gods of this world, for having turned against the Lord and are facing punishment?

Oh, how hard it will be to face what is happening when we lower our heads, knowing we asked for what has come to us, for what the Lord has allowed because of our walking in disobedience.

The passage that is in this *Message* is directing us to be willing to "stay where He places us" as we read the following from Jeremiah 29.7-9.

And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *[be]* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

This is going to be most difficult in our walk with the Lord, as the world watches us being punished - as all those who took the children of Israel captive, and as those of us centuries later have read the Word about what happened.

We will not be given options but to be willing to **stay** where we are when we are taken into bondage - as were the children of Israel.

But the Lord goes on to say in verse 7, "...Pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace." Are we willing in our humiliation to pray and seek the Lord's peace - that we might serve out the years of bondage as a witness of the graciousness of the Lord God Almighty towards His followers? Or will we join the enemy in living a life that does not show forth "The Love of God"?

Oh, we need to be willing to acknowledge to the Lord in these days that lie before us our sins? Are we willing to seek the Lord and be willing to obey His commands in our lives - in the midst of the enemy?

Oh, how hard it will be to acknowledge who we are not, but Who our God in Christ Jesus is, and His great love for us, in the midst of our being punished so publicly to the enemies great delight.