

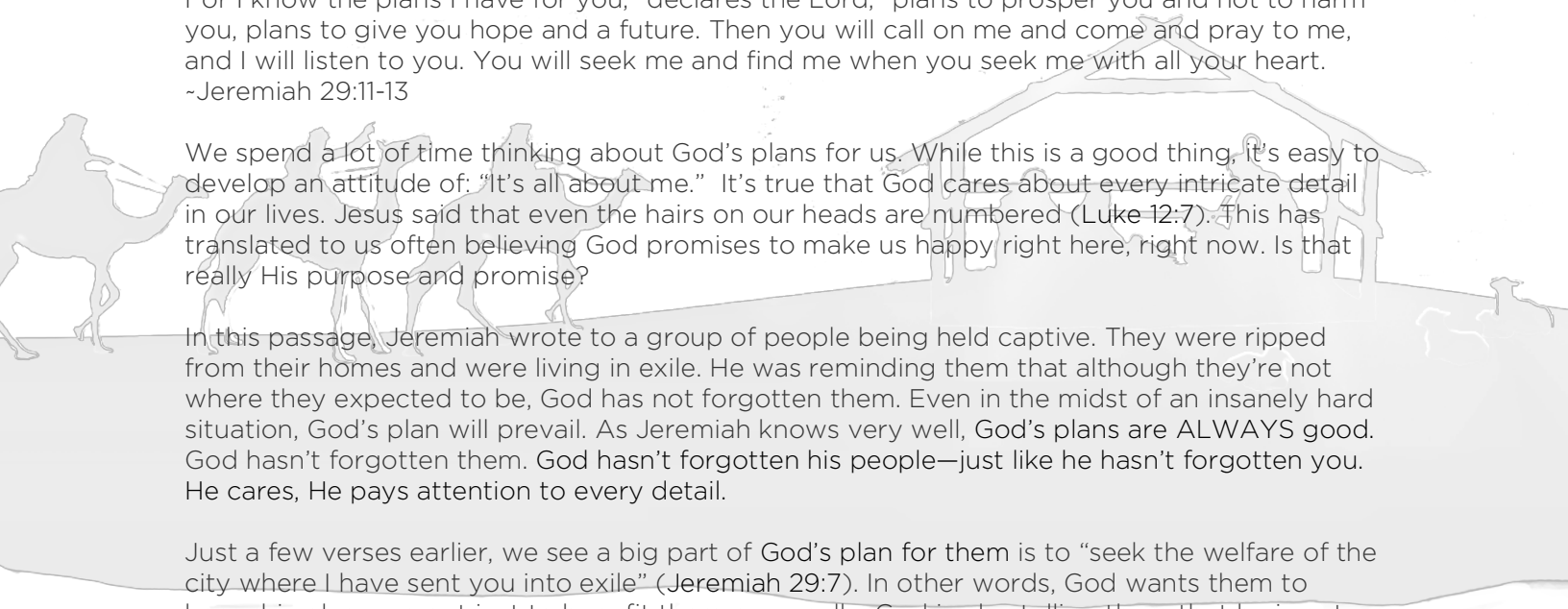


PEACE BY
piece SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL
WEEK TWO: PROMISE

Kingdom Mindset—Be A Blessing

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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
-Jeremiah 29:11-13



We spend a lot of time thinking about God’s plans for us. While this is a good thing, it’s easy to develop an attitude of: “It’s all about me.” It’s true that God cares about every intricate detail in our lives. Jesus said that even the hairs on our heads are numbered (Luke 12:7). This has translated to us often believing God promises to make us happy right here, right now. Is that really His purpose and promise?

In this passage, Jeremiah wrote to a group of people being held captive. They were ripped from their homes and were living in exile. He was reminding them that although they’re not where they expected to be, God has not forgotten them. Even in the midst of an insanely hard situation, God’s plan will prevail. As Jeremiah knows very well, God’s plans are ALWAYS good. God hasn’t forgotten them. God hasn’t forgotten his people—just like he hasn’t forgotten you. He cares, He pays attention to every detail.

Just a few verses earlier, we see a big part of God’s plan for them is to “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile” (Jeremiah 29:7). In other words, God wants them to know his plans are not just to benefit them personally. God is also telling them that he is not removing them from the situation immediately. This was likely hard to hear. He does promise to restore them; but it’s not coming quickly. God is letting them know they can move forward, because in the eternal picture, God’s justice will prevail and He promises everything will be made right.

Today, in the midst of difficult situations, God wants us to know he has a plan and purpose. He also wants us to know that as we submit to his plan, he will use us to bless the world around us. His promise remains true, during both good and challenging times: You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.

Prayer

As you pray, thank God for the privilege and promise of having a role in Kingdom purposes. Ask Him how He wants you to trust His plan in the midst of your life's daily challenges? Ask how He wants to use you to be a blessing to others?

