

## A Letter to the Exiles - Jeremiah 29:1-32

**Topics:** Adultery, Blessing, Call, Children, Craftsmanship, Death, Deceit, Encouragement, Future, Goodness, Grace, Heart, Hope, Instructions, Knowledge, Listening, Lying, Marriage, Peace, Plans, Prayer, Promises, Prophecy, Punishment, Rebellion, Restoration, Trust, Words

### Open It

- \* 1. How do you respond when someone who is supposed to speak for you expresses an opinion or idea that is not your own?
- 2. What kinds of things would you do differently if you moved to a new community but only expected to stay for a year?

### Explore It

- 3. To whom did Jeremiah, living in Jerusalem, send a letter? (29:1-2)
- 4. Who was able to carry a letter to the exiles? (29:3)
- 5. What specific commands did God give the exiles regarding how they should settle down? (29:4-6)
- \* 6. How did God want the Israelites to think about and react to the foreign country in which they lived? (29:7)
- \* 7. By whom were the exiles in danger of being deceived? (29:8-9)
- 8. After what period of time did God promise to bring the people back to the land? (29:10)
- \* 9. What was the nature of God's plans for Israel? (29:11)
- 10. Why would Judah's seeking for God be fruitful after this period of exile? (29:12-13)
- 11. How would the people of Israel be "reconstituted" after seventy years of exile? (29:14)
- 12. What did Jeremiah's letter inform the exiles about God's judgment of those who remained behind? (29:15-19)
- 13. What did God have in store for two specific false prophets who were telling the exiles they would soon be home? (29:20-21)
- 14. What deeds of the false prophets had not escaped God's all-seeing eye? (29:22-23)
- 15. What did Shemaiah's letter to Zephaniah the priest in Jerusalem contain? (29:24-28)
- 16. How did Jeremiah learn about the letter encouraging his imprisonment? (29:29)
- 17. What was God's judgment on Shemaiah for his treachery against Jeremiah? (29:31-32)

### Get It

- \* 18. Why was it important for the exiles to know that God planned to prosper them and not to harm them?
- 19. What kind of prophet (false or true) told the people what they wanted to hear while requiring nothing of them in return?
- \* 20. What emotional reaction would most people have if asked to pray for the prosperity of their captors?
- 21. How do you think God would have us pray for our country?
- 22. Why does God want us to seek Him with our whole heart?
- 23. What does it mean to you to seek God with your whole heart?
- 24. Why is back-stabbing a risky way of trying to get rid of your enemies?
- 25. How should we react whenever someone promises us something for nothing in spiritual matters?

### Apply It

- 26. How can you maintain a healthy skepticism toward people who promise too much for God?
- \* 27. How does God's promise of a hope for the future enable you to persevere through the current difficulties in your life?