

The Lord's Church Baptist Denomination

<https://www.lordschflrayunderstanding.org/>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84729945090>

20905 Third Avenue, Ettrick, VA 23803, (804) 520 5133

Pastor Howard L. Moses, Sr.

July 26, 2026

Sunday School Review & Church Service

Service Start: 11am - In Person or Online

Words of Comfort: We Are Family, A Living Organism

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Text: Jeremiah 29:1-14, God's Hope for Exiles

Vs 1. Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;

Vs 2. (After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)

Vs 3. By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying,

Vs 4. 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;

Vs 5. Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;

Vs 6. 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.

Vs 7. 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.

Vs 8. 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.

Vs 9. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Vs 10. 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.

Vs 11. 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.

Vs 12. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

Vs 13. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Vs 14. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Introduction:

Life does not always unfold the way we expect. There are seasons when circumstances are difficult, prayers seem unanswered, and it feels like God has forgotten His promises. During those moments, it is tempting to become discouraged or to search for quick solutions instead of trusting God's timing. Yet even in life's most challenging seasons, God is still at work accomplishing His purpose. In today's lesson, we will discover that God's plans are always greater than our circumstances, and His promises remain sure for those who trust Him.

Lesson Scripture and Commentary: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Vs 1. Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;

God spoke to His people even while they were living in captivity. Although they were far from home, they were not beyond God's reach or concern. Our circumstances do not determine God's presence in our lives. Even during difficult seasons, God continues to speak, guide, and encourage His people. We can trust that He is with us wherever we are.

Psalm 139:7. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8. If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10. Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Hebrews 13:5. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Vs 2. (After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)

Jeremiah reminds the people that their circumstances had changed dramatically. Leaders, craftsmen, and citizens alike had experienced loss and uncertainty. Difficult situations often affect everyone differently, but God remains the same through every change. Our hope should never rest in circumstances but in the unchanging character of God.

Malachi 3:6. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Hebrews 13:8. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Vs 3. By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying,

God used faithful individuals to deliver His message to His people. Throughout Scripture, God often works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes. God can use anyone who is willing to be obedient. Faithfulness in small assignments often leads to greater opportunities to serve Him.

Isaiah 6:8. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

2 Timothy 2:21. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Vs 4. 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;

God reminds His people that their captivity was not outside His control. Although Babylon was the instrument, God was still sovereign over their situation. Sometimes we cannot understand why God allows certain seasons, but we can trust that He is working even when we cannot see them. Nothing happens outside of His knowledge and purpose.

Isaiah 46:9. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Romans 8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Vs 5. Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;

Instead of waiting idly for their circumstances to change, God instructed His people to continue living productive lives. He wanted them to remain faithful where they were rather than becoming discouraged. Sometimes we spend so much time waiting for tomorrow that we fail to be faithful today. God calls us to live with purpose in every season.

Ecclesiastes 3:1. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Colossians 3:23. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Vs 6. 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.

God wanted His people to continue growing despite difficult circumstances. Their present situation was not the end of their story. God's plans extended beyond their immediate struggles. Difficult seasons should not stop us from trusting God's promises for the future.

Genesis 1:28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Philippians 1:6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Vs 7. 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.

God instructed His people to pray for the very city where they were living in exile. Instead of becoming bitter, they were to seek the welfare of those around them. This teaches us that believers should be a blessing wherever God places them. Even in difficult environments, we are called to pray, serve, and reflect God's love.

Proverbs 11:11. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

1 Timothy 2:1. I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Vs 8. 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.

God warned the people against listening to false teachers who offered false hope. Not every message that sounds encouraging comes from God. We must compare every teaching with God's Word. Truth may not always be easy to hear, but it is always trustworthy.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

1 John 4:1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Vs 9. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

God makes it clear that false prophets were speaking without His authority. Their messages were based on what people wanted to hear rather than what God had spoken. This reminds us to value truth over comfort. God's Word is our final authority.

Jeremiah 23:21. I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

2 Timothy 4:3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Vs 10. 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.

God gave His people hope by assuring them that captivity would not last forever. Although His timing was different from theirs, His promise was certain. God's delays are never denials. He always fulfills His Word at the right time.

Isaiah 55:11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2 Peter 3:9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Vs 11. 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.

Even while His people were in captivity, God had not abandoned His plans for them. His purpose was always to bring hope and restoration. God sees the end from the beginning. Even when we cannot understand our circumstances, we can trust His heart.

Isaiah 55:8. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Vs 12. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

God promised to hear His people when they sincerely sought Him. Prayer would become an important part of their restoration. God always invites His people into a relationship of communication and trust. He delights in hearing the prayers of those who seek Him.

Psalm 145:18. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Matthew 7:7. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Vs 13. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God desired more than outward religion; He wanted wholehearted devotion. Those who sincerely pursued Him would experience His presence. A genuine relationship with God begins with a surrendered heart.

Deuteronomy 4:29. But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Hebrews 11:6. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Vs 14. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

God concludes this promise by assuring His people that restoration would come. Their captivity was temporary, but His covenant faithfulness was everlasting. God specializes in restoring what has been broken and bringing His people back to Himself. No matter how far we have wandered, God's invitation to return remains open.

Deuteronomy 30:3. That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

Luke 15:20. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Conclusion:

God reminds us that His plans are not determined by our circumstances but by His faithfulness. Even during seasons of waiting, He is working for our good and calling us to remain faithful where we are. When we seek Him with our whole heart, He promises that we will find Him. Our hope is not found in changing circumstances but in the unchanging God who always keeps His promises.

Golden Text: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).