

4This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

8Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

10This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11For 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. 12Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Surprise Instructions Jeremiah 29:4-14

So, what is a Christian to do?
When disaster has arrived
When the world is all wrong
When everything seems foreign

Always remember: (vss. 10-14)
The Lord has perfect timing
The Lord is faithful to his promises
The Lord has plans for our future
The Lord will restore his people

Watch out for the deceivers: (vss. 8-9)
To hear what we want to hear
To believe what we want to believe
To do what we want to do

Blessing Babylon: (vss. 4-9)
Get to work
Be ready for the long haul
Do what you need to do
Enjoy the life you have
Prioritize family
Make marriage work
Value parenting
Pass the torch
Be great citizens
Celebrate community
Contribute to community
Pray for community

“Your kingdom come”
Make Jesus king: submit
Let Jesus reign: obey
Glorify Jesus’ name: love