

# POWER HOUR

7/26/2026

Lesson Text:  
Jeremiah 29:1-14

Related Scriptures:  
2 Kings 24:8-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-4;  
1 Peter 2:11-17; Jeremiah 28:1-17  
& Daniel 9:1-19

“GOD’S HOPE FOR EXILES”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:13 NLT

**Time:** 597 B.C.

**Place:** Jerusalem

## Jeremiah 29:1-14 NLT

<sup>1</sup> Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>2</sup> This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He sent the letter with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah's ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah's letter said: <sup>4</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: <sup>5</sup> “Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! <sup>7</sup> And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” <sup>8</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, <sup>9</sup> because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,” says the Lord. <sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give

you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

## INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah 29:11 is often a favorite verse today. Many people print it on coffee cups and T-shirts or declare it their "life verse." But what was the original context of the verse, and does that change the way we understand it?

Although we will focus on the first fourteen verses, it is helpful to have a broad understanding of the entire chapter. Jeremiah 29:1-23 is a letter from Jeremiah to the elders, priests, and prophets in exile, as well as all the people. Verses 24-32 deal specifically with the false prophet Shemaiah, who promised that the exile in Babylon would be short. In response, the ever-faithful Lord promised to punish this lying prophet.

### Additional Scripture Readings

Confession of Israel's Sin. Nehemiah 9:26-38.

The Exile Intensifies. 2 Kings 24:8-20.

A False Prophecy of Peace. Jeremiah 28:1-17.

Daniel Obeys Jeremiah's Call to Repent. Daniel 9:1-19.

How to Live as Christian Exiles. 1 Peter 2:11-17.

Pray for Secular Leaders. 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

Seek the City's Welfare. Jeremiah 29:1-14.

**1. A letter to the exiles (Jeremiah 29:1-3).** Jeremiah was addressing a group of people who had been exiled along with King Jehoiachin in 597 B.C. This was the second exile that took place approximately ten years before the final deportation under King Zedekiah. During this exile, King Nebuchadnezzar had removed the top officials from Judah. God had begun fulfilling His warnings about destruction in Deuteronomy 28.

**2. A command to settle in exile (Jeremiah 29:4-9).** Jeremiah's letter addressed the false prophets in exile who were predicting a quick return to the land (vss.15-23). Jeremiah had unpopular news: the return was still far off, so the people ought to settle in the land, build houses, marry, and have children. The people needed to pray that the land they were in would be blessed so it too would experience God's favor.

Jeremiah's letter contained a command to a specific group of people, yet we can also apply the principles from it to our own situations. Peter referred to Christians as elect exiles living in a hostile world (1 Peter 1:1). The world hates those who belong to Christ (John 15:18-25), yet those who are in Christ have opportunities to influence the world for good (1 Peter 2:11-12). We also need to submit to the authorities God has placed in our lives—even when we disagree with them. We can pray for those in positions of authority and respect them (vs. 13-17).

**3. A promise of hope in exile (Jeremiah 29:10-14).** Now we come to one of the most famous passages of Scripture. In it, God promised to restore His people back to the land of Israel. This restoration would give His people hope and a future, one that would go beyond physical restoration and touch on the heart. People often take Jeremiah 29:11 out of context to support the false teachings of the prosperity gospel—that God will make everything work out for our earthly good. The context of this letter, however, reveals an even greater truth: a timeless principle. Like the exiles Jeremiah addressed, our earthly lives may be difficult. We may experience persecution of many types for our faith. At the same time, we have hope that does not fade, and God has promised that everything will work out for good (Romans 8:28-39).

## **PRACTICAL POINTS**

Even when the Lord disciplines His people, He does not give up on them (Jeremiah 29:1-3). The Lord is in control, even in difficult circumstances (vs. 4). Obedience to God does not mean a disinterest in practical matters (vss. 5-6). We should seek the welfare of the place God has put us (vs. 7). Watch out for false prophets who speak soothing lies (vss. 8-9). The Lord's timing is often different from ours (vs. 10).

The Lord has plans of blessing for His people (vs. 11).

If we seek the Lord with all our heart, we will find Him (vss. 12-14)

## **CONCLUSION**

God's timing is often different from ours, but even when it feels as if He has forgotten us, we can be confident that He has a plan. When we think of seeking God, too often we think of God hiding from us. He is in plain Faith Sight. He wants us to seek Him, and He wants to be found.

**Next week**, as we see hope in God's promise to restore the people of Israel **"God's Promised Land". Jeremiah 30:1-11, 18-22.**

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