

Finding God in Exile

Jeremiah 29:4-14

October 3, 2004

- I. Intro
 - a. Guy named Gregor illustration
 - b. At the end, tie in illustration w/Israelites
 - c. PRAY
- II. Passage
 - a. Short history
 - b. READ JEREMIAH 29:4-14
 - c. The Israelites had no reason to be happy
 - d. Relate it
 - e. “Just like the Israelites there are times in our lives that we are in exile. There are three kinds of exile: Physical Exile, Emotional Exile, and Spiritual Exile.
- III. Physical Exile
 - a. Separated by distance from the ideal
 - i. Israel, moving, living with a different parent, different school
 - b. “Let’s look back to the Israelites to see what advice they can offer us about how to find God in physical exile”
 - c. God carried them into exile.
 - i. V.4: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
 - ii. He put them there for a reason
 - iii. He not only allowed it, he made it happen
 - d. Make the best with what you have
 - i. V.7: Also, 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
 - ii. Remember, he put you there. He has a reason for it
 - iii. He wants you to prosper where you are. You never know what God is going to do through you while you’re there
 - e. God will restore you

- i. V.10: This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place
 - ii. 70 years; three generations will die
 - iii. He has your best interest in mind
 - iv. V.14: I 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."
- f. God promises to restore you. He may restore you physically or he may restore you emotionally, but he promises to restore you

IV. Emotional Exile

- a. The feeling of distance from the ideal
 - i. Depression, a broken relationship, loneliness, inferiority
- b. The main person who causes this kind of exile is Satan
- c. ADD MOMENT!!!! The reality of Satan
 - i. Father of all lies, the accuser of the saints, accuses us day and night
 - ii. Main cause of separation is His lies
 - iii. V.8-9: Yes, 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. ⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD .
- d. God is in control
 - i. V.11: 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.
 - ii. He knows your future. AND IT'S FOR GOOD!
 - iii. He has your best interest in mind
 - iv. He loves you too much then to let you not prosper.
 - v. It goes against his very character
- e. He promises to answer when you call him
 - i. V.12: Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
 - ii. CALL TO HIM!

- iii. He promises to Listen
 - iv. Intro Grant
 - f. Seek Him with all your heart
 - i. V.13: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
 - i. Have to believe his promises are true
 - ii. If you doubt him or his promises, you don't believe with all your heart
 - iii. Have to take your cup to Him, if you don't, you aren't seeking with all your heart
 - iv. The heart is where it starts. It MUST be completely His.
 - v. ONLY THEN will you find God
- V. Spiritual Exile
 - a. For Christians there is NO SUCH THING!
 - b. God promises to be with you. (v.11-13)
 - c. Never to leave you or forsake you
 - d. If you are a Christian and you feel like you're in spiritual exile, it's a lie. It's emotional exile
 - e. If you aren't a Christian you are in spiritual exile.
 - i. Have you ever felt distant?
 - ii. Like there should be something more?
 - iii. You are in spiritual exile
 - iv. A little of the gospel
- VI. Ok, so what now.
 - a. There are people here from all three groups.
 - b. Maybe you are...
 - c. Count of Monte Cristo clip
 - d. Return to God
 - e. Seek Him with all of your heart
 - f. CUE WORSHIP BAND
 - g. He loves you
 - h. He has your best interest in mind
 - i. He promises to restore you
 - j. READ 11-14 AGAIN