



Legacy 1 :: *Multi-Generational Promise* :: Voddie Baucham

INTRODUCTION

In our culture of instant gratification we're conditioned to focus on what's in it for me, now. And unfortunately we often apply this view when we read the Bible. One verse in particular, Jeremiah 29:11, has been misunderstood because of this. But as we'll see, this verse isn't a promise to claim here and now, but rather a picture of God's unfolding multi-generational plan.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does our culture promote a me-centered, instant gratification mindset? What are the ways in which we buy into this?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:1-4. When God address his people as "all those I carried into exile," what does this tell you of God's plan for us? Are we only to expect good things from God? How are we to understand the bad things in our lives?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:5-14. The promise in v. 11 was a corporate promise given to exiled Jews living in Babylon around 597 BC. It was a multi-generational promise that would not come true during the lives of those who heard it. How does the context of this verse influence the way we are to understand this promise? What does it tell you about God's plan for the Jews? What does it tell you about God's plan for us?
4. In vv. 5-7 God instructs the Jews to put down roots because their hardships are not going away anytime soon. They will not be returning to Israel anytime soon. Why is it important to focus on the legacy we are leaving, especially when life is difficult?
5. How can you begin to leave a legacy?
 - a. Through putting down roots?
 - b. Through prioritizing marriage?
 - c. Through prioritizing children?
 - d. Through leaving this world a better place than you found it?

THINK ABOUT IT

What is the legacy that you want to leave? Looking ahead several generations, what is the impact that you want to have?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What will you do this week to begin leaving a legacy?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"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." Jeremiah 29:11