



Living in Exile

The topic came about as we mark the one-year anniversary of the Covid quarantine order where we work here in Harris County.

As we begin, I ask that you think about a place, physical or otherwise, where you would least like to be exiled. This could be a foreign city or country, or a community or culture that you hold in contempt or have some disdain for.

Jeremiah 29:13 *“seek God in earnest and you will find Him”*

For me, I’m a logical thinker, and I also appreciate historical context when I study God’s word.

The book of Jeremiah was written by Jeremiah who was a prophet and lived and carried out his ministry in Israel around 500 B.C.

Chapter 29 is a letter from Jeremiah to the elders, priests, prophets, and all people living in exile in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 29:4-14

It is important to note this letter is written as God’s words through the prophet Jeremiah to those that He carried into exile.

Three things come to mind:

1. God knows where they are
2. God knows what is going on around them
3. God knows how they are feeling and wants to encourage them to His will

In verses 5-7, God tells the exiled to prosper and seek prosperity for the city to which they have been exiled. The idea of this makes me wonder if I would have the spiritual strength to prosper in a place of exile.

What place did you think of at the beginning of this devotional? Would you be able to prosper there?

It also inspires me to do exactly that where I am now. I believe in the power of God’s Love and the power of living by his word in community with others.

Today’s study shows me that:

1. God doesn’t do things for our benefit
2. God doesn’t ensure us that everything we do on our own will benefit us
3. God loves us and wants us to seek him in earnest