

# SERMON NOTES

*Citizens of Heaven, Residents on Earth!*  
*Jeremiah 29:4-14*

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” *Philippians 3:20-21*

Often, passages of scripture are taken out of context, misapplied, and misused. This passage in Jeremiah is one of those texts. In context, God’s people have been taken into Babylonian captivity. God is telling His people that their exile is not accidental. The most often misused verse in Jeremiah 29, is verse 11. It is often used in a way that says, “God always intends for you to prosper.”

## **As one author writes:**

“Many understand the text to be about God’s favor on one’s life and plans. If I just have confidence and follow my heart, someone might think, God will bless me. That’s not the prophet Jeremiah; that’s Deepak Chopra. Anyone who could find that kind of moralistic therapeutic deism in the Book of Jeremiah hasn’t read anything in Jeremiah beyond or behind this verse.” <sup>[1]</sup>

In the context of the overall message of Jeremiah, and the entirety of the Bible, we are reminded that we are strangers and exiles. Since we are “in Christ” living as Kingdom Citizens in a foreign land, we may suffer, we may be marginalized, we may be killed. But we must never believe that this means God has abandoned us. No, we must live “looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” *Hebrews 11:10 (NASB95)*

**Key thought:** As a citizen of heaven, while on earth you are to live faithfully, hopefully, and prayerfully.

1. **Live faithfully:** Remember to whom you belong.
2. **Live hopefully:** Remember where you belong. Remember where your hope belongs.
3. **Live prayerfully:** Remember to pray.

As Charles Spurgeon said, “prayer is the slender nerve that moves the omnipotent muscle of God.” The Bible commands us to pray for authorities, because all authority has been established by Him to accomplish His purposes.

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”  
*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

“The ultimate reason the Bible instructs us to intercede on behalf of our leaders is so that they might come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. “This (our intercession) is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” *1 Timothy 2:3-4*

## **Conclusion: It’s time to seek God’s face!!**

God does not reward those who seek Him with worldly sins in their hearts. We must come to God with genuine repentance in a pure heart. (v. 29:13)

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.” *Deuteronomy 4:29*

“They entered into the covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and soul.” *2 Chronicles 15:12*

“Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.” *2 Chronicles 31:21*

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” *Hebrews 11:6*

<sup>[1]</sup> [thegospelcoalition.org/article/jeremiah-2911-apply/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/article/jeremiah-2911-apply/)