



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Pianist

Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Announcement Coming Soon

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,
Alan Hutchison,
Jeff Hiser

Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,
Barb Cunningham,
Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,
Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,
Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon,
Pastor David



The Meaning of Jeremiah 29:11

The book of Jeremiah gives us an account of the prophetic ministry of Jeremiah, whose personal life and struggles we see more deeply and in more detail than those of any other Old Testament prophet.

The meaning of his name is uncertain. Suggestions include “The Lord exalts” and “The Lord establishes,” but a more likely meaning is “The Lord throws,” either in the sense of “hurling” the prophet into a hostile world or of “throwing down” the nations in divine judgment for their sins.

The story of Jeremiah’s life and message is one of hardship and struggle. The same is true for many Christians today, and one of the verses that many people like to quote, or have framed in their homes, or have tattooed on their wrists, is Jeremiah 29:11: “ ‘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.’ ”

On the face of it, this seems like a harmless reassurance. God is of course a loving God who does chart the course of the lives of those who rely on him. But before we answer this question, let’s look at the background behind Jeremiah’s message and life. As you read the following, evaluate how his life and message impacted the words he wrote to the exiles in this famous verse.

Jeremiah’s Life

Jeremiah’s prophetic ministry began in 626 BC and ended sometime after 586 BC.

Continued page 2.

Question and Answer

Q: Which Bible character was the best musician?

A: Samson-he brought down the house

Reminders

September 16th

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

September 17th

Men's Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

September 20th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

September 21st

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

Ad Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistant is needed for September 24th**

**** Fellowship Volunteers needed sign-up in Fellowship Hall**



Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday

to Deliver Meals

Sign-Up Sheet is on the

Welcome Center Counter

Jeremiah- Continued from page 1.

That places his ministry immediately following that of Zephaniah. Habakkuk was a contemporary, and Obadiah may have been also. And since Ezekiel began his ministry in Babylon in 593, he too was a late contemporary of this great prophet in Jerusalem.

The Lord commanded Jeremiah not to marry and raise children because the impending divine judgment on Judah would sweep away the next generation (Jeremiah 16:1–4). This was likely not the kind of life Jeremiah would have chosen. In fact, there were times when he was like the prophet Jonah in that he was reluctant to bring the messages God commanded to the people of Jerusalem. Still, the pressure of his God-given duty demanded a release, as the prophet himself declared in Jeremiah 20:9:

But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

Primarily a prophet of doom, Jeremiah attracted only a few friends. His message of judgment and exile into a foreign land was obviously not well received by the proud people of Jerusalem. How and when Jeremiah died is not known; Jewish tradition, however, asserts that while living in Egypt he was put to death by being stoned (compare Hebrews 11:37)

Given to self-analysis and self-criticism (Jeremiah 10:24), Jeremiah reveals a great deal about himself in the book that bears his name. Although timid by nature (Jeremiah 1:6), he received the Lord's assurance that he would become strong and courageous (Jeremiah 1:18; 6:27; 15:20). In his "confessions" (see Jeremiah 11:18–23; 12:1–4; 15:10–21; 17:12–18; 18:18–23; 20:7–18) he laid bare the deep struggles of his inmost being, sometimes making startling statements about his feelings toward God (Jeremiah 12:1; 15:18). Jeremiah, so often expressing the anguish he had in his spirit because of his message from God (Jeremiah 4:19; 9:1; 10:19–20; 23:9), has rightly been called the "weeping prophet."

Continued page 5.

Question and Answer

Q: Who in the Bible had the greatest business plan?

A: The Prophets

Volunteers Needed



LAST PERSON LEAVING
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS
AND LOCK DOORS

First United Methodist Church
Please wear your name tag on Sunday mornings

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School – PK-6 during service, Jr/Sr High at 10:30 a.m.**

****NO Chancel Choir Until Fall – Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m.**

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

Monday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00
Tuesday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00
Wednesday
CLOSED
Thursday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00
Friday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in advance if you need in the church to make sure someone is in the office. If you reach the answering machine please leave your name, number, and a brief message and your call will be returned. Calls after 2:00 p.m. may be returned the next business day.

BIBLE Quiz

Who sent a raven out of a window?

- a) Noah
- b) Abraham
- c) Jacob
- d) Isaac

Who was Tola?

- a) Judge
- b) King
- c) Prophet
- d) Priest

Where was Paul Born?

- a) Rome
- b) Jericho
- c) Shechem
- d) Tarsus

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.



17th – Dan Finlay
18th – Duane Rexroth, Clete & Sheri Jones, Brandon & Brandy Pease
20th – Dave Tackett
21st – Steve Stribling
22nd – Knox Pease
23rd – Tom Spears

****See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to office@shen.church**

**Shenandoah First United
Methodist Church**

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Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail
office@shen.church

Same address – a new look at
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our YouTube
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

***Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing to the Lord.

People: God has triumphed gloriously.

L: The Lord is our strength and might;

P: God has become our salvation.

L: Sing to the Lord.

P: This is our God, who we praise.

“Forgive From the Heart”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Songs

To God Be the Glory #98

10,000 Reasons (screens)

Freely, Freely #389

O How I Love Jesus #170

Last Week’s Attendance

In-Person Worship – 75

On-Line Worship – 18

Our Mission:

“Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ’s Love.”

Our Vision:

“We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world.”

**Answers for Sept. 10th are d) He kissed him a) First Day d) All of the above
Quiz hints – Q1) Genesis Q2) Judges Q3) Acts**

Jeremiah- Continued from page 2.

Theological Themes and Message of Jeremiah

Referred to frequently as “Jeremiah the prophet” in the book that bears his name (Jeremiah 20:2; 25:2; 28:5,10–12,15; 29:1,29;) and elsewhere (2 Chronicles 36:12; Daniel 9:2; Matthew 2:17; 27:9; see Matthew 16:14), Jeremiah was always conscious of his call from the Lord (Jeremiah 1:5; 15:19) to be a prophet.

As such, he proclaimed a message given him by God himself (Jeremiah 19:2); a message that was certain to be fulfilled (Jeremiah 28:9; 32:24). Many of his own predictions were fulfilled in the short term (e.g., Jeremiah 16:15; 20:4; 25:11–14; 27:19–22; 29:10; 34:4–5; 43:10–11; 44:30; 46:13), and others were—or will yet be—fulfilled in the long term (e.g., Jeremiah 23:5–6; 30:8–9; 31:31–34; 33:15–16).

As hinted earlier, an aura of conflict surrounded Jeremiah almost from the beginning. He lashed out against the sins of his countrymen (Jeremiah 44:23), condemning them severely for their idolatry (Jeremiah 16:10–13,20; 22:9; 32:29; 44:2–3,8;17–19,25)—which sometimes horrifyingly involved sacrificing their children to foreign gods (see Jeremiah 7:30–34). But Jeremiah loved the people of Judah in spite of their sins, and he prayed for them (Jeremiah 14:7,20) even when the Lord told him not to (Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11).

Judgment is one of the most pervasive themes in Jeremiah’s writings, though he was careful to point out that repentance, if sincere, would postpone the otherwise inevitable judgment that was coming from God. He counseled the people of Judah to submit to Babylon, promising “life as usual” for the exiles. This branded him as a traitor in the eyes of many. But actually, of course, his advice not to rebel against Babylon marked him as a true patriot—a man who loved his own people too much to stand by silently and watch them destroy themselves. By warning them to submit and not rebel, Jeremiah was revealing God’s will to them—always the most sensible prospect under any circumstances.

We see some of that will declared in the verses surrounding the passage in question in this article. The context of Jeremiah 29:11 sheds insight on what Jeremiah thought about God.

For Jeremiah, God was ultimate. The prophet’s theology saw the Lord as the Creator of all that exists (Jeremiah 10:12–16; 51:15–19), as all-powerful (Jeremiah 32:27; 48:15; 51:57), and as everywhere present (23:24). Jeremiah ascribed lofty attributes to the God whom he served (Jeremiah 32:17–25), viewing him as the Lord not only of Judah but also of the nations (Jeremiah 5:15; 18:7–10; 25:17–28; chapters 46–51).

At the same time, God is very much concerned about individuals and their accountability to him. The undeniable relationship between sin and its consequences, so visible to Jeremiah as he watched his beloved Judah in her death throes, made him a fiery preacher (Jeremiah 5:14; 20:9; 23:29) of righteousness, and his declarations have lost none of their power with the passing of the centuries.

Jeremiah’s words might make it seem to us that that the end had come, that Israel’s stubborn and rebellious heart had sealed her final destiny, that God’s chosen people had been cast off, and that all the ancient promises and covenants God had made with his people had come to nothing.

But God's judgment of his people (and the nations), though terrible, was not to be the last word, the final work of God in the history of his people. The message of Jeremiah promised that mercy and covenant faithfulness would triumph over wrath. Beyond the judgment would come restoration and renewal.

Jeremiah 29:11 and Today

With this history and background in mind, let's take a look at the actual context of this passage, a favorite of so many Christians today.

This verse is couched within a letter that Jeremiah wrote to the exiles who were living in Babylon. As we've said previously in this article, Jeremiah was called by God to advise his people to willingly submit to Babylon as a self-protective act. Following God's will in this matter would allow the survival of many more of the people of Judah than would live should they resist.

This was part of God's plan for his sinful people. He had warned them many times throughout the centuries to turn from their wicked ways and live (see Ezekiel 33:11). The stubborn people of Judah, confident in their historical protection from God's righteous anger, had refused.

So this letter came to an exiled people who were battered, defeated and disillusioned. Many in our modern society today can claim the same state of mind, which is why the passage in question sounds so appealing:

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. **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.** Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 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" (Jeremiah 29:10-14).

A close look at the context of this favored statement clearly shows that this message was sent specifically to the defeated and exiled people of Judah living in a foreign land. Those who heard this message were undoubtedly comforted by its message, as many are today.

As the old saying goes, "The Bible was written for us, but not necessarily to us." That is certainly true with this passage. And while many purists will rail that this particular passage is the "most misquoted Bible verse in history," rolling their eyes in the aisles of home décor stores as they see this verse beautifully framed for use in a thousand family rooms, we can make two definitive statements about this passage that can perhaps add some clarity to the debate:

1. Jeremiah's message, and thereby the promises included in this passage, were indeed written to a specific people at a specific time and in a specific situation. It's true that God's message in this chapter

was directed at his exiled people, and that the promise in verse 11 pointed to the 70-year exile that he had prophesied through Jeremiah. He wanted to communicate that his wrath over sin had an expiration date, and that those who sought to be reconciled to him in their hearts and minds would experience the promises resident in this verse.

2.

The God who made these promises to a battered and disillusioned people in the Old Testament is the same God who makes these promises to battered and disillusioned people today in a new way—through the lens of the life, death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. God does not change, nor do his promises to his people go unfulfilled. Those who sincerely seek him will indeed find him. Those who follow the message of the Bible and look to God exclusively for their salvation will find that he is a God who keeps his promises; a God who cares about the present and future status of his followers; a God who promises eternal life and fellowship with him to those who will believe.

So can we take this verse to heart as a promise to us today? The answer comes as we look at the context of the verse itself and apply it to our daily lives and practice.

- Are we seeking out a relationship with a saving God?
- Are we praying to him in our difficulties, asking for help and seeking his direction?
- Are we placing our trust in the good promises from God that we find in the rest of the Bible?
- Are we inviting his Holy Spirit to transform us daily into people who do his will and follow his way?

If so, then yes, the God who reached out to his people in exile will indeed reach out to us in our own struggles and difficulties. We can count on the unmerited grace and mercy of our God to apply to us today as well as it did to the ancient people of Judah.

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By Mike Vander Klipp, Senior Editor in the Zondervan Bible Group of HarperCollins Christian Publishing.

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Food Pantry Needs for September

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Brownie, cake, cookie, & muffin mixes, spaghetti sauce & pasta (any kind), green beans, corn, peas, pineapple, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, microwave popcorn, Chicken Noodle soup, toothpaste, deodorant

There are times when people who use the Food Pantry come to the pantry on foot. They are then forced to walk home carrying, pushing, or pulling several pounds of food. Southwest Iowa Transit, for a very reasonable fee of \$5.00, will take individuals with their food items home. If you are interested in helping pay for these fees, simply seal your cash (whatever you would like to give) in a plain envelope and add it to your donated food items.



Encountering the New Testament is our midweek Bible Study led by Pastor David, on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. The focus will be on the life, teaching, and letters of the Apostle Paul. We will journey with the apostle through the establishment of the first churches and look into what it was like to be a Christian in the first century. We hope you join us on Wednesdays.

Do you enjoy singing? Enjoy or would like to learn to play the bells? Interested in joining the Praise Team? You can participate in all three and share your talents. Maybe you have an instrument and would like to be part of the Praise Team band. You have a lot of options, and we want to see our music programs grow. There will be some exciting changes coming to our music ministry programs soon. Watch for additional information in future boosters!



I want to thank my church family for all their prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my treatments and surgery. A special thank you to Edi Norris for bringing me the Weekly Booster and her visits. You are all very special to me.

Karen Foster



Please note this is a change from the normal meeting day. The meeting for September will be held on Thursday the 21st.



Iowa Western Community College, 1001 W Sheridan Ave, is once again sponsoring "Over A Cup of Coffee." This is a series of interesting presentations led by individuals around southwest Iowa. The presentations take place each Thursday through September and October 12th. Call to reserve your spot at 712-246-1499. A flyer with the topics is available on the counter of the Welcome Center.

Help Wanted! Looking for someone that can take the food pantry donations that are collected each month to the Food Pantry. This only needs to be done once a month. The best days and times to drop off donations are either Tuesday or Friday between 9:15-11:30 a.m. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact the church office. Your help is appreciated.



Can you feel the changing of seasons? Do you see it? One of the fundamental elements of life is change and movement. And on fall mornings, you can grab a cup of coffee, maybe get a blanket to keep warm under and observe the beauty in the changes that are happening all around us. The change in bird activity; the change in sunlight; the change in the wind; the change in smells, and soon the change in colors.

But no matter how many times we go through change in our lives, there is always fear that comes along for the ride. Fear is our body's way of communicating to us that the environment around us is unrecognizable, so be on your guard. We don't know what kind of danger to look out for in this new place. This is a good thing. Fear heightens our senses. We see, hear, and feel more than we could if we were to stay in the same place all our lives.

There is change happening in the world around us, in the church, in our families. Every sphere of our life is affected by change. When you notice the fear, that doesn't mean that the change is bad. It just means that your body is telling you that you are in a new situation. So, notice the fear, thank it for being so aware of your environment, and let those heightened senses lead you to notice the good and beautiful that is emerging. There may be danger in the changes, but there is also good.

Fall is a season when the world around us dies, or prepares for hibernation, or moves to warmer climates, but Fall is also full of colors in the trees, apple pies and apple cider, the smell of wood-burning stoves, and a harvest of labor in the fields. Change is happening all around us. How will you embrace the good and beautiful that is emerging?

Grace and peace,
Pastor David B. Clark