

Saturday

Please read Jeremiah 29:11. As you think about both the frightening and exciting parts of your future, how does this verse encourage you?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of those who are here and that lives will be encouraged and transformed. Also, please pray for Pastor René as he continues to write the book for our fall series on the attributes of God.



WEEK 3

Trusting When the Future Is Frightening

MAY 14 & 15, 2011 • DAN BAKER • JEREMIAH 29

What frightens you about the future?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Failed finances | <input type="checkbox"/> Death |
| <input type="checkbox"/> War | <input type="checkbox"/> Illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crumbling society | <input type="checkbox"/> Temptations I may face |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living with the consequences of my own bad decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Facing major decisions that I won't know what to do about |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Losing my job | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling overwhelmed by a changing world |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never finding the life I had hoped for myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The kind of world my kids will be living in |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

There is a _____,
but there is also an _____.

How does our hope in heaven affect our lives right now?

Lessons from God's word to the captives in Babylon

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 NIV*

1. _____ fully

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease." *Jeremiah 29:5-6*

Live like you have a _____

over 



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2. _____ in the truth

Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. . . For they have done outrageous things in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives, and in my name they have uttered lies — which I did not authorize. . . .” *Jeremiah 29:8,23*

Stand up for _____

3. _____ a blessing

“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.” *Jeremiah 29:7*

Bring a little _____ into your world

4. _____ to hope

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.” *Jeremiah 29:10*

God is in the business of bringing _____ out of the _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Jeremiah 29:5–14. What did you learn about the context of this passage in last weekend’s sermon?

What fears about the future are you struggling with right now?


How does this passage help you face those fears?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Thank Him for this story about the people of Israel. Talk to God about the fears you are facing right now, especially those that relate to fear of the future, asking Him to turn your attention away from your fears and towards Him.

Tuesday

Please read Matthew 6:25–34, Mark 12:28–31 & John 10:9–10. According to these verses, what type of life does God intend for us to live (and this is just a small sampling of verses!)?

How could living the life God intended help you to deal with your fears of the future?

continued 

What is one thing you can do to apply these verses today and intentionally live the life God intended for you?

Thank God today that He has a plan for you, that He has an intention for your life. Pray that you will live today with an awareness of His intention for you. Pray that your confidence in God’s control of the future will change your attitude and actions.

Wednesday

Please read Matthew 7:15–29. Mark touched on these verses during week one of this series. What do these verses say about recognizing false teachings and teachers?

How does your foundation influence your view of the future?

What areas of your “foundation” need to be shored up in order to change your fear of the future to confidence in God?

Thank God today that the Bible has wisdom that applies to your life today. Talk to God about the areas of your life where you feel your foundation is weak. If you’re not sure where that might be, ask God to show you! Ask God to give you the desire and the diligence to resist false teachings and choose a strong foundation.

Thursday

Please read Matthew 6:19–21 & Hebrews 10:22–24. What good news about your future do you see in these verses?

In what way do these verses encourage you today?

Who in your life can you encourage today with the truth of these verses?

Thank God today that this earth and its treasures are not everything. Thank Him that the best is yet to come! Ask God to give you more of an eternal perspective and use you to encourage others.

Friday

Please read Romans 5:1–8. What do these verses say about God’s gift of grace to you?

Why do you sometimes hesitate to throw the full weight of our life on God?

How can knowing that Jesus is your true life source by God’s grace help you face the fears you’re struggling with now?

Thank God today for His amazing grace given to you through Jesus. Ask Him to help you grow in your understanding of His grace and how it impacts your life. Commit the fears you’re struggling with to Him and ask for His grace to cover those fears.



“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 NIV*