



## TRUTH FOR TROUBLED TIMES "A Letter to Souls in Exile" Jeremiah 29:1-14

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The final days leading to Judah's collapse and Jerusalem's destruction were busy times for Jeremiah. He ministered tirelessly, under siege and under duress, both to those in danger in Jerusalem and those in exile in Babylon.

### I. A Ministry to Souls in Danger.

- A. Jeremiah's challenging temple message. 26:1-6
  - 1. An outward show of religion: "the temple of the Lord." 7:1-4
  - 2. A contradictory lifestyle: "we are safe!" 7:5-11
  - 3. A dire warning: "I will thrust you from my presence." 7:12-15
- B. Jeremiah is challenged by his audience.
  - 1. His life in the balance. 26:7-11
  - 2. His spirited defense and reprieve. 26:12-24
- C. Jeremiah's new message. 25:1-38
  - 1. Twenty-three years of unrelenting resistance. 25:1-7
  - 2. Further details of inevitable consequences. 25:8-12
    - a. The Babylonians are coming.
    - b. Jehovah is sending them: "Nebuchadnezzar my servant."
  - 3. Judah will be exiled for 70 years; Babylon will be judged. 25:12-14
  - 4. Jehoiakim's contemptuous dismissal of Jeremiah's message. 36:1f
- D. Jeremiah in besieged Jerusalem.
  - 1. Reiterates message: Babylonians are God's servants! 37:6-8
  - 2. Accused of treason and imprisoned. 37:12-16
  - 3. Yield to Babylon (judgment); thrown in cistern. 38:1-6
- E. Jeremiah is shown two baskets of figs. 24:1-10

### II. A Letter to Souls in Exile. 29:1-14

- A. Accept the fact that you are experiencing God's righteous judgment. vv. 4-6
- B. Beware of those who minimize this reality. vv. 8-9
- C. Concentrate on living well in your circumstances.
- D. Desire the best for those who make life difficult for you. v. 7
- E. Expect God to bring blessing out of your situation. vv. 10-11
- F. Find the Lord in fresh ways through your times of hardship. vv. 12-14

**Point to Ponder:** Am I hardened or softened by hard times that follow my actions?