



CITIZENS

OF

HEAVEN

**Citizens of Heaven display the
Hope of Heaven to their City.**



YOUR GREATEST WISH
WILL COME TRUE.
PANDA EXPRESS

**Citizens of Heaven display the
Hope of Heaven to their City.**



- 1. Don't Panic**
- 2. Deepen Hope**
- 3. Do Good**



Jeremiah – Written to Exiles living in Babylon

1. Initial Siege of Jerusalem (597 BCE):

- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem. This event marked the beginning of the Babylonian Exile.

2. Second Siege of Jerusalem (586 BCE):

- Jerusalem was completely destroyed, the Temple was burned, and more people were deported to Babylon. End of Judah.



Jeremiah

- **Prophecies:** Jeremiah prophesied the impending destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the people. He urged the people to submit to Babylonian rule, warning them against false prophets.
- **Letters to Exiles:** In Jeremiah 29, he sends a letter to the exiles in Babylon, advising them to settle down, build houses, and seek the welfare of the city, as their own welfare was tied to it.
- **Seventy Years:** Jeremiah 25:11-12 mentions that the exile would last for seventy years.



Additional Exile Passage:

Psalm 137 – Exiles grieving the pain of deportation

Daniel

- Faithfulness in Exile
- Visions and Prophecies



4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:4-7



8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

Jeremiah 29:8–10



11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. **13** You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:11-14



1. Don't Panic - You & I are living as Exiles.



Deported Israelites expected to affirm & celebrate cultural idols.

- Daniel 3 (Golden Idol of King Nebuchadnezzar / Fiery Furnace)**
- Daniel 6 (Daniel thrown into the Lions Den for praying to God)**



What did God command them to do?

Jeremiah 29:4-7

- Build Houses & Live
- Plant Gardens & Eat
- Take wives & have Kids
- Let their kids marry & have Grandkids
- Seek the welfare of the city (Where I have sent you)



**2. Deepen HOPE – Trusting the goodness of
God more than fleeting comforts,
preferences & self-Interests**



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Jeremiah 29:11 – 12



Genealogy of Jesus / Matthew 1:1-17

Jechoniah / Matthew 1:11-12

- Faced pressures to pull back from God & make his life about survival.
- Received & Responded to Jeremiah's message with trust
- Married, Fathered Shealtiel (Matt 1:12)
- Patriarch of the Messiah (14 Generations from to Jesus)



**God's Promise of deliverance &
restoration of His people is fulfilled in
Jesus**



“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Luke 4:18-19 (Quoting Isaiah 42:1-4)



Gospel Truth – God will save completely all who trust in Him.

- We are saved from sin/separation the moment we trust in Jesus as savior & commit to follow Him as Lord.
- God is working all things for the Good of those who love Him.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28



As we Deepen our trust in Gospel Hope, we are freed to:

- Trust in Christ more than any earthly power (John 14:1)
- Live for God's kingdom more than our own Comforts (Matt 6:9-10)
- Cast our cares on the Lord & allow Him to sustain us (Psalm 55:22)



3. Do Good

I. Live with Courage & Conviction

II. Reject False Hope

III. Seek the good of your city, state, nation



I. Live with Courage & Conviction

- A. Empowerment through the Holy Spirit.
- B. Follow Jesus' example of courage in his life and ministry.
- C. Assurance of God's Presence.
- D. Faith over Fear: Jesus often address fear.



II. Reject False Hopes

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:8-9



III. Seek the good of your City, State, Nation

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:7



“If God’s purpose for your job is that you serve the human community, then the way to serve God best is to do the job as well as it can be done.”

–Timothy Keller “Every Good Endeavor”



23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24



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Colossians 3:23-24



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