

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – August 30, 2020**

**Theme: The Certainty of God's Word      Topic: God's Promise of Hope**

**Main Text: Jeremiah 29:1-14; Romans 5: 1 - 11**

**Key verse:** Jeremiah 29:11: *For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Hope is important in life and can make a tough situation more bearable. Wikipedia defines hope as 'an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.' That is why we often hear or make statements like 'I am seriously hoping that I will get that job or that it will rain', etc. On the other hand, when the Bible speaks of hope, it is referring to the confident expectation of what God has promised, and its strength is in God's faithfulness. In one of our passages for today, God had allowed His chosen people to be taken into exile as a show of His displeasure. But while they were in exile, God sends this command to them: "... *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, ... Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, ...*" (Jeremiah 29:4-7 NIV).

1. **(a) What are some key elements of God's plan for His people as outlined in Jeremiah 29:11? (b) In what possible way(s) did God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 help the exiles obey His commands in Jeremiah 29:4-7? (c) How would you apply the lessons in 1(a) and (b) above to a challenging situation you may be experiencing?**

Hope comes from believing the promises of God. So, God anchored His commands to His exiled people on an incredible hope so that they can look ahead to what God will do next rather than looking back to what could have been or mourning their present predicament. Incredibly, the Bible tells us that we have something even better in Jesus Christ: "*But now, Jesus has been given priestly work which is superior to theirs, just as the covenant which he arranged between God and his people is a better one, because it is based on promises of better things*" (Hebrews 8:6 GNT)

2. **(a) According to Romans 5:2, what is the great hope we now have as those who have been made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ? (b) How does the hope we have in Christ compare or contrast with the hope God offered the exiles in Jeremiah 29:11? (c) How should that influence our outlook as we face difficulties in life?**

In Romans 5, Apostle Paul unpacks the hope we have in God through Jesus Christ. And says it is something to boast about because it is a hope of sharing in the glory of God. He recounts how tribulation, perseverance and character building are the furnace where this hope is birthed. *And not only that, we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint*" (Romans 5:3 – 5A. NKJV). That fiber of a hope forged in the furnace of tribulations and perseverance is what we need as we wait for the greatest hope of all – that of being saved from God's wrath (Romans 5:9).

3. **(a) How are we to demonstrate that we have Biblical hope? See Jeremiah 29:4-7; Romans 5:1-2 (b) How does Jeremiah 29:8-9 compare with the widespread claims of 'God told me...' of our day and what possible lesson is in it for us? (c) What can we learn from this path to a hope that cannot disappoint as in Romans 5:3-5, 9-11?**

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**Prayer:** *Father, help us that through the different seasons of life, that we might focus on the hope which cannot disappoint rather than on a hope which is hope based on our desires or false prophecies in Jesus Name, Amen.*