



**How do God's people live in a morally fragmented, hostile society?**

The Babylonian answer: \_\_\_\_\_

The religious answer: \_\_\_\_\_ (See Jeremiah 29:11)

**God's answer:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ in your city**

"Build houses and **settle down**; plant gardens and eat what they produce." Jeremiah 29:5a

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ in your city**

"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 29:5b-6

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ in your city**

"Also, **seek the peace and prosperity of the city** to which I have carried you into exile." Jeremiah 29:7a

Peace: Hebrew "shalom": Total flourishing in every dimension; economic, relational, spiritual, etc.

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ for your city**

"**Pray to the Lord for it**, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."  
Jeremiah 29:7b

## HOW CAN I LIVE LIKE THAT?

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you **a future and a hope.**” Jeremiah 29:11

“I will gather them from the ends of the earth... a great throng will gather there... their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and **they shall sorrow no more at all.**” Jeremiah 31:3,12

“I will make a **new covenant...** I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and **I will be their God and they will be my people.**” Jeremiah 31:32,33

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city shall be rebuilt...**it shall not be captured or destroyed anymore forever.**” Jeremiah 31:38,40

“I saw the **holy city**, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... And I heard a loud voice saying, ‘Behold! God’s dwelling is now among His people! **God Himself will live with them and they will be His people.** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. **All those things are gone forever.**” Revelation 21:3,4

## ASK YOURSELF:

Am I living \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

## Resources used in preparation of this message

“The Meaning of the City”, Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What four things does God tell His people in Babylon to do? How can we do these things for Santa Cruz County?
2. How does seeking the peace and prosperity of Santa Cruz advance the kingdom of God?
3. Read Matthew 5:14–16. What does Jesus say we are like? Why are we to do good deeds? How have you seen this happen?
4. Read Jeremiah 29:8–14. Many people imagine God’s thoughts toward them are negative. In what ways are God’s thoughts and plans for you good and not evil—what good things do you know for sure God has planned for you?