

AM Sermon Notes

Text: *Jeremiah 29:1, 4-10*

Title: *Bloom Where You're Planted!*

Central Truth: As Christians we are called to make a positive, godly and productive impact on our secular culture while looking toward our eternal Heavenly home.

I. vv. 1, 4: The Providence of God

v. 1: **The prophet** - There is the definite article "**the**" in the Hebrew text. It stresses to us that Jeremiah is a real, genuine and authentic prophet called by God Himself.

v. 4: 1. **The positive** (The sovereignty of God): _____
2. **The negative** (God tolerates no sin): _____

II. vv. 5-7: The Prescriptions From God

God sends a radical and revolutionary message to His people! There are ten total commands from God.

v. 5: God commands His exiles to be active, busy and productive!

v. 6: The Jewish race had to be kept alive and pure!

v. 7: There is nothing else like this in all the Old Testament. KJV - **peace**, NASB - **welfare**, NIV - **peace and prosperity** (Hebrew-*shalom*) It is such a rich and comprehensive term. It speaks of health, wholeness, harmony, safety and well-being. This is the only place in the Old Testament where prayer for one's enemies is commanded (*cf. Matthew 5:43-48*).

III. vv. 8-9: The Prohibitions From God

God Himself warns His exiled people in Babylon not to listen to nor be deceived by the preaching of the false prophets. They were promising a short exile and a speedy return home. They were liars. This reminds us that we must test or filter what we hear through Scripture (*cf. 2nd Timothy 4:3-4*).

IV. v. 10: The Prophecy From God

Only through God's revelation to Jeremiah would he have been able to know that the great empire of Babylon would only last for seventy years! This prophecy was precisely fulfilled for Babylon fell to Medo-Persia in 539B.C. Cyrus the Great allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem!