

Richard gives the devotion on Jeremiah 29:1-14 especially verse 11

- NIV plans to prosper you and no to harm you
- New Living Translation: plans for good and not for disaster
- NAS: plans for welfare and not for calamity
- KJV: thoughts of peace, and not of evil
- World English Bible: thoughts of peace, and not of evil
- Tele evangelists use this verse as promise of prosperity from God
- But Christians are suffering all over the world, while unbelievers are rich. It is clear that prosperity is not rule of God.
- Chapter 29, prophet is speaking to the captives in exile to Babylon. So this verse must not take out of context.
- Root verb has various translations. In Hebrew, it is translated as peace, completeness, blessing. Only NIV translated to “prosper” contrary to other translations.
- Root verb for “harm” translated to harm, disaster, calamity, evil.
- Care must be taken when applying this verse, that God is not there to prosper every Christian, and harm will not come.
- Or when harm comes, God is unwilling to help.
- Best conclusion is that God will bring peace even in time of trouble and calamity.
- Applications:
  - The Israelites were under discipline, but God’s ultimate sights are peace & goodness for us.
  - Job 34:21 “His eyes are on the ways of men; he sees their every step”
  - Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct & teach you...; counsel and watch over you...”
  - Proverbs 16:9 “a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps”
  - The plan in Verse 11 refers to completion of His promise in verse 10. A parallel application of
  - Should “future & hope” be interpreted as His glorious return.
  - Meanwhile, Gilead should follow verse 12 “call upon me and come and pray..., I will listen to you.”