

# Weekly Devotion

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## Lay Your Burdens Down!

Find rest in Jesus when dealing with the uncertainty of the future. –

### Devotion 1/3

**Jer 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – *Jeremiah 29:11*

Dear friends and family of True North and St. John’s,

You are moving. You are coming with us. This is the message of the strangers who have invaded your town. You have no choice in the matter. It is a dictation of force. So you go with them. After weeks of traveling, they stop. There is a settlement. They tell you this is your new home. This is where you are to live. This is where you are to wait for further instruction. As that happens, these questions race through your head: “How long will we be here? Will we ever be able to return to our old home? What are we supposed to do here?”

The children of Israel were taken into captivity by the Babylonian Empire. If they weren’t killed, they were removed from their homes and shipped off to a new land. Imagine how you would feel if you were one of those captives. They had some uncertainties. Yet the Lord didn’t leave those captives. While he didn’t give them every answer they probably wanted, he did answer what they needed to hear. Through his prophet Jeremiah, he assured them that their captivity would be for a limited time. After 70 years was over, they would return to the land that God promised their father Abraham.

We spend much of our life trying to avoid uncertainties. We make plans. We have an outline for our lives. I’ll go to school now and pursue an education that will provide avenues for a job that will pay the bills. I’ll take this job and hopefully my student loans will be gone within the next ten years. I’ll live here and hopefully will get married and start a family. I’ll do this and I’ll do that. Then what happens. The education doesn’t go so well. Worry sets in at night and we think, “what if I’ll never repay those loans?” We may not get that job of our dreams. A relationship never comes or the one we were enjoying goes sour. What next? Where do I go from here?

As the children of Israel needed to hear the voice of their gracious God, you and I do too. We make plans in our heads and hearts, but God knows our entire story. There is no uncertainty with the Lord. He knows where we will go. He knows what struggles we will have. He knows the exact when, how, and where of when he will use the burdens in our lives to

carry us and to lead us and/or others to him. The Lord has plans for us. He has plans for you. Our Lord is perfectly capable of carrying those plans out too.

To see that, think of what we just celebrated this past week. The captivity to sin, death, and the devil overwhelmed sinful mankind. Over time, the Lord used history to fulfill his plan of sending his Son. The Lord used difficult situations to remind his people to trust in him. He used situations like the Babylonian Captivity to get his people back on the path of looking to him and not to idols as their God. He restated his promises that would be seen when the Messiah would come. Then Jesus came. He obeyed God's law. Jesus fulfilled every prophecy regarding him. We just celebrated his fulfillment of his sacrifice on the cross and glorious resurrection. God planned that! God fulfilled that! He did that for you and me.

The Lord has also promised to us an eternal rest in heaven. We don't know when we will be called home to heaven but we do know that we will be there. The Lord gives us a hope and a future in heaven through our Savior Jesus. When uncertainty comes, lay your burdens down and look to the promises of your Savior.

For further reading, go through Jeremiah 29-31. God bless your week!

In Christ,  
Pastor Lindner

**This devotion series is based upon Matthew 11:28-30 which says, <sup>Mt 11:28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>Mt 11:29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>Mt 11:30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."– Matthew 11:28-30**