

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)

Here's a short & foundational, but complex, Biblical promise (one of my favorite kind). It's complex because it's unconditional in part, and conditional in part.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord , plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

THE UNCONDITIONAL PART

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- No matter how things may appear in the natural, God has an incredible plan for our lives and we should never lose sight of that, not for a second. When we truly believe & internalize this truth, you would not believe how well it keeps us joyful (internally) and out of despair no matter what's going on around us.

THE CONDITIONAL PART

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

- Our part is to seek Him with ALL of our hearts (with great passion, perseverance, dedication, due diligence, reverence, respect, honoring His Word & His principles; We have to do the work of seeking His will for every aspect of our lives, praying, reading the Word, attending a church, seeking Godly relationships, righteous conduct, etc).

THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PROMISE CAME ABOUT (aka ORIGINAL INTENT)

Jeremiah is writing to a group of people who are being held captive, and are in exile from their homeland. He's writing to let them know that although they're not where they would have expected, nor where they would have asked God to place them, God has not forgotten them and He still has a plan for their lives.

Even in the midst of a difficult situation, God wants them to know His plans. In the preceding verses we see that a big part of God's plan is for them to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile" (Jeremiah 29:7). In other words, God wants them to know that His plans are not just to benefit them personally.

God's also telling them that He's not removing them from the situation immediately. He does promise to eventually restore them, but it's not coming quickly (70 years out, when many of them will [have passed away]). God's letting them know they can move forward [however], because in the eternal picture, God's justice will prevail and everything will even out.

Today, in the midst of difficult situations, God wants us to know He has a plan. He also wants us to know that as we submit to His plan that He desires to use us to bless the world around us.

The key still remains during both good and difficult times:

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (emphasis added)

I hope you have an amazing day!

- Jack