

**THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISUSED
VERSES FROM SCRIPTURE - Part VIII**

Reference: **Jeremiah 29:11**

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Jeremiah 29:11 is often used as a favorite and life verse and has been the recipient of much commercial success: greeting cards, T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc.

Reference: **Jeremiah 29:11** *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

Most people use this verse as a subconscious expectation as to how they perceive God wants to bless them here and now. The thinking is that this verse guarantees that God has a fantastic futuristic plan to bless them with material possessions and good health and profitable personal relationships and never to permit hurt and harm to come to them. But that idea completely ignores the historical and textual context of this verse.

In order to understand a particular biblical passage we must learn the difference between textual interpretation and textual application.

- Textual interpretation is determining what a text _____.
- Textual application is determining how a text _____ in a practical sense.

Explanation of the historical background to Jeremiah 29:11:

Notice three important things about this verse that help us better understand it and determine if it’s applicable to us in the twenty-first century.

FIRST, this promise was addressed to a _____ and not to _____.

This promise was addressed to the ancient Jewish nation called Judah and it wasn’t directed to individuals per se.

Footnote: There are two basic classifications of biblical prophecies:

- _____ fulfilled prophecies - prophecies made at some documented point centuries ago and then scheduled to be fulfilled at some unknown point in the future
- _____ fulfilled prophecies - prophecies first made at some documented point centuries ago and then also fulfilled at some documented point after that.

Jeremiah prophesied that the southern kingdom of Judah would be judged (i.e. the Babylonian captivity or Babylonian exile). He then prophesied that after 70 years those captive Judeans would be released and permitted to return and re-establish Judah.

Read **verses 4** and **10-14** (see screen)

SECOND, this promise was applicable primarily to ancient people that would still exist _____ from the time of that promise.

THIRD, this statement wasn’t an _____ - _____.

Question: Is **Jeremiah 29:11** appropriate to use as a favorite life verse? _____!