

Jeremiah 29:5, 7 (NIV)

Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce...

⁷ ...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

PRAY to the LORD for it, because IF IT prospers, YOU TOO will prosper.

Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar-- the LORD Almighty is his name:

Jeremiah 31:36 (NIV)

"Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me."

Jeremiah 31:37 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the LORD.

SEEING the UNSEEN Hand

Esther 4:1-17

There were an estimated **15 million Jews** scattered throughout the Persian Empire.

Because of Haman's hatred and the king's stupidity, **ALL** of them were now **schedule** to be **annihilated...**

→ GRIEF and MOURNING

are a proper response to

Suffering, Pain, and Injustice

→ For such a **TIME** as this –
that **IS** the **Unseen HAND** working

Jeremiah 31:35-36 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar - the LORD Almighty is His NAME:

³⁶ Only IF these decrees vanish from MY sight, declares the LORD, will the descendants of Israel ever CEASE to be a nation before ME.

**Fasting was ALWAYS a spiritual act
for the Jews.**

It served as a demonstration of deep
distress and mourning over sin, **OR**
an expression of utter dependence
on God for deliverance from an enemy.
**Fasting was a facet of prayer, an urgent
plea to God for mercy.** HOTC

**→ FAITH and TRUST lead to
ACTION**

¹⁶ Go, gather together ALL the Jews who are in Susa, and **FAST** for me.

...When this is done, **I will GO to the king**, even though it is against the law.
And if I perish, I perish.

Faith **INVITES** God into the midst
of **SUFFERING**.

With the halting breath of prayer

FAITH must speak,

and its very **utterance** attests

God's presence.

Daniel 3:17-18 (NIV)

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, **the God we serve is able to SAVE us from it,** and He will **rescue us from your hand,** O king. ¹⁸ But **even if He does not,** we want you to know, O king, that **we will not serve your gods** or worship the image of gold you have set up.

Jeremiah 29:5, 7 (NIV)

Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce...

⁷ ...**SEEK** the **peace and prosperity** of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

Pray to the **LORD** for it,
Because **IF** it prospers,
YOU TOO will prosper.

Jeremiah 29:10 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says:

When seventy years are completed
for Babylon, I will come to you and
fulfill my gracious promise to
BRING YOU back to this place.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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.**

Esther 4:14 (NET)

Don't imagine that because you are part of the king's household **you will be the one Jew who will escape.** If you keep quiet at this time, **liberation and protection for the Jews will appear from another source,** while you and your father's household perish.

It may very well be that
you have **achieved** royal status
for such a time as this!

Hebrews 12:10-11 (NIV)

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but **God DISCIPLINES us for our good**, that we may **SHARE** in his holiness.

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been **TRAINED** by **IT**.

¹² **THEN** you **will call upon ME** and come
and **pray to ME,**
and **I WILL LISTEN** to you.

¹³ You will **seek ME** and **FIND ME...**
...WHEN you **SEEK ME**
with **ALL** your **HEART.**

My life is but a weaving –
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors –
He weaveth steadily.

Oft' times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper –
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent –
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas –
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful –
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver –
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.”