

Jeremiah 29:5, 7 (NIV)

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

<sup>7</sup> ...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:

**<sup>36</sup> 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**

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> **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...

<sup>7</sup> ...**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.

<sup>11</sup> 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**.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.”