

Jeremiah 29:4-14

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, 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." Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. 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. 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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

"Hope alone is to be called 'realistic' because it alone takes seriously the possibilities with which all reality is fraught... Thus hopes and anticipations of the future are not a transfiguring glow superimposed upon a darkened existence, but are realistic ways of perceiving the scope of real possibilities... Hope and the kind of thinking that goes with it...do not strive after things that have no place but after things that have no place **yet**..." (Jurgen Moltmann Theology of Hope p25 in Edward Lindaman (President of Whitworth College in 1978) Thinking in the future Tense p169)

"An authentic human being is neither an end nor a beginning, but a link between ages... Every moment is a new beginning within the continuum of history. It is fallacious to ever segregate a moment and not to sense its involvement in both the past and the future. Humbly the past defers to the future but refuses to be discarded. Only he who

is an heir is qualified to be a pioneer.” (Abraham Heschel Who is Man p99 in Lindaman p155)

“Not until a man is finished with the future can he be entirely and undividedly in the present...But only by conquering it, is one finished with the future, and faith does exactly this, for its expectation is victory.” (Kierkegaard)

“Christian hope has its origin in the event of the resurrection of the crucified Christ. In his resurrection, hope is always kindled anew. In him, the future of righteousness and the passing of evil can be hoped for; in him the future of life and the passing of death can be hoped for; in him the coming of freedom and the passing of humiliation can be hoped for; and in him the future of men’s true humanity and the passing of inhumanity can be hoped for.” (Moltmann in Lindaman p175)

Hebrews 11:8-10 “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

“Fervent praying means confidence in God and an openness to his surprising leading.” (J. Andrew Dearman in NIV Application Commentary/Jeremiah, Lamentations p265)