

"The Way of the Exile" by Pastor Steve Durand

Lamentations 1:1-5 ¹ How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!

Lamentations 1:1-5 She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

² Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is no one to comfort her. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

³ After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.

⁵ Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁴ This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁶ 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.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:4-7 Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 31:10-17 ¹⁰ "Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

¹¹ For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. ¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well.

Jeremiah 31:10-17 I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the Lord. ¹⁵ This is what the Lord says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Jeremiah 31:10-17 ¹⁶ This is what the Lord says: "Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the Lord.

"They will return from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷ So there is hope for your descendants," declares the Lord. "Your children will return to their own land.

The experience of Exile

Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

Embracing Exile

Jeremiah 31:11

For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

The epitome of Exile

Jeremiah 31:15

This is what the Lord says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

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