

Sequim Community Church

Kingdom and Culture

Peace into Chaos

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Rev. Rick Dietzman, July 11 2021

- Jerusalem – city of peace (shalom)
“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.’” Psalm 122:6-7
- Babylon – confusion and scattering
“That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.” Genesis 11:9

A. What to do when you find yourself in Babylon

- **Plant and grow the family of believers.**
“Build homes, and plan to stay... Multiply! Do not dwindle away!” Jeremiah 29:4-6
- **Work for and establish peace (shalom) in the community.**
“Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you... Pray to the LORD for it, for its peace will determine your peace.” Jeremiah 29:7

B. Shalom – The way it’s supposed to be

- **A relational covenant ultimately fulfilled in eternity**
“I will make a covenant of peace (shalom) with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers... My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people”. Ezekiel 37:26-27
- **Love and compassion are what establishes it**
“My steadfast love (hesed) shall not depart from you and my covenant of peace (shalom) shall not be removed says the LORD who has compassion on you.” Isaiah 54:10

- Hesed - All the positive attributes of God—love, mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, benevolence, loyalty, covenant faithfulness; that quality that moves a person to act for the benefit of another without respect to the advantage it might bring.
- Loving kindness – *“Intentional hospitality toward someone with whom I agree or don’t agree, know or don’t know, like or don’t like.”* Rufus Smith, Pastor of Hope Church Memphis

*Courageous... Confusing... Compassion

C. Don’t let others be distracted from truth because of our tone.

- *“Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”* Romans 2:4
- *We who hated and destroyed one another, and... would not live with men of a different tribe, now... live familiarly with them, and pray for our enemies, and endeavor to persuade those who hate us unjustly to live in conformity to the good precepts of Christ.* Justin Martyr, 1st Apology to Emperor Antonious Pius c.150 AD
- *“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:14-16
- *“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.”* Revelation 21:2-3

CONCLUSION

(Rufus Smith’s entire 30 minute message on kindness can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/571885415>)