

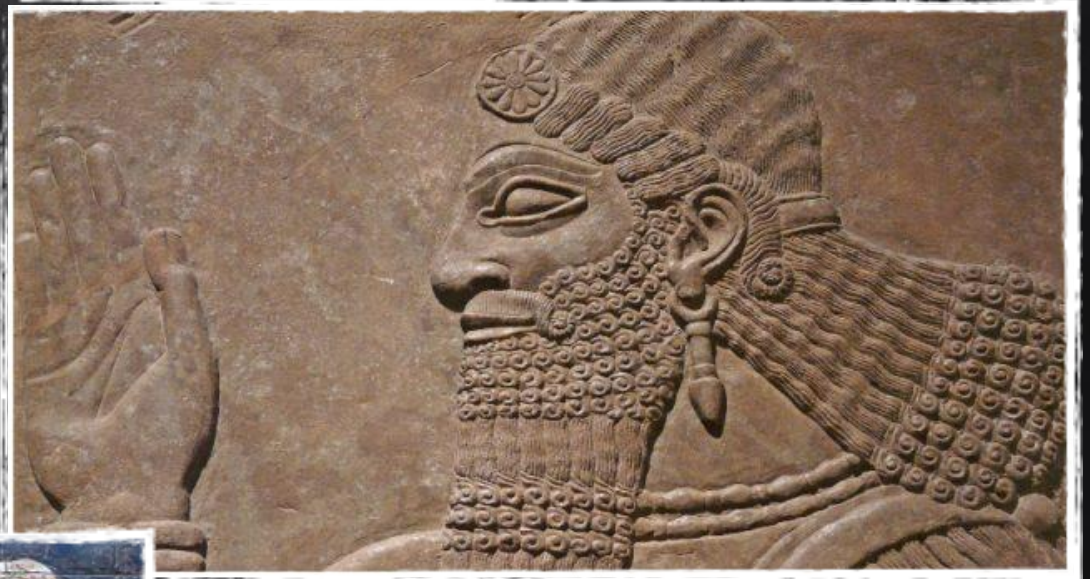
# “Reorienting in Disorienting Times”

*Daniel 1:1-2*  
*Jeremiah 29:1-10*



## Daniel 1:1-2 (ESV)

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.



**Nebuchadnezzar II**  
*Neo-Babylonian Emperor*  
(605 BC - 562 BC)



# *The Babylonian Exile*

**The Fall of  
Jerusalem  
(586 BC)**



*“And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely; I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid.”*

*(Leviticus 26:5-6; ESV)*

*“But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins... I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate... and I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation.”*

*(Leviticus 26:27-28, 31, 33; ESV)*

*“Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”*

*(2 Kings 20:17-18; ESV)*

## Jeremiah 29:1-2 (ESV)

1 These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.



## Jeremiah 29:3-4 (ESV)

3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: 4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

## Jeremiah 29:5-6 (ESV)

5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

## Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

7 But seek the welfare (*shalom*) of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

## Jeremiah 29:8-9 (ESV)

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

## Jeremiah 29:10 (ESV)

10 For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

# God's Words to those in Exile

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- “I have sent you into exile” (v. 4)
- “Do not decrease” (v. 6)
- “Don't listen to the false dreams” (v. 8)
- “When 70 years are complete, I will visit you, fulfill my promise, & bring you home” (v. 10)

## God's Invitation to those in Exile

- “Seek the welfare of the pagan city where I have sent you into exile & pray to the Lord on its behalf” (v. 7)

*“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing... and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

**(Genesis 12:2-3; ESV)**

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.”*

**(Romans 8:18-19; ESV)**

*In disorienting times, we have a choice to make:*

- **WITHDRAW** in despair, walling ourselves off from the world?
- **WAR** against our changing context in anger and disgruntlement?
- Allow our distinctiveness to **WASH OUT** as we fade into the image of the culture?
- Or **WITNESS** for God in this new time and place?