

Message 6 Destiny

Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

This sermon will help people understand how worship aligns us with God so we can discover our destiny.

INTRODUCTION:

After seventy long years in exile, the Israelites had nearly lost hope.

As they lived under pagan kings in a foreign land, they wondered if they would ever get back home.

And even if they did make it back to Israel, surely it wouldn't be the same.

The houses they had left would probably be in shambles and the crops they had spent so much time planting and energy



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harvesting would likely have been overtaken by weeds and ravished by hungry animals.

How could they keep hoping that their lives would get better when for seventy years, they had only gotten worse.

But then the prophet Jeremiah reminded the Israelites that their time in exile was almost up.

(Jeremiah 29:10) "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.

But first, God had to discipline His people for worshiping idols and for neglecting the Sabbath year for 490 years.

(2 Chronicles 36:20-21) He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.



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They bowed down to other so-called gods and refused to give the land rest each seventh year, as the Lord had commanded them.

(Exodus 23:10-11) "For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield,

11 but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

So God sent the Israelites to an idol-worshiping nation and gave the land of Israel the seventy years of rest it had missed during the 490 year that the Israelites had disobeyed God's command.

But the time had finally come for them to return. So God sent Jeremiah to remind the people that God didn't hold a grudge.

Though they had disobeyed Him, they had received His punishment and now God planned to restore them—to give them hope for the future.

God wanted His people to draw near to Him in humility, call on Him, and receive His guidance daily.



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The banished Israelites had forgotten their God was a God of hope, restoration, and grace.

With Him on their side, their future could only get better.

And Christians today have that same hope.

As we worship God and listen for His guidance, He will lead us to our destiny.

And even when difficult days come, we can always live with hope because the Lord walks with us each day.

1. BEGIN TO LIVE WITH HOPE AS GOD REVEALS YOUR DESTINY

Hope is a joyful expectation that tomorrow will be better than today.

Even when circumstances seem dark and confusing, God has a destiny for you.

2. IN DIFFICULT TIMES, HOPE IN GOD AND HIS DESTINY FOR YOUR LIVE.



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God gave a future and hope to Israel in the midst of their bondage in Babylon, their bad economy, and despite their bad choices.

God told His people that they would find Him, and their destiny, if they searched for Him with all their hearts.

You don't have to find your destiny—you just have to keep your eyes fixed on the Lord and He will guide you to your destiny.

3. LIVE WITH HOPE AS YOU FULFILL YOUR DESTINY.

Begin to live out your destiny today.

As we have already learned, God often uses your mistakes, sins, and heartaches to take you to your destiny.

If you're still alive, you have a future and hope.

God restores what our mistakes have broken and He often makes people more useful at the end of their lives than at the beginning.

Trust God as you fulfill your destiny.

Even though Samson let his passions get the best of him and disobeyed God, he is in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 because he trusted in God.



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As Samson trusted God at the end of his life, he fulfilled his destiny.

(Judges 16:28-30) Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes."

29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.

30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

(Hebrews 11:32) And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

DESTINY LOOKS FORWARD:

When we're driving in our cars, we don't spend a lot of time looking in the rearview mirror – a small piece of glass that gives a limited view backward. Instead, we spend



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most of our time looking forward, through our windshield, which is a much bigger piece of glass that shows us where we're going.

Likewise, Christians must keep their eyes focused on God as He leads them to their destiny.

Remember: where we're going is much better than where we've been.

That truth gives us hope! Focus on God And Fulfill Your Destiny.

“Even in the dark places, God has a plan for you.”

“The good news is you don't have to find your destiny.

You just have to find God and He will give you your destiny.”

“You have value before God so you have a destiny.”

“God is a junkyard specialist. He can take things that have been thrown away and turn them into masterpieces, demonstrating their awesome value.”



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