

1 Group

2 Message Timer Start: 40 Mins

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Jeremiah 29:1-3

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(This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

Jeremiah 29:1-3

4

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."

Jeremiah 29:4-9

5

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:

Jeremiah 29:4-9

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"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.

Jeremiah 29:4-9

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Why is the 4-fold important?

9



Why is the 4-fold important?

1. "My way or the highway" ignores three-quarters of the story.

10



Why is the 4-fold important?

1. "My way or the highway" ignores three-quarters of the story.

2. It helps us discern how 'minority politics' works in practice.

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12



The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel 1:5-8

13



The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 1:5-8

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15



Teach me what you want [1:4-5].

16



Teach me what you want [1:4-5].

Do not do it is not the same as do not understand it.

17



18



Call me what you want [1:7].

19



Call me what you want [1:7].

Daniel did not allow what he was called to stop him from doing what God called him to do.

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21



Live how you want [1:8].

22



Live how you want [1:8].

We mean that people do not respect us, but maybe we get what we give.

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1. People championing rigid responses stifle respectful resistance.

26



1. People championing rigid responses stifle respectful resistance.

2. People focusing on their moves, not God's movement, miss their calling.

27



1. People championing rigid responses stifle respectful resistance.

2. People focusing on their moves, not God's movement, miss their calling.

3. Discernment is crucial, and faithfulness to the mission is essential.

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