

Dwelling in the Word Jeremiah 29:4-9 Yellowstone Presbytery June 13, 2015

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

29 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among 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 court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.

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: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they 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. **7** But seek the welfare 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. **8** For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,[a] **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

Prayerfully reflect and ask the Holy Spirit:

1. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you in this passage?

2. How do you think Jeremiah's words were received by the Israelites in exile?

3. How are Jeremiah's words relevant to the 21st century church? Your congregation? Our Presbytery?