

Navigating the Transitions of Life

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

- I. **God always has good plans for His people, even in times of trouble or great change (Jeremiah 29:4-14).**
 - A. There was blessing even when surrounded by great enemies and trouble.
 - B. We are atmosphere-changers. We are blessed when we seek the blessing and prosperity of the city, town, or church we are placed in.
 - C. We are always the salt and light for our city (Matthew 5:13-16).
 - D. Example of my family—20 moves in 10 years, then a prophetic word: "You will move and move no more." We were looking for our prophetic destiny.
- II. **At an earlier time in Israel's history, God's plan for Israel was to stay—not leave. His will for them was to stay, even when there were serious threats to their safety (Isaiah 30:15-21).**
 - A. "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15).
 1. Repentance: changing your mind in response to fear and helplessness
 - a. Old Testament: Change your actions.
 - b. New Testament: Change your inner heart attitudes.
 2. Rest is the lovely experience of love and assurance the Spirit brings (Eph. 3:14-21).
 3. In all transitions believers can stay in a place of peace (Philippians 4:4-9).
 - B. We can choose to believe God's promises of provision or not (Psalm 91).
 - C. There is a way of escape from every problem. Find your wisdom path (I Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 6:13). "Temptation" can be translated "test."
- III. **The Lord longs to be gracious to you, and He longs to be gracious to others through you (Isaiah 30:15-18).**
 - A. God puts us in places where we can be His salt and light. This is our lifelong assignment. We are His change agents (Matthew 5:13-16).
 - B. Our giving to others is how God turns around and blesses us (Isaiah 58:6-12).
- IV. **As you cry out for guidance, listen for creative wisdom (Isaiah 30:19-21).**
 - A. Prayer is not desperation; it is a love exchange between God and His children.
 - B. Prayer brings creative solutions to our environment (Isaiah 30:20, 21).
 - C. What does "This is the way..." look like?
 1. More salvation for those around us
 2. More strength (Isaiah 40:31)
 3. More love, community, and relationship
 4. Out of great transition and tribulation come new opportunities, new businesses, new ideas, and new forms of provision, looking for more, not less (Romans 8:28).

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