

STAYING ON TRACK IN BABYLON

Jeremiah 29:21-32

21 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying a lie to you in my name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall strike them down before your eyes. 22 Because of them this curse shall be used by all the exiles from Judah in Babylon: "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire," 23 because they have done an outrageous thing in Israel, they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and they have spoken in my name lying words that I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, declares the LORD." 24 To Shemaiah of Nehelam you shall say: 25 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are in Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying, 26 'The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, to have charge in the house of the LORD over every madman who prophesies, to put him in the stocks and neck irons. 27 Now why have you not rebuked Jeremiah of Anathoth who is prophesying to you? 28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, "Your exile will be long; build houses and live in them, and plant gardens and eat their produce.'" 29 Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet. 30 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: 31 "Send to all the exiles, saying, 'Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah of Nehelam: Because Shemaiah had prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie, 32 therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah of Nehelam and his descendants. He shall not have anyone living among this people, and he shall not see the good that I will do to my people, declares the LORD, for he has spoken rebellion against the LORD.'

To faithfully persevere as exiles, we need to keep within the guard rails of God’s promises and warnings.

1. Don't Follow False Teaching That Will Distract you From What you Need Most.

Jeremiah 29:15-28, Lamentations 2:14, Ezekiel 33:25-26, Hebrews 3:15-19

What aspect of the warning for Babylonian exiles do we most need to heed today?

When we realize that nobody enters the promise land with an unrepentant heart, how should that impact our own attitudes and actions?

2. God's Exiles WILL Heed God's Warning and Seek to Live Well in Babylon.

Jeremiah 33:29-32, Matthew 10:32-33, Hebrews 10:35-39

How do warnings and promises in the Scriptures help to keep us from giving in to an antagonistic and tempting world?

What other promise and warning Scriptures can you find for helpful "guard rails" in life?

Church Announcements

- All Church activities will resume in the week of January 10

Special Request

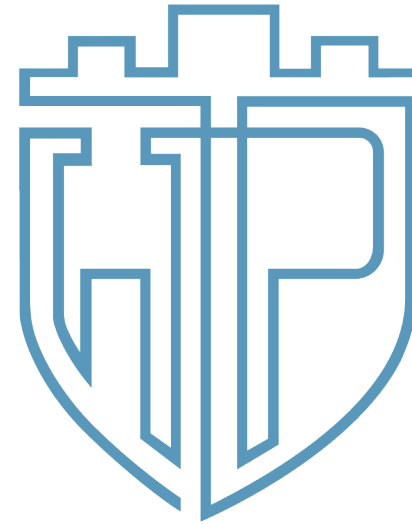
- Charles Hadaway in rehabilitation after more surgery.
- Pray for the Arvin family in their grief.

Giving Information

Traditional Giving: A box is located at the rear of the auditorium.

Online Giving: Visit www.HPBaptist.org/give and click the "Give" button to setup an account on Planning Center.

Text Giving: Text your gift amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.



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TO PREACH CHRIST
TO BECOME MORE LIKE
CHRIST

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