



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Jeremiah; Lamentations Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: Present

Sermon Title: "The Lord Knows"

Passage: Jeremiah 29:4-32

Connection to Session 7

God's people can trust Him in all circumstances because He knows everything.

Introduction/Opening

The more years we see, the more we realize our limits. We come to understand there is more to understand. Culture and political situations can surprise us even more. We don't even know ourselves and why we may wander from God's path. We for sure don't know the future and how to predict it. We may have plans for tomorrow, but we can't rigidly commit to those plans. We must remain flexible every day.

Judah heard a lot of conflicting messages about its status, its future, its relationship with God, and itself. The Lord spoke to Judah in Jeremiah 29 in sure and certain words about all these things. In doing so, He revealed some of the breadth of His knowledge. What does the Lord know?

Outline

- 1. The Lord knows Current Needs (Jer. 29:4-7).**
 - a. The false prophets discouraged Judah from "putting down roots" in Babylon. They misled Judah into believing they would soon return to the Promised Land. The Lord countered this message with commands to "put down roots" in Babylon.
 - b. The Lord knows our current reality better than anyone. We can seek counsel from many people about what we need to do and what we personally need to improve, but the best counsel comes from the Lord.

- 2. The Lord knows Future Direction (Jer. 29:8-11,24-32).**
 - a. The Lord called out the false prophets, including Shemaiah. He warned Judah not to listen to them about the future because He planned a better future for them.
 - b. It would be amusing if it were not so tragic that people seek first those who do not know the future and neglect Him who does. We must seek first the mind of God.

- 3. The Lord knows Real Spirituality (Jer. 29:15-19).**

- a. The Lord chastised those who remained in Judah. They took the word of the false prophets over the word of the Lord. They did not abandon spirituality. On the contrary, they still sought to be spiritual by listening to prophets. Their problem was that they listened to misleading prophets.
- b. Judah never abandoned Judaism. They mixed it with Baal worship and false prophets, and by doing so, muffled the voice of the Lord through Jeremiah.

4. The Lord knows Personal Secrets (Jer. 29:20-23).

- a. The Lord informed Judah that He would judge the king because of his private sins. These sins were not visible to Judah. They were secrets.
- b. The Lord knows what goes on in our lives behind closed doors, in the dark, and in secret. He knows this about everyone, and He can guide us to those who live in private with integrity and steer us away from those who do not.

Conclusion

God knows what we know, what we don't know, and what we wish we knew. Because He knows these things, He can guide us when we do not know what to do.

Ascertaining His guidance is not automatic, not even for His people. He said to Judah, "You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you" (Jer. 29:12-14a). We gain access to God's mind when God gains access to our heart. If we want God's guidance, we must seek the Lord in prayer and in His Word with a single heart. Our surrender to Him of our heart must be robust, rambunctious, and radical. This is the price for knowing the mind of God. The Lord does not withhold His guidance from those whose hearts are completely His.

David Mills is an itinerant Bible teacher based in Athens, Georgia. He has pastored churches, taught evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, and served on the evangelism staff of the Georgia Baptist Convention. He has earned degrees from East Texas Baptist University, Southwestern Seminary, and Southeastern Seminary. He and his wife Sherri Michelle have four children.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers.