

50 Bible Verses Everybody Should Know By Heart

Hope – In CONTEXT Of Where You Are

This memory verse we're dealing with is one you often see on wall plaques. It's often inscribed in beautiful *calligraphy* and printed over pictures of soaring eagles. You can even find it on key chains, coffee mugs, and decorative plates. But . . . it needs to be studied in context to be really appreciated and applied to our lives. When studied in context, this verse yields much insight into our lives and the hope we have.

Here's our verse: *Jeremiah 29:11*

"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.

Here's the CONTEXT for the verse that makes it just that more significant. This promise is given to Jewish Exiles in Babylon! The nation is reaping the harvest of sinful attitudes and actions of the past, but God is merciful and gives hope to people who do not deserve it! It's given to people living in exile, in a place that does not embrace their identity, values, and God.

Here's a helpful study guide for understanding and memorizing this verse.

1. Make the BEST of things (Vv 4-6).

Your not where you are by accident but by God's appointment. Don't be consumed by what you can't change. Settle down and get on with life.

2. PRAY where you are (Vs 7).

Pray for the peace (shalom) and prosperity of the place where you live – conditioned on the Gospel transformation of the hearts of people who do not know or love the Lord.

3. BEWARD the WRONG voices (Vv 8-9).

Everybody supposedly has a solution for the "wrongs" in society. Just don't buy into the message or the messengers that speak what is out of line with God's Word.

4. Take the LONG view (Vs 10).

What's wrong will not be corrected in a 30 second commercial sound bite or a 30 minute sitcom. Our long-term prospects are always better than our short-term prospects. Embrace the ETERNAL, not the time-bound view of life offered in Scripture. Don't develop "eternity amnesia"!

5. Get HOPEFUL about God's PLANS (Vs 11).

He is, after all, the One who made them and how both the power and the wisdom to pull them off.

6. Seek the LORD above all (Vs 13-14).

Everyone and everything else is cannot bear the weight of our hopes!

A Closing Thought . . . Think of Christ, Who lived in exile on this earth, away from His heavenly home. He came to this earth, worked, Prayed to God to bring His Shalom-Peace to earth, took the long view of life, gave genuine hope to all who would come to Him and embrace His plans to ultimately bring Jeremiah 29:11 to pass - through His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and future return to set up a New Heavens and earth!