

“‘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 (NIV))

September 2024

Dear Friend:

“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 NIV)

What an inspiring promise: that God “plans” or *intends* to prosper us, to give us peace, fulfillment, confidence, wholeness, well-being. This divine Presence protects us from “harm,” evil, disease, lack, pain, sorrow. The promise has many dimensions:

This promise is valid in any circumstance. When Jeremiah wrote these words, the government of Israel had been destroyed, its people taken into captivity. Even in that dire situation, Jeremiah reassured them that God was working His purpose out. So no matter what the present conditions are, this promise about His care is here with us.

These divine intentions are given to us. We don’t have to strive for them, be worthy of them, or earn them in some way. God is the great Giver, and we, as God’s own likeness reflect that in our own giving. This philanthropic giving might take the form of a warm word, a gentle nudge, or a listening ear.

God’s “plans” are a present reality. In Revelation it says: “God the all-Holder, the was and the being and the coming” (*Revelation 4:8, Greek Interlinear Bible, Scripture4All Publishing*). In other words, all times are one with Him: the was-ing, and the is-ing, and the become-ing are all the same. What is true in the “future” is true right now.

We certainly have our work to do to experience this peace, prosperity, and hope. Mary Baker Eddy writes: “Who would stand before a blackboard and pray the principle of mathematics to work out the problem? His rule is already established, and it is our task to work out the solution” (*Science and Health*, p. 3).

God’s intention and realization are one, and it is our privilege to participate in the proof of this promise. We do this by comforting others, encouraging them to seek the Lord for guidance, and by watching and proving the coinciding of promise and fulfillment.

May the hope *and* manifestation of this promise be with you now. We cherish the opportunity to work side by side with you in this great work,



Bruce L. Jeffrey
Executive Director