

## 4 Grace City Vision

### INTRODUCTION | The Plan of Shalom

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Today's scripture reveals the unexpected Plan of Shalom, which promises God's blessing (prosperity) upon us. God looks to do a wonderful thing in the midst of sorrow and suffering. First, let's clarify what God's Plan of Shalom brings to us. Second, how does the Plan of Shalom move forward, and what are some of the challenges along the way? Third, let's take a look at the fundamental element that makes the Plan of Shalom go forward.

### SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 29:4 – 14 (ESV)

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4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD. 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: (v.4, 8-9) How was the circumstance of Israelites when God's message of prosperity was spoken to them? What are some of the things you can reflect on this passage applying them to your daily life in Tokyo?
- 2: (v.10-11) God's plan gives us peace (Shalom: God makes everything whole in harmony in a perfect state), and how does this message bring you hope?
- 3: (v.4-7) What's the command of God to Israelites? This command must have baffled many of the exiles to Babylon. What were they perplexed about and why?
- 4: As a citizen of Tokyo, how should you respond to the exhortation of "seeking the welfare of the city, and pray to the Lord on its behalf"? Let's think in specific terms.
- 5: (v.12-14) What's the central element that drives God's Plan of Shalom forward?

## Reading (Reference) |

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### Grace City Vision

To reveal God's glory through a church planting movement; to renew lives; to restore the city and to build God's Kingdom, through proclaiming Christ's gospel of grace in the center of Tokyo.

## UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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Grace City Gospel 25<sup>th</sup> Mon

Lunchtime meeting Jinbocho 26<sup>th</sup> Wed

Lunchtime meeting Marunouchi 27<sup>th</sup> Wed

Lunchtime meeting Otemachi 28<sup>th</sup> Thu

Grace City Relief Tohoku Volunteer 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Obento Project 6<sup>th</sup> June

Picnic @Imperial Garden 7<sup>th</sup> June