

Trust, Submit, Wait

Jeremiah 29:1-14



Jeremiah 29:1-3

Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.) The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying...

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon,
“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. 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 have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.
For they prophesy falsely to you in My name;
I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD, “When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

“Then you will call upon 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,” declares the LORD, “and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Main Point

The LORD used the exile as a means of instruction: teaching His people how to trust Him, exhorting them to submit to His purposes, and encouraging them to wait on His promises.

Trust, Submit, Wait

What was the situation?



What was the situation?

Some were already exiled and were wondering about the future.

Jeremiah 29:1-2 and 4

Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

(This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.)

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon...



There were three stages in the exile of Judah:

1. In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar took some of the nobility to Babylon (e.g., Daniel and friends).
2. In 597 B.C. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin), his mother, and many others were taken to Babylon.
3. In 586 Nebuchadnezzar leveled the city after Zedekiah rebelled.

What was the situation?

Some were already exiled and were wondering about the future.

False prophets were claiming that restoration was imminent.

Jeremiah 29:8

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.”

Jeremiah 29:8

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your **prophets who are in your midst**
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.”

There were false prophets with
the people in captivity as well as
false prophets back in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 28:1-4

Hananiah...the prophet...spoke...saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts... ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD’s house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I am also going to bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’”

Jeremiah 28:1-4

Hananiah...the prophet...spoke...saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts... ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all

the vessels of the LORD’S house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.

I am also going to bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’”

Jeremiah 28:1-4

Hananiah...the prophet...spoke...saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts... ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all

the vessels of the LORD’S house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.

I am also going to bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares the LORD,

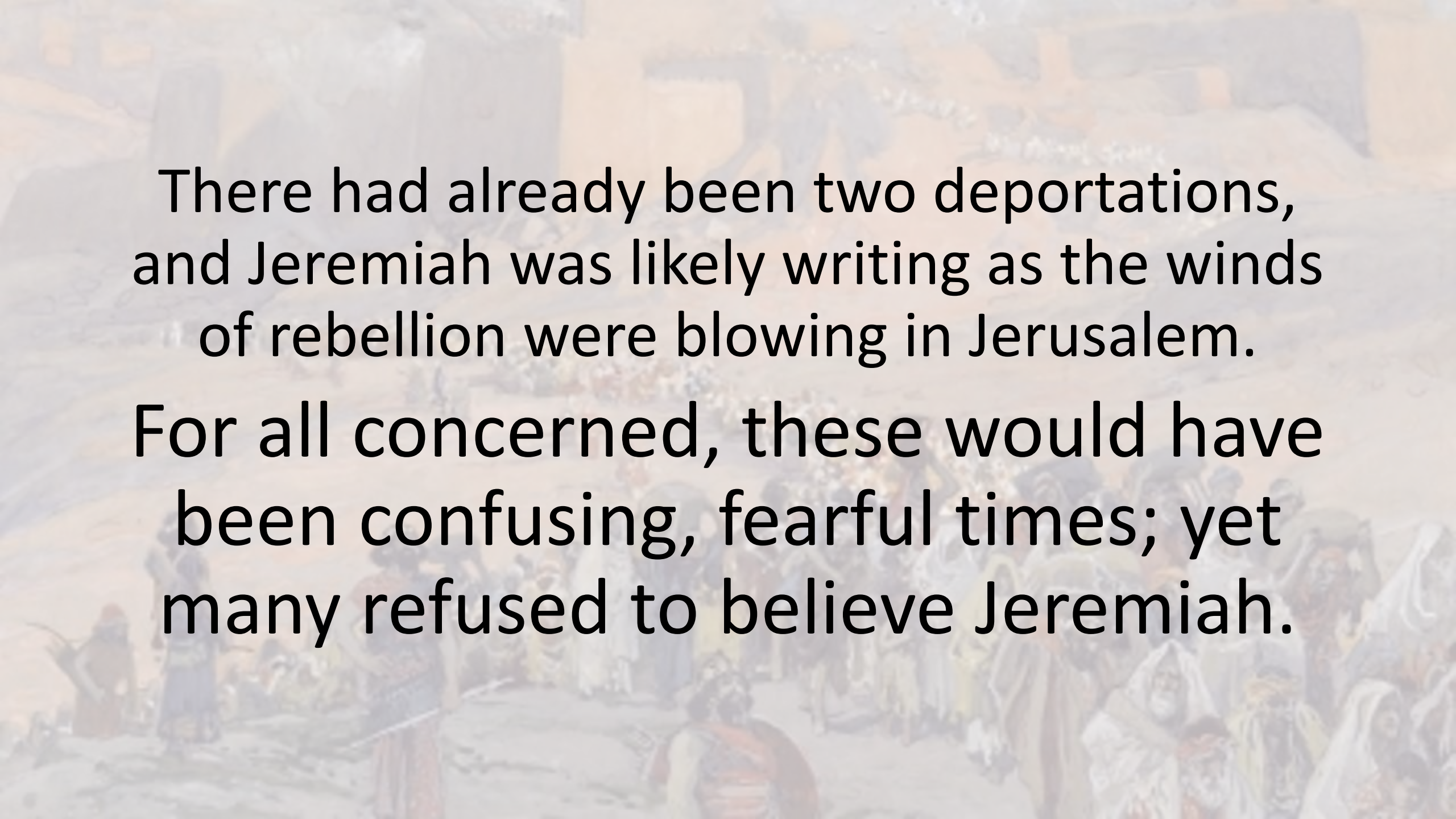
‘for **I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.”**

What was the situation?

Some were already exiled and were wondering about the future.

False prophets were claiming that restoration was imminent.

The people were confused and fearful,
and many were obstinate.



There had already been two deportations, and Jeremiah was likely writing as the winds of rebellion were blowing in Jerusalem.

For all concerned, these would have been confusing, fearful times; yet many refused to believe Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,

“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners **deceive you,**
and do not listen to the dreams which they dream.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and **do not listen to the dreams which they dream.**

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,

and do not listen ***your*** dreams which ***you*** dream.

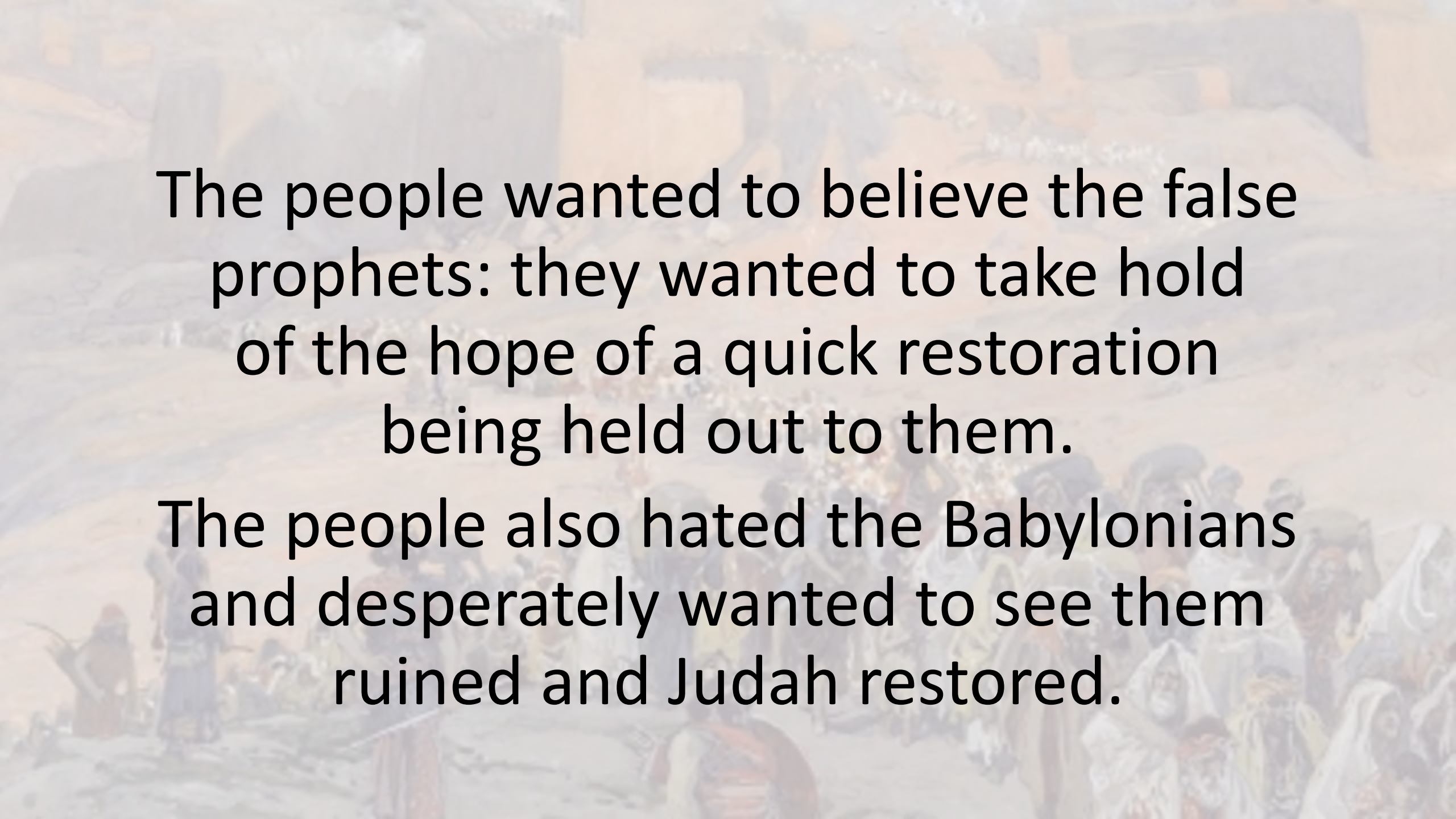
Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,

and do not listen ***your*** dreams which ***you*** dream.

Jeremiah 29:15

“Because you have said,
‘The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon...’”



The people wanted to believe the false prophets: they wanted to take hold of the hope of a quick restoration being held out to them.

The people also hated the Babylonians and desperately wanted to see them ruined and Judah restored.

Jeremiah 14:13

But, “Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“Look, the prophets are telling them,
‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine,
but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’”

Jeremiah 28:3-4

“Within two years...
I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.”

Trust, Submit, Wait

What was the situation?

What was the message?



What was the message?

These prophets are lying to you
and giving you false assurance.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen your dreams which you dream.
For they prophesy falsely to you in My name;
I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,

“Do **not let your prophets** who are in your midst

and your diviners **deceive you,**

and do not listen your dreams which you dream.

For they prophesy falsely to you in My name;

I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen your dreams which you dream.

**For they prophesy falsely to you
in My name;**

I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:8-9

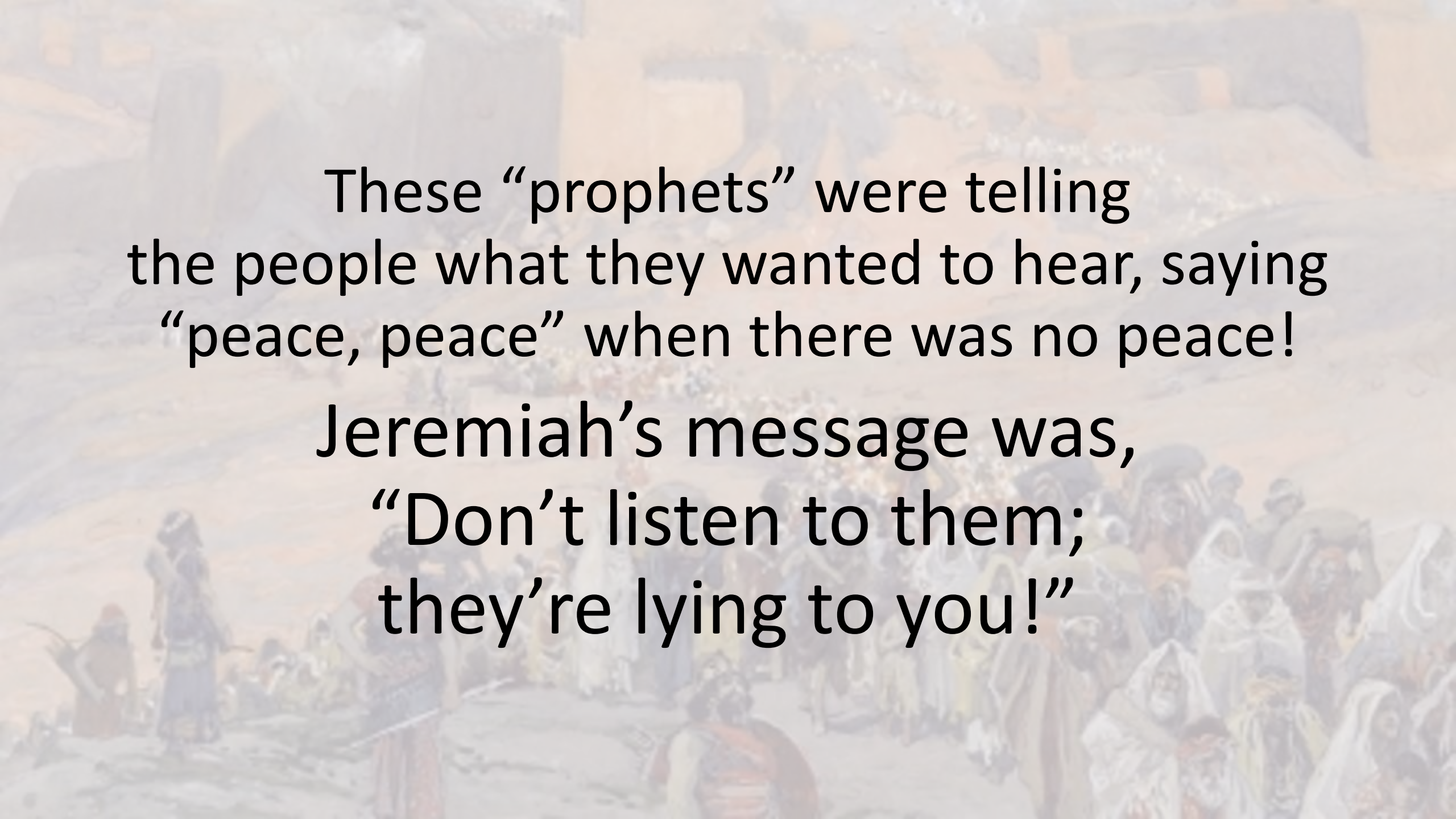
For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,
“Do not let your prophets who are in your midst
and your diviners deceive you,
and do not listen your dreams which you dream.
For they prophesy falsely to you in My name;

I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

Remember what they were saying?

Jeremiah 14:13

But, “Ah, Lord GOD!” I said,
“Look, the prophets are telling them,
‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine,
but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’”



These “prophets” were telling
the people what they wanted to hear, saying
“peace, peace” when there was no peace!

Jeremiah’s message was,
“Don’t listen to them;
they’re lying to you!”

What was the message?

These prophets are lying to you and giving you false assurance.

The LORD has decreed a 70-year captivity.

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD,
“When seventy years have been completed for Babylon,
I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you,
to bring you back to this place.”

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD,

**“When seventy years have been
completed**

for Babylon,
I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you,
to bring you back to this place.”

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD,

“When seventy years have been completed for Babylon,

I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you,

to **bring you back to this place.”**

Jeremiah 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD,

“When **seventy years** have been completed for Babylon,
I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you,
to bring you back to this place.”

Among many sins, the people had failed to give the land its Sabbath rests, and the 70 years were likely the accumulated Sabbath years over a 490-year period.

2 Chronicles 36:20-21

Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths.

All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

2 Chronicles 36:20-21

Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths.**

All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

This was judgment, but it also pointed to future restoration.

What was the message?

These prophets are lying to you and giving you false assurance.

The LORD had decreed a 70-year captivity.

**Settle down:
your return is not imminent.**

Jeremiah 29:8-10

Do not let your prophets...deceive you...
for they prophesy falsely to you...

For thus says the LORD, “When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and **plant gardens and eat their produce**. Take wives and become the fathers of sons

and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat

their produce. **Take wives and become the
fathers of sons
and daughters**, and take wives for your sons and give

your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons
and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons

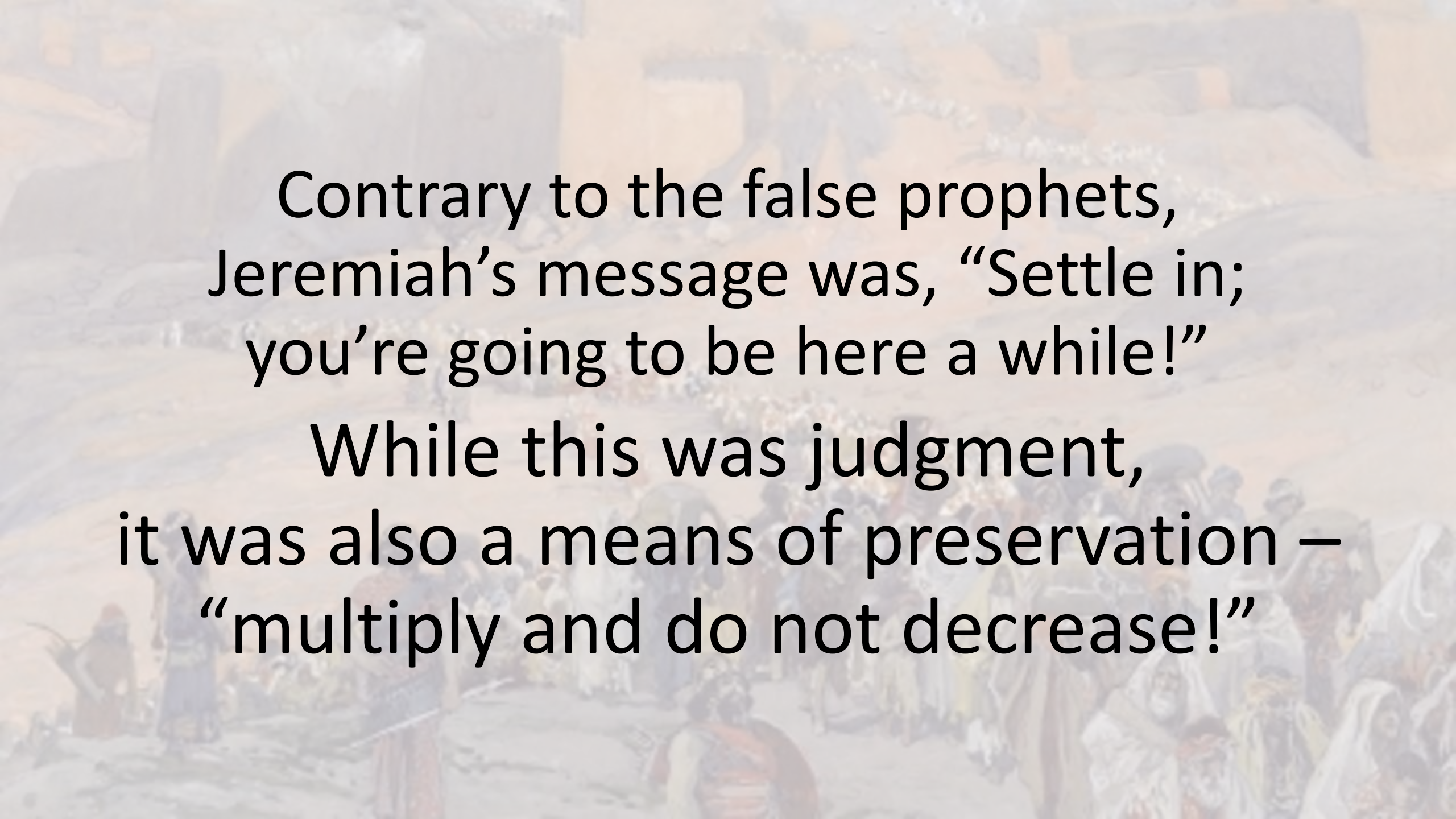
and daughters, and **take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters**; and multiply there and do not decrease.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...

“Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons

and daughters; and **multiply there and do not decrease.”**



Contrary to the false prophets,
Jeremiah's message was, "Settle in;
you're going to be here a while!"

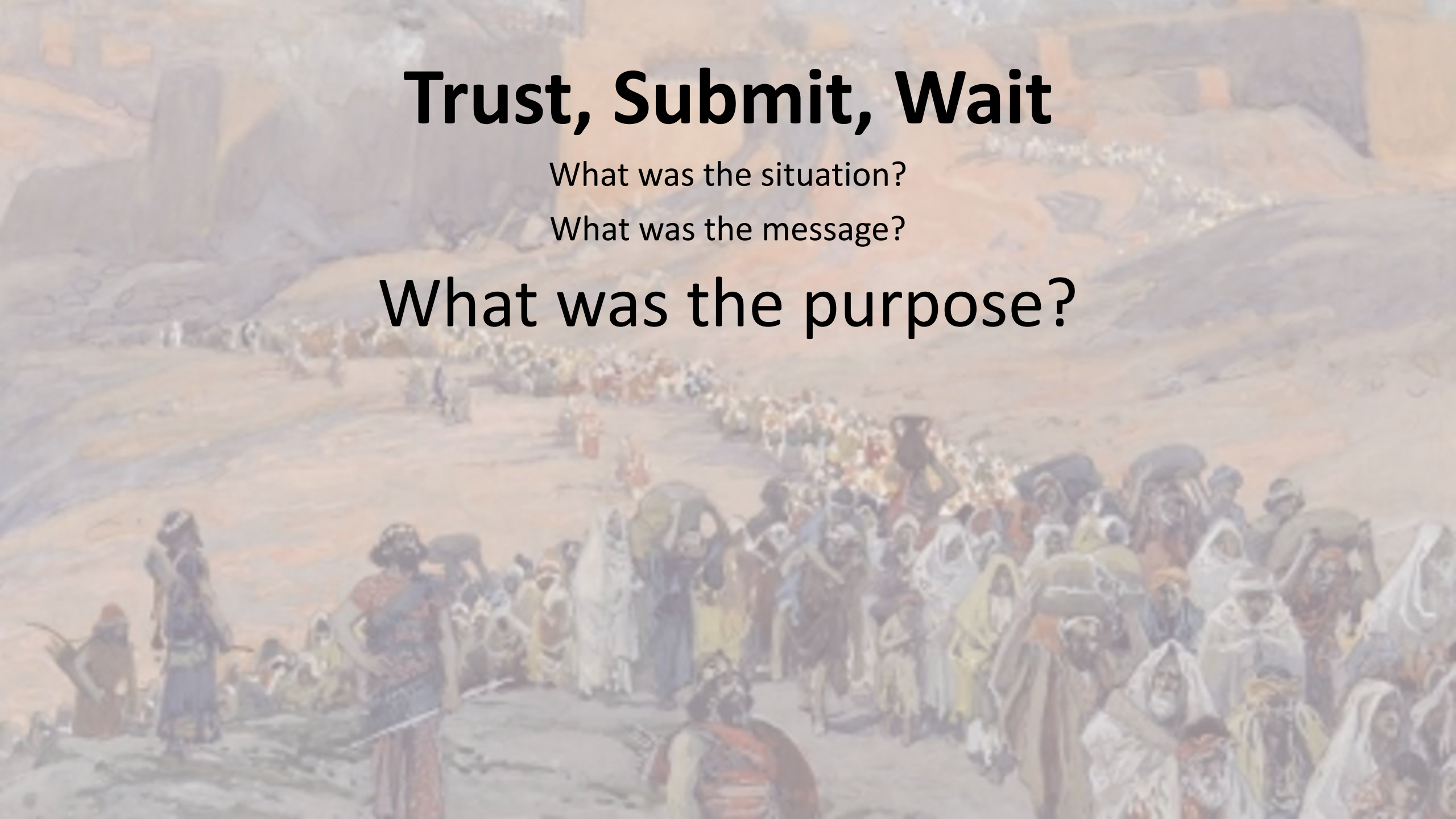
While this was judgment,
it was also a means of preservation –
"multiply and do not decrease!"

Trust, Submit, Wait

What was the situation?

What was the message?

What was the purpose?



What was the purpose?

To teach the people how
to trust the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:7

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD
and whose trust is the LORD.”

Psalms 130:7

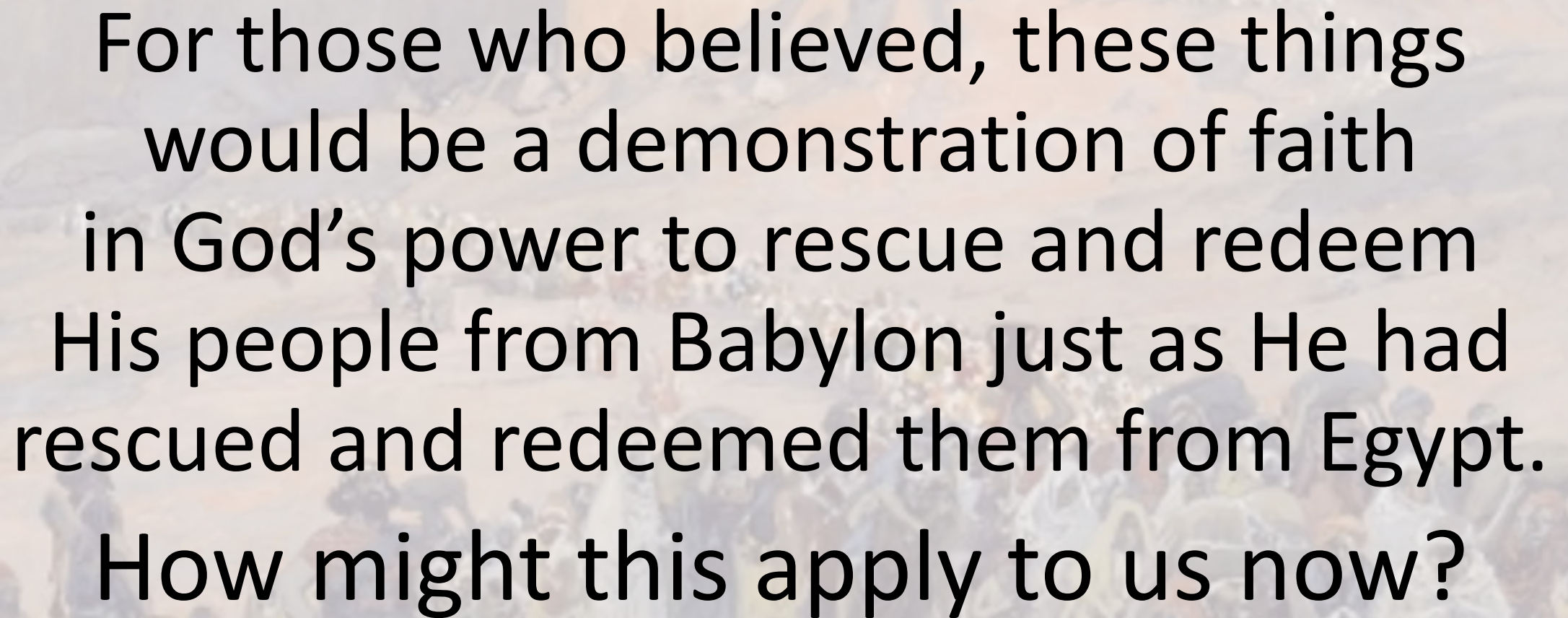
O Israel, hope in the LORD;
For with the LORD there is lovingkindness,
And with Him is abundant redemption.

How would they trust and hope?

Jeremiah 29:5-7

“**Build houses** and live in them; and **plant gardens** and eat their produce. **Take wives** and **beget sons** and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and **multiply there** and do not decrease.”

How would these things demonstrate faith?



For those who believed, these things would be a demonstration of faith in God's power to rescue and redeem His people from Babylon just as He had rescued and redeemed them from Egypt. How might this apply to us now?

What was the purpose?

To teach the people how to trust the LORD.

To exhort the people to submit
to His purposes.

Jeremiah 29:7

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 have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

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 have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

Seek the *peace* of the city where I have sent you into exile,
and pray to the LORD on its behalf;
for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

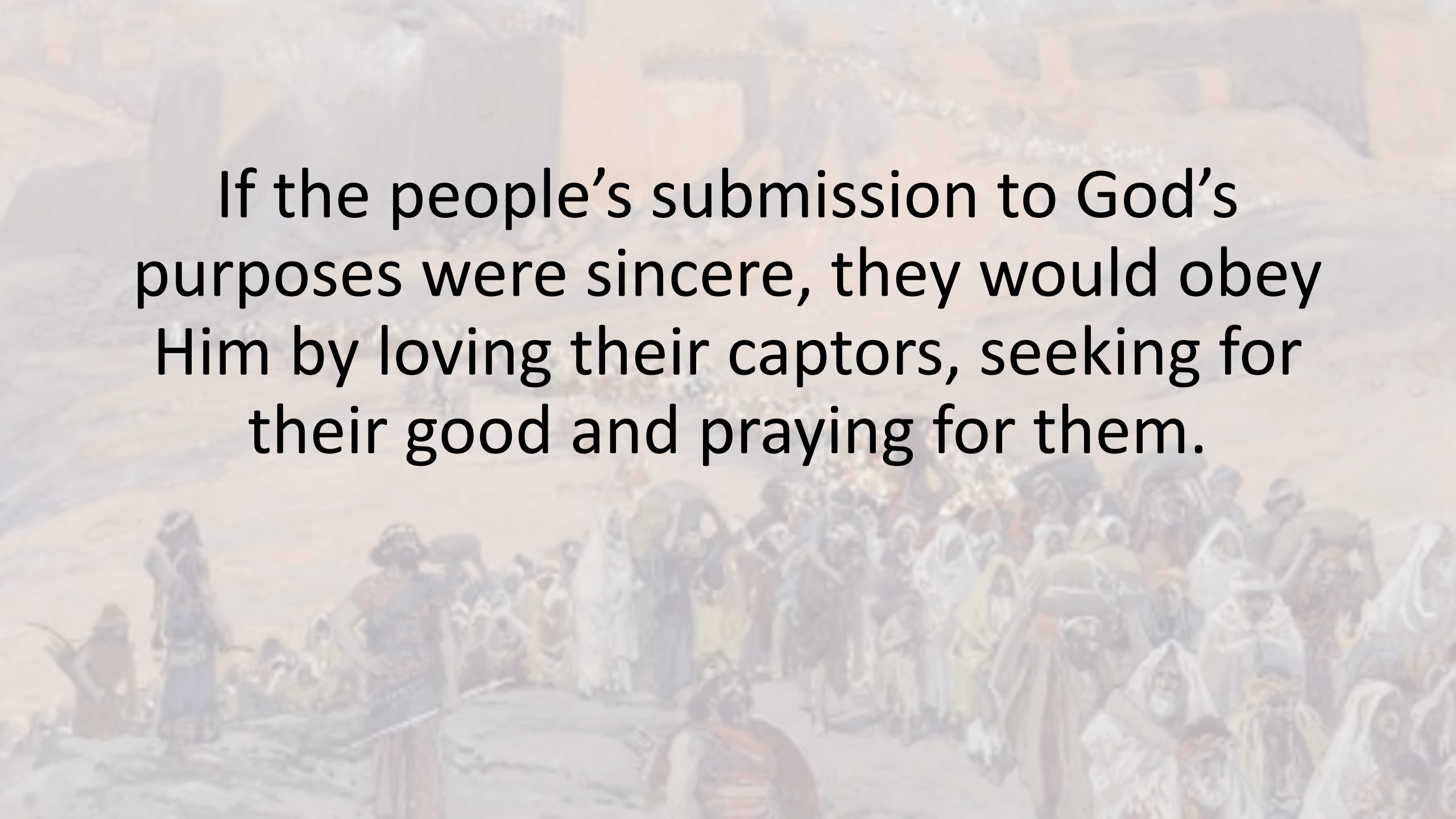
Seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile,

and **pray to the LORD on its behalf;**

for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you.



If the people's submission to God's purposes were sincere, they would obey Him by loving their captors, seeking for their good and praying for them.

Jeremiah 29:7

Seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile,
and **pray to the LORD** on its behalf;
for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

Seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile,
and pray to the LORD on its behalf;

for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7

Seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile,
and pray to the LORD on its behalf;

for in its *peace* you will have *peace*.

Obedience to the commands of God
is not only right, but it also redounds
to the good of His people!

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the LORD, “plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,”

declares the LORD, “plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the *thoughts I think* toward you,”

declares the LORD, “plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”

What is the point of this statement?

Isaiah 55:8

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 29:9-11

“For they prophesy falsely to you in My name...
but I know the thoughts I think toward you...”

Are you willing to submit
to my good purposes?

What was the purpose?

To teach the people how to trust the LORD.

To exhort the people to submit to His purposes.

To encourage the people to wait
on His promises.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the LORD, “plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,”

declares the LORD, **“plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”**

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,”

declares the LORD, **“plans for peace and not for evil
to give you a future and a hope.”**

The was a message encouraging
the people to trust the Lord and
wait on His promises to them.

Jeremiah 29:12-14

“Then you will call upon 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,” declares the LORD, “and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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," declares the LORD, "and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you," declares the LORD, "and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile."

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,”
declares the LORD, “and I will restore your fortunes
and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,”
declares the LORD, “and I will restore your fortunes
and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,**

declares the LORD, “and I will restore your fortunes
and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,”

declares the LORD, “and **I** will restore your fortunes

and **will gather you from all the nations**

and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,”

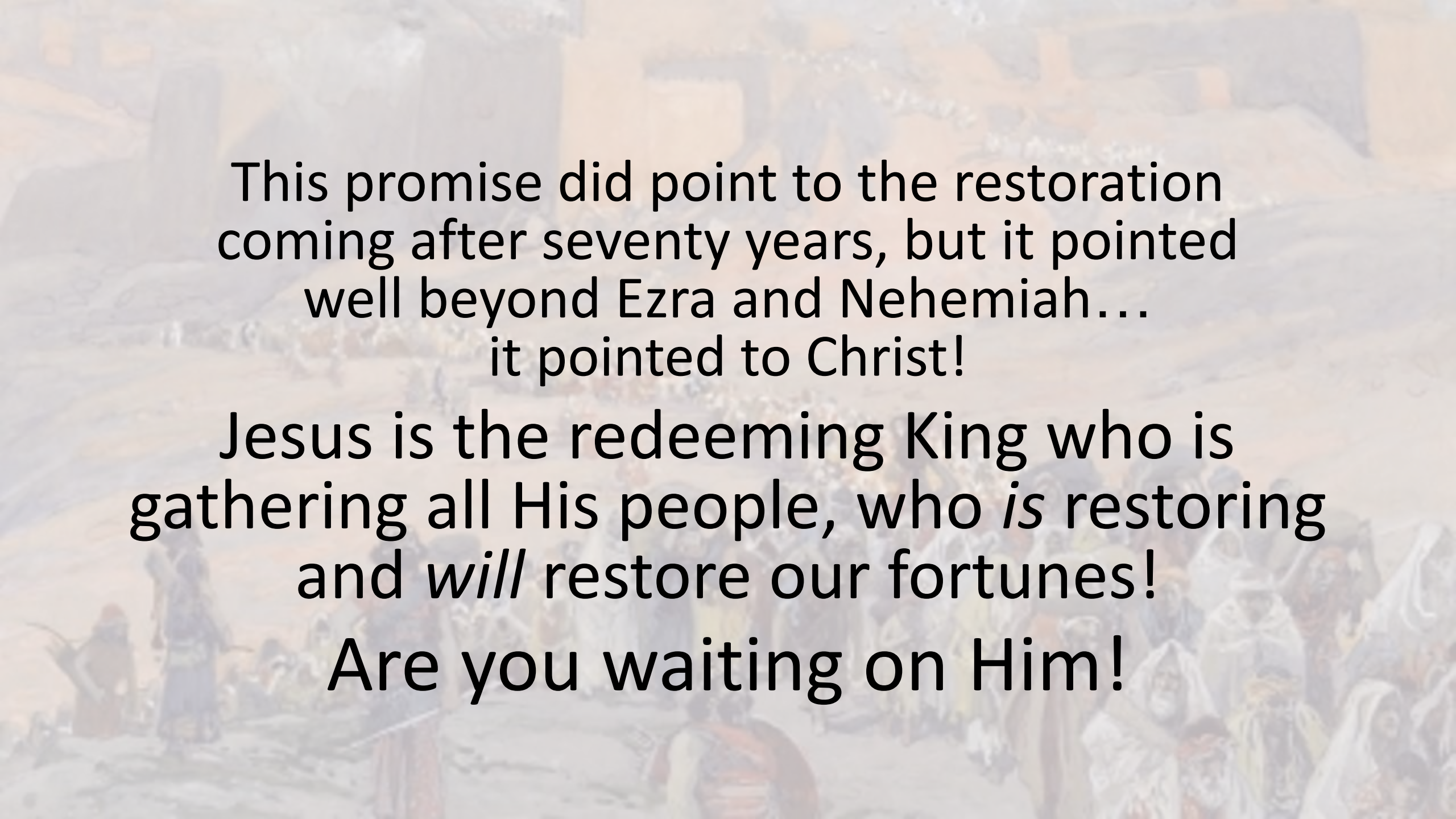
declares the LORD, “and **I will restore your fortunes**
and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14

Then you will call upon 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,”

declares the LORD, “and **I will restore your fortunes**
and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places
where I have driven you,” declares the LORD, “and I will
bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”

Jeremiah was calling the people to trust
the Lord and wait on His promises.



This promise did point to the restoration coming after seventy years, but it pointed well beyond Ezra and Nehemiah...
it pointed to Christ!

Jesus is the redeeming King who is gathering all His people, who *is* restoring and *will* restore our fortunes!

Are you waiting on Him!

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Concluding Questions:

What would it look like for you to trust the Lord in your current circumstances?

What would it look like for us to submit to the Lord during the time of our earthly citizenship?

How can we help one another focus on our eternal hope and wait well for His promises?