

WHAT IS GOD THINKING ABOUT

TEXT: *Jeremiah 29:11-12:*
¹¹ “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you”, saith the LORD, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
¹² Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you.”

From the beginning of the history of the human race, God has carefully and repeatedly warned in His Word — the Bible — that Satan is determined to misrepresent Him to the hearts of mankind. Satan will stoop to anything to leave every impression that our Lord is a tyrant Who hates us and plans to send us all to a burning Hell.



Since our heart knows we are not fit for Heaven, we tend to despair and to hate the Lord, for we fear the natural consequences of our sinning. To those who have false hopes and false securities, Jeremiah gives the warnings from God’s heart — a heart tender in love and compassion to every deceived, lost soul.

He shares God’s thoughts toward us — God’s comforting Words to any of His people who are in perplexity, and thus carried away captive. God’s people sometimes get into bondage when not walking in the Light, as He is in the Light.

1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The children of Israel did not walk in God’s light and were carried away into captivity to Babylon. Yet while there, God sends them these comforting words through the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 29:10: For thus saith the LORD, “That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform My good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.”

God’s assurance is of kindness. He urges us to trust and not be afraid. Though trials are severe, His thoughts are drifting our way.

Jeremiah 31:3: The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

David felt the depth of God’s love when he went astray and brought reproach on the cause of Christ, and got into captivity. *“I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me.”*

... His thoughts toward us are those of a lover to His beloved.

Psalm 40:17: But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: Thou art my help and my Deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

The Lord not only thinks about us – but His thoughts toward us are those of a lover to His beloved. *“I will not forget thee . .*

Isaiah 49:15: Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

God speaks these heart-warming words. Here is the proof of the Lord’s thoughts toward us. His thoughts toward us are such that He arranged everything about us, and provided a means of deliverance for our every weakness.

We needed salvation and deliverance from our sins. He made provision thru sending His only begotten Son into the world to give His life a ransom for us all.

We need power to live the life of a Christian. God’s thoughts are for our good, so He sends the Holy Ghost to give us power.



We need a protection from danger, and He provides His angels to be ministering spirits.

Psalms 34:7: The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

He will not forget His own redeemed ones, and speaks of His thoughts toward us:

John 14:3: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

This is the way we know He never forgets His own.

LISTEN to His words:

Isaiah 27:3: "I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day."

This great expression of the love of God for His Church is not readily comprehended in the fullness of its power, nor is it always believed as it should be by us. Thus, God repeats these same words three times — as if to seem almost unnecessary — as they are His thoughts toward us. He will make sure that His people feel absolutely sure that not only did He *act* toward or on behalf of them, but that He still *thinks* about them!

Do you see how satan can misrepresent the truth of the Word and try to warp and twist, or wrest, the Scriptures to destroy your souls?

THOUGHTS OF PEACE



In our text, the next expression of his thoughts are: "thoughts of peace", and in this thoughtfulness we gain our greatest comfort. A person may happen to do you a good turn, but if you are sure he did it by accident or with no more thought than a passing stranger throws a penny to a beggar, you are not impressed with gratitude. But then, if the action of your friend is the result of earnest forethought, and you see he acts in the tenderest regard to your welfare, you are the more thankful.

**Remember,
there is no
thoughtless
action on the
part of our Lord.**

Remember, there is no thoughtless action on the part of our Lord. His mind goes with His hand. His heart is in His acts. He thinks so much of His people that the very hairs of their heads are numbered. He tells us, concerning our physical welfare: *How much more will your heavenly father clothe you, oh ye of little faith.*

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

There is a provision made for your needs. God's thoughts toward you are, and they are "*Thoughts of peace.*"

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Ephesians 2:14: For He is our peace, Who hath made both one [Jews and Gentiles], and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as

the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Oh, sinner, can you live another day without this matchless Friend?

GOD'S THOUGHTS ARE OF PEACE. AND NOT EVIL OR JUDGMENT.

These expressions are not placed by accident in this Word of God. God declares His thoughts to lessen the error of our own perverted minds and corrupt hearts from listening to the lying spirit or darkness which is in those of you who are **not** born again.

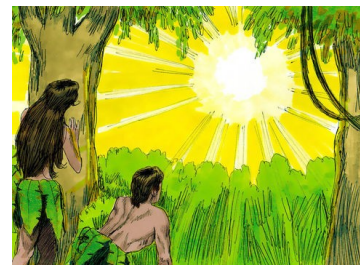
The Lord recorded these scriptures so would *know* that His thoughts toward us are sure, settled, and definite.

We hardly know our own thoughts, and they frequently change like the weather. Therefore, we do not know our own hearts. You need not be ashamed of this, for it shows you have a just sense of your imperfect knowledge.

Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

A fool soon makes up his mind because there is so very little there to make up, but a wise man waits and considers.

The case is far otherwise with God. The Lord is not a man that He should need to hesitate. His infinite Mind is made up. He knows His thoughts, "*thoughts of Peace*", but we are at war with God. Every sinner is an adversary, and we were born with our backs toward God. God must come to Adam in the Garden and call him out who had sinned and is trying to hide from Him.



“AND NOT OF EVIL”

The next time the devil comes to you with dark insinuations that God has forsaken you, or that God is your enemy, or that God doesn't care for you, or that God is waiting for the hour to punish you — let the enemy see the Word of God as authority that his foul suggestions are deceptions and lies.

God cannot have evil thoughts toward us.

Romans 8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

We see only the beginning. God sees the end from the beginning. We see this when we read about Samson, Peter, and the prodigal son. Perhaps you despair because the Lord is bringing your sin to remembrance. But indeed, there is a purpose in His sending you into captivity, because it is there you will find He means it for your good, and His thoughts are of peace and not evil. He longs to bring you to your senses and get you back in harmony with Him, for He *cannot* take us to Heaven with an unclean heart.

You are being shut in by the law to condemnation that you might be set at liberty by Christ. You are being stripped of self-righteousness that you might be clothed with the robe of HIS Righteousness. You are being emptied, dear hearts, that you might be filled.

If you could see the end from the beginning, you would rejoice that you are made to know your *true* condition. You shall be driven to the Cross to find rest from your load thru Christ Jesus. So God is working – always – to an end. All the thoughts He thinks are here in the next word He expressed: “

“TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END”

Today God is speaking to some of you, His children, who are vexed daily with conflict within over an inward corruption. You have found that the “*old man* and the *old lady*” [*the carnal nature*] is still alive, within. The old nature in the Christian is no better than the old nature in the sinner. It is the same carnal mind that is at enmity against God, and is not reconciled, neither can be.

The new nature has a hard struggle to hold its own against this bold spirit of flesh. We are, as it were, chained to a rotting carcass. We cry . . .



Romans 7:24: O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Do not despair because of this experience. It is better to mourn over our imperfections than to be puffed up with the idea that we need nothing from the Lord.

You have been carried away captive by the flesh, whether you realize or not – even you who claim to be Spirit-filled and believe in holiness.

You are in captivity. There is no Hallelujah, no shout, no joy. You try to put on a good front, but in your heart you know you are bound. Remember the Lord's thoughts toward you are of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end. He wants to deliver you – to set you free — and so shall you glorify Him Who is your liberator.

To those of you who are being chastened, take note:

**Hebrews 12:6a: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth,
Romans 12:11b: . . . nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable
fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

This is God's expected end.

God's thoughts are of refining you. Believe His thoughts are peaceable, and that He designs your highest good. LISTEN:

Job 5:17: Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Proverbs 3:11: My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of His correction:

**Hebrews 12:5:
And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:**

Thank the Lord for the clouds, for they produce the rain. God forbid that we should always cry for the sunshine – for that would mean drought. He has an expected end in view. Praise the Lord!



Now, you wonder why the Lord delays His Coming. Thoughts arise in your heart of eating, drinking, and having a big time. “*The Lord waiteth with great patience for the fruit of the earth, until it receive the early and the latter rain.*” We would like the Lord to pick the fruit before it is completely ripened. But He waits, and when it is ripe, He tenderly gathers in the precious fruit of the earth — whom you and I expect to be — in His expected place for us.

Sinners, there is an expected end for you, too.

2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

This is the end:

John 3:16: [The Words of Jesus] “For God so loved the world that He [thoughts of peace] gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [thoughts of you, dear friend] in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” [An expected end.]

Jeremiah 24:7: *“And I will give them an heart to know Me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart. [An expected end]*

He expects us to be ready . . .

Matthew 25:6:

⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.

⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

¹² But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.



In conclusion: How can you get ready? How can you approach Him to Whom you are a stranger? Here it is given simply in the next two verses:

Jeremiah 29:12: *Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you.*

Praise the Lord!

Jeremiah 29:13: *And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.*

What glorious encouragement! Who can give it but He Who sealed it with His Blood to purchase our pardon.

Zechariah 8:14-15:

¹⁴ For thus saith the LORD of Hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked Me to wrath, saith the LORD of Hosts, and I repented not:

15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

Isaiah 27:3: I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.

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