

A dark, atmospheric street view of a city, likely New York City, with tall buildings lining the street. A bus is visible in the foreground, and the text "ENGAGING CULTURE" is overlaid in white with a yellow horizontal bar behind it.

ENGAGING CULTURE

ENGAGING CULTURE

Jeremiah 29 ⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵ Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

⁶ Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters-- that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

ENGAGING CULTURE

⁷ And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.

⁹ For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD.

ENGAGING CULTURE

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

ENGAGING CULTURE

¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

ENGAGING CULTURE

Three Ways to Oppress or Exclude a people

- Expel them: drive them out
- Subjugation: hold them down
- Assimilation: become one of us



ENGAGING CULTURE

Two Agendas the Jewish Exiles must Avoid

- Babylon's Agenda: Assimilation
- Judah's Agenda: Tribalism



ENGAGING CULTURE

⁵ Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

⁶ Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters-- that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

⁷ And **seek the peace** of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; **for in its peace you will have peace.**

ENGAGING CULTURE

Three Agendas for the Jewish Exiles

- Babylon's Agenda: Assimilation
- Judah's Agenda: Tribalism
- **God's Agenda: Shalomism** (is that a word?)
 - Seek the peace of Babylon (wellbeing, flourishing, prosperity)

ENGAGING CULTURE

Hebrews 13:12-14 ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.