



# TRUE SECURITY

True Security is found in **who I am**  
as a child of God and **obedience**  
to the teachings of Jesus.

God wants his children to be  
aliens, ambassadors, advocates,  
and have acumen.

# Jeremiah 29

The empire of Babylon has invaded  
and taken Israelites back to their  
nation as captives.

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining exiled elders, the priests, the prophets, and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had deported from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, the queen mother, the court officials, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metalsmiths had left Jerusalem. He sent the letter with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

-Jeremiah 29:1-3

This is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles I deported from Jerusalem to Babylon.

-Jeremiah 29:4

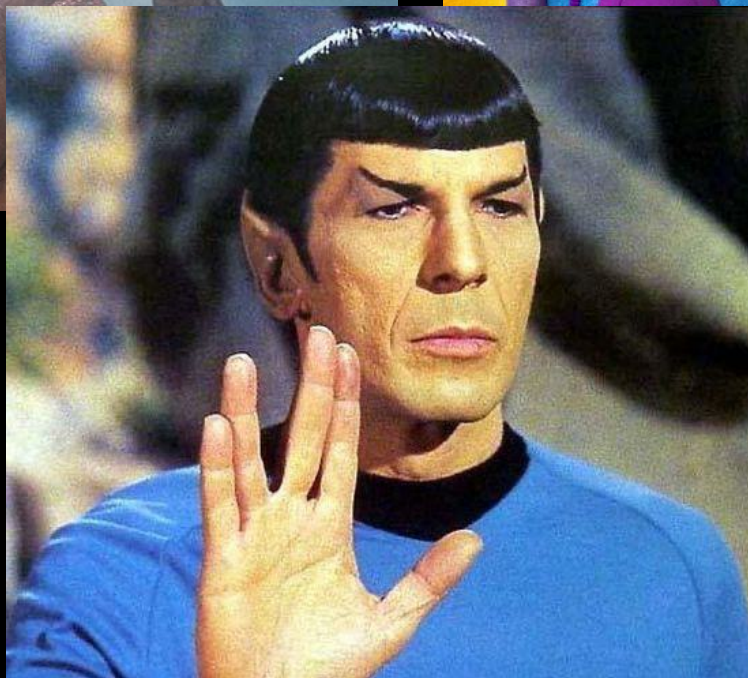
This is a letter from home.

<sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Find wives for yourselves, and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and give your daughters to men in marriage so that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.

<sup>8</sup> For this is what the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Don’t let your prophets who are among you and your diviners deceive you, and don’t listen to the dreams you elicit from them, <sup>9</sup> for they are prophesying falsely to you in my name. I have not sent them.” This is the LORD’s declaration.”

-Jeremiah 29:5-9





For an alien, this world is not their home.



Live like a tourist





Live like a tourist



Jump in with both feet



In the world,  
not of the world.

-John 17

~~Live like a tourist~~

~~Jump in with both feet~~





As an alien,  
don't be  
surprised if  
you stand out  
because  
you're  
different.







An ambassador represents the organization, company, or country they serve.

An ambassador must  
intimately know whom  
they're representing.

An ambassador must  
intimately know the country  
they are ambassador to.



A Christian's allegiance is  
to the Kingdom of Heaven.

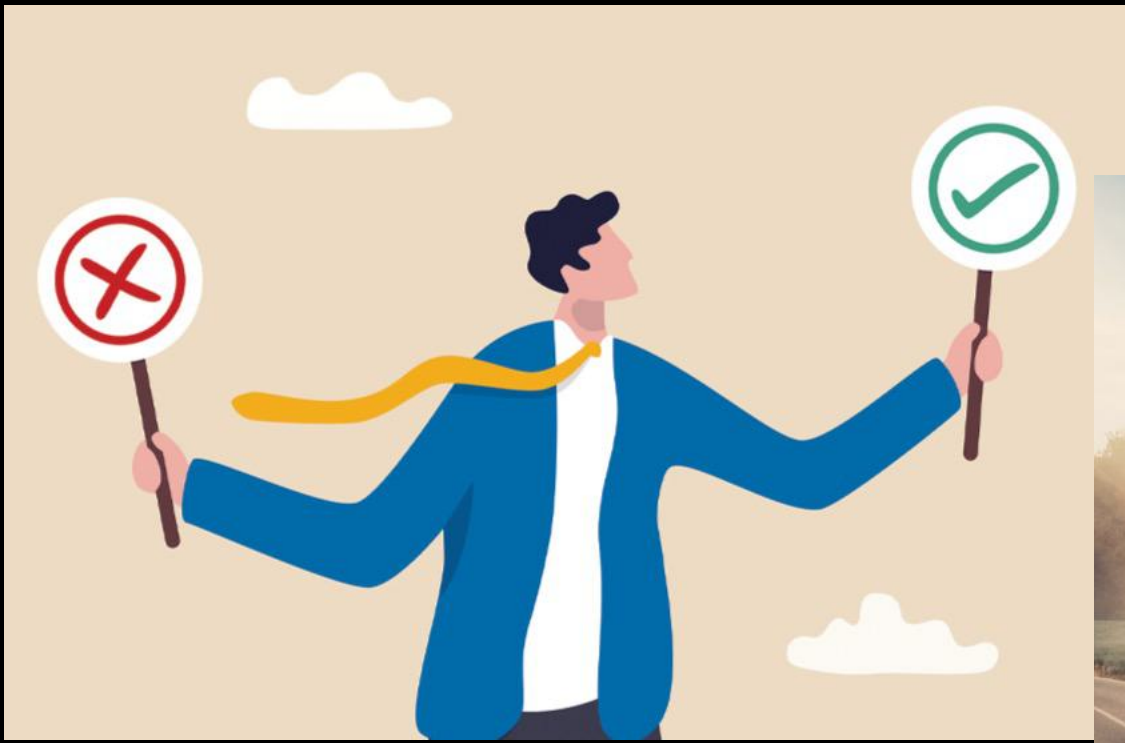


An advocate's role is to plead on behalf of another.

“Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.” –Jer. 29:7

Praying for the shalom of Babylon is  
the closest thing in the Old Testament  
to Jesus' command to love your  
enemies.

-Pastor Tim Keller



Acumen means **keenness of judgment or insight**, depth of perception, **discernment**, quickness, or accuracy.

“Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.” –Jer. 29:8-9

“Let men beware how they call those prophets whom they choose after their own fancies, and **how they consider their fancies and dreams to be revelations from God.** False prophets flatter people in their sins, because they love to be flattered; and they speak smoothly to their prophets, that their prophets may speak smoothly to them.”

-Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

“The prophets were perverting the pure words of guidance coming to them from the Lord, words that were their only hope in the land of their exile. How like this present world for the Christian. We can more easily detect many of the dangers of the secular system but not so easily do we detect heresies in the midst of those professing the faith.”

-Communicator's Commentary

Acumen should  
undergird everything.

“Exiles in digital Babylon sometimes have a love-hate relationship with the place, like the feeling you have when visiting a big, noisy city in another country; it is intoxicating but exhausting. The complexity can be both fascinating and repellant. Those who love Jesus often feel this tension deeply; we truly appreciate what our society has to offer yet can't help but long for something more safe, more comfortable. A place that feels like home.”

*-Faith for Exiles*



<sup>10</sup> For this is what the LORD says: “When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you”—this is the LORD’s declaration. “I will restore you to the place from which I deported you.”

-Jeremiah 29:10-14

We have the entire library of Scripture that will keep us from falling away in this foreign land, that will sustain us until we come into our rightful home, the new Jerusalem.

“God told Jesus: ‘If you prosper, they will die. If they prosper, you will die.  
And Jesus said, I will.’

-Tim Keller