

May 14, 2023  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**How to Live in Babylon**  
Pastor Harry Wilson

**Jeremiah 29:4-13 (ESV)**

“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 welfare 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.

**Vs. 4 - 7**

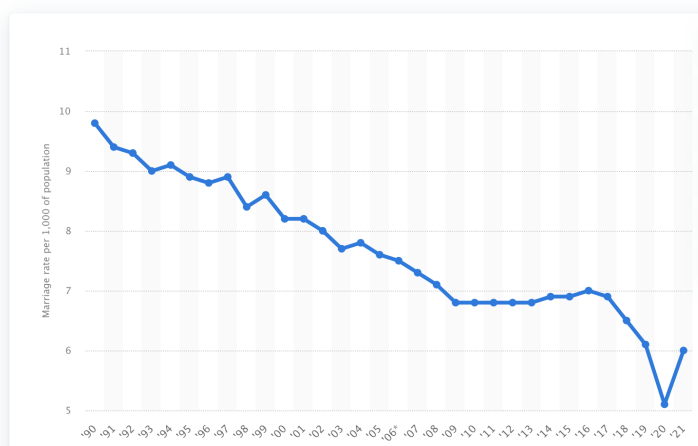
- God’s antidote to living in Babylon is the building and strengthening of the family unit.
- The enemy would love to distract us with desires of elsewhere, so that we disregard God’s call for us here.
- Even in the midst of exile, the Eden model remains God’s Plan A for humanity.

**Marriage rate in the United States from 1990 to 2021**  
*(per 1,000 of population)*

In 2021, the marriage rate in the United States stood at 6 per 1,000 people of the population. This is a decrease from 1990 levels, when the marriage rate was 9.8 marriages per 1,000 people. <sup>1</sup>

This is a 38.78% decrease.

Thus, the marriage rate has dropped almost 40 percent in the last 30 years.



<sup>1</sup> Statista, published by Erin Duffin Feb 2, 2023

**שלום**

**Shalom:** "Peace, prosperity, success; welfare, state of health; friendliness, deliverance, salvation.

**Vs. 10 - 13**

- Our hope is not one of escapism, but incarnation.
- Our aim is not to know the plan, but to know the Planner.