

Plans

"I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

Plans—The word "plans" is from the Hebrew root *hashab*. In this case it is the noun *mahashaba*. The verb from "make plans, reckon, account or think" is used 121 times. There are several different meanings but they are all found within the context of creating a new idea. The most interesting use of this word is found in **Genesis 15:6** where the meaning is "impute" or "account." In that verse, God *counts* Abraham righteous. He *imputes* righteousness to Abraham. It is part of His plan, His new ideas.

In the noun from *mahashaba*, the word means "thought, plan or invention." It is used in **Genesis 67:5** about the evil thoughts of all mankind, in **Jeremiah** about the plans that men follow and in **2 Chronicles** about creating an invention. Again, the context is about new ideas.

This verse says, "I know the *new ideas* I have for you." God's plans are never cast in concrete. They are flexible, adjusting to our lives as our circumstances change. It is easy to think that God has only one perfect plan for your life and that if you make a mistake or you sin, the plan will be forever destroyed. Then you will have to live with the second best, then third best and so on each time you fail to meet expectations. But God does not have one perfect plan for you. He has one purpose, one goal that you become all that were meant to be through conformity to the image of Christ. The goal never changes. But the plans are new ideas every day. An eternal invent. Remember that the Bible says, "His joys are new every morning." God is full of surprises. Think about how great we feel when we come up with a new idea. It is exciting and powerful and fills us with expectation. Now imagine how God must feel every day that he has new ideas for you. No wonder He is so excited about who you are!

Are you ready for God to work out some new ideas for you today?