

Scriptures Shaping Us - Place

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Psalm 24 and Jeremiah 29

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Jesus changes people so that Jesus people can change places

A Theology of Place leads us to seek to bring change to our land.

*How does the changing of people's hearts go hand in hand with the change of the places we live?

*What is the problem with only being concerned about the souls of people?

Read and discuss Psalm 24:1 and Jeremiah 29:4-11 (NIV)

*¹ The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*

⁴ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." ⁸ Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

*What are these passages saying? What do they tell us about God?

*What implications are there for us in these verses; to live as if the earth belongs to Him?

We are not exiles waiting to go home to a kingdom; we are sent to bring the Kingdom to our city

My hope and future are tied up in the land in which I live.

*How is your hope and future tied to Colorado Springs?

*What do you love about this place? What needs some help?

*How could you practically seek the peace and prosperity of our city?

Theologians of Place look at their city with Jesus and with each other

They collaborate for the best ways to help.

*What person or organization do you see as working for the good of our city?

*Is there somewhere you could partner to help with something that is stirring your heart?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Purple Mountain Majesties](#) by Wendy Brightbill

Song for reflection [God of This City](#) by Chris Tomlin

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.