

Seek the Peace of the City - by Olivia, November 2025

These words were written by the prophet Jeremiah around 600 BCE. They are the origin of the Jewish commitment to pray for the welfare of the nation and its rulers wherever they have lived, from antiquity until today. These words are the foundation of the community prayer, which mentions King Charles, and in other countries always refers to the head of state.

The Babylonian Talmud later states, "The law of the land is the law." Babylonia was the first functional Jewish diaspora. Some say it was also the cradle of Torah and later Jewish civilisation.

Jeremiah 29

Thus, said God of Hosts, the God of Israel, to the whole community that I exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit. You should take wives and beget sons and daughters; and you should take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there, do not decrease. And seek the peace and welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to God on its behalf; for in its prosperity, you shall prosper.