

# **This is the Day...Thursday**

**September 16, 2021**

## **Hide and Seek**

*“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. 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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’” (Jeremiah 29:10-13)*

One of my favorite games as a child was hide and seek. Sometimes just my brothers and I would play but usually our hide and seek games were on a much larger scale. Every kid in the neighborhood would gather for a huge game where there were several seekers and plenty of places to hide. I especially loved hiding during the game. Since I was smaller, I could hide just about anywhere. I would find the most obscure possible place where no one would ever find me. Under a pile of fallen leaves, inside a large wash pail, or even in a trash can. It was fun to just relax while the “seekers” were scurrying around the neighborhood.

I thought the game was much less fun as a seeker. It was tiring and frustrating to try to find someone. I had no clue where to even begin to look so, typically, I would lose the game because I simply gave up on finding the hider. Often, after giving up and ending the game, I would realize that the hider was hiding very close to me, but I just was not willing to seek.

God has His own unique game of hide and seek. Sometimes, in our moments of despair, we feel like we cannot find God. You pray to Him, and it feels like you are speaking to an empty chair. You read your Bible, but it is just words that do not have any real meaning in your situation. The doors of heaven seem to be shut, locked, and double-bolted. God is hiding out and does not seem willing to share even a hint of His whereabouts. Ever played hide and seek with God?

The truth is, God does not play hide and seek. God prefers to play “Seek and Find.” God has a plan and a purpose for your life. It is a plan to protect you and reveal to you the hope to which He has called you. It is a plan that is initiated by your willingness to seek Him. Not half-heartedly. Not just when it is convenient. But with your whole heart. Not just on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. God reveals His plan as we seek to find Him in the most unusual places. In the checkout lane at the store. In the kind words shared by a friend. In our intentional times of prayer and reading God’s Word. Seeking God takes effort and patience. But mostly, seeking Him takes a desire to find Him even in the darkness. He is always close by, but if you are not willing to seek, do not be surprised if you do not find.