

Understanding God's dealings in our lives

Throughout history God has often dealt with his people in seemingly harsh ways. When we go through God's dealings in our lives do we understand what we are going through. The Israelites didn't always understand them and neither did many of the prophets in Israel who were contemporaries of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29: 4 – 14

1) When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances don't fight against what God is doing in our lives

- Rest in God
- Make the most of life within your circumstances
- Don't give up hope and live in despair.
- Be a blessing within your circumstances – even to those who may have caused you to be in the situation that you now find yourselves.
- Don't listen to people who give you false hope.

2) The Lord gives us hope that our situation will not last forever

- Israel had to wait seventy years before God would take them back to their own land
- Israel had to endure 400 years of captivity in Egypt before God delivered them
- Abraham had to wait about 13 years before the child of promise – Isaac – was born
- Jonah had to be inside the fish for 3 days and nights before God allowed it to spit him up.
- Jesus, the Messiah, came at the right time – God's appointed time.
- “But when the time had fully come, God sent his son...” Galatians 4: 4
- Psalms 30: 5 “For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”
- Jeremiah 29: 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 a hope and a future.”

- **WE NEED TO BELIEVE THE GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US EVEN WHEN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES TELL US OTHERWISE**

3) We need to seek God with all our hearts

- God allows us to go through difficulties because it is often only in difficulties that we seek him
- When life is easy going people think that they can make it on their own and forget about God and go their own ways.
- God promises to listen we we seek Him
- He also promises that we will find Him when we seek Him.
- God purposely withdraws His manifest presence from us so that we we can seek Him and find Him.
- It is during this time of withdrawal that our hearts are revealed – will we seek Him or will we go our own way?