

**Preparing for Troubling Times #3**  
**(Turning Tragedy into Triumph)**  
**Jeremiah 29:1-12**

- **GOD NEVER PROMISED IT WOULD NOT “RAIN ON OUR PARADE”!**
- **John 16:33 (NASB)** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- God promises that the “rain” will not overcome because He has overcome the world.

- EVEN IN JUDGMENT GOD HAS A PLAN.

- Jeremiah 29:4, God sent them into exile;
  1. They chose to reject God. Jeremiah 25:1-11
  2. He gave them over to what they had chosen –a life apart from God – in Babylon.
- Jeremiah's yoke. 27:2; Hananiah. 28:10-11

# HOW DO WE TURN TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH?

1. God has a plan for those called by His name.
  - We choose whether God or the “rain” will overcome.
  - Jeremiah 29:11
  - Jeremiah 29:8-9 – the choice.

# WE MUST CHOOSE WISELY THE VOICES WE LISTEN TO.

- Jeremiah 29:8-9
  - Two year deliverance. 28:2-4
  - Jeremiah's "action-sermon." 70 year deliverance. – 27:2, 29:10
    - False prophet's reaction – 28:10

# HOW DO WE TURN TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH?

2. Take up God's perspective on the "rain."
  - Tragedy is a doorway, a means for God to accomplish and direct His plan.
    - 29:5 -7, their new home, not a captivity.

# HOW DO WE TURN TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH?

3. Believe God will work in spite of the “rain” to accomplish His plan.
  - A. Start over.
    - New beginning. Get ready for the next opportunity.
  - B. Adjust your plan.
  - C. Wait.

## 4. WE MATTER TO GOD.

- I know the plans I have for you
  - To give you a future and a hope
- You will call ..., and come and pray to Me
  - And I will listen
- You will seek Me ... and find Me... when you really want to, and I will be found by you.



# WE MATTER TO GOD.

- Daniel 9:17-19
  - We matter to God.
  - We are called by His name. God is faithful.

- **Daniel 9:17-19 (NASB)** "So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. 18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

# HOW DOES ONE PREPARE FOR TROUBLING TIMES?

- Jeremiah 29:11
- Lamentations 3:24
- Romans 5:3-5
- Romans 15:4
- Romans 15:12-13
- Hebrews 10:23

# LIFE IS OFTEN NOT A BED OF ROSES!

- Rained at the community fair.
- Did your child get the teacher/class you wanted?
- Did you get the job you wanted? Make the team? Get the raise? Get the loan?
- Did the health report come out the way you wanted?