

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

November 11, 2012 Jeremiah 29; Revelation by Bob Branch

MAIN IDEA: How would God have us interpret and respond to our nations slide away from Him?

1. **PRAY: Move the heart that moves the world.**

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

- ◆ Humble ourselves
- ◆ Pray & seek face
- ◆ Repent and turn
- ◆ Call out for God to move in national revival

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **Luke 18:1** (Daniel 9:3-5; Matthew 7:7-8)

2. **STAND & TRUST: God will prevail, do not yield ground.**

- The Resurrected Christ
- God cares deeply about His people
- A Heavenly Vision
- A Tale of 2 Cities
- Immorality and Idolatry playing for our hearts
- Babylon (world) is judged.
- Satan is defeated, God judges all evil, and everyone
- God’s purpose prevails! God wins!

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. **Revelation 19:11**

3. **EXPAND: God is still moving and expanding.**

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 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. 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.” 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. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD. 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. **Jeremiah 29:4-10**

◆ **Settle in, live life**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:21**

◆ **Increase in number, do not decrease.**

◆ **Pray for peace and prosperity**

◆ **Beware of deceptive voices in society** (1 Tim. 4:1)

◆ **God is still in charge** (Romans 13:1-3)

◆ **Hold onto his promise**

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. **Jeremiah 29:11**

4. **SHINE: Your attitude matters to God.**

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you firmly hold to the word of life... **Philippians 2:14-16**

...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**