

Faithful in a Foreign Framework

Jeremiah 29:1-13

As Christians we are “temporary residents and foreigners” (1 Peter 2:11). When we try to be faithful as citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20), living a life of integrity that reflects God’s values and priorities, we will face challenges (1 Peter 4:4). These are similar to those encountered by the Jewish exiles in Jeremiah’s day. Based on his letter to the Jews in Babylon in Jeremiah 29, we want to ask:

How can we remain faithful in a foreign framework?

1. Keep in step with God. Jeremiah 29:4, 10, 11-13.

God assures the Jewish exiles of His presence. He will be with them throughout the exile. But in order to enjoy His presence, they must cultivate it. They must walk with Him. We also, as spiritual aliens, should remember two fundamental truths:

- a. God hasn’t forgotten us.
- b. Keeping in step with God should be our priority.

→ How do these two truths help us live out our identity as citizens of heaven?

2. Keep in step with your fellow believers. Jeremiah 29:4-6.

→ God told the exiles to settle down and cultivate their common life and bond. How are you fulfilling this in your spiritual community?

→ What do you need to change in order to be more faithful in this area?

3. Keep in step with God’s plan for this society. Jeremiah 29:7.

→ Explain how the following two areas are central to blessing our society.

- a. Work.
- b. Witness.

→ Is God asking you to change your actions or attitudes in either of these areas?