

I. Situation

- A. Israel in Babylon
- B. God put us here
- C. Sometimes it is harder to see the contrast between the church and the world
- D. Some places it is harder to see the contrast between the church and the world

II. Living in Babylon

- A. Live as if you were going to be here permanently (see Isaiah 65:21; Psalm 127:1; Jeremiah 32)
- B. Garden like it's Eden (see Genesis 2:8, 15)
- C. Reproduce like your babies are God's gift to the world (see Genesis 1:28; 9:1; 22:17)
- D. Seek and pray for the Shalom of the city (see Deuteronomy 23:6; Esther 10:3; Romans 12:18; Galatians 6:10)

III. Why?

- A. God's plans for the exiles (Jeremiah 29:10-14)
- B. God's plan for his King (Psalm 2:8)
- C. God's plan for his righteous people (Psalm 37:3-9; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Matthew 5:5; 19:29; 25:34; Revelation 20:4)
- D. Not yet – and now! (see 1 Peter 1:3-15)

IV. Investing Ourselves

- A. Self-denial and investment
- B. Gospel-guided peace-seeking missiles
 - i. Ask what you have that you can invest.
 - ii. Work for long-term good.
 - iii. Think in concentric circles.
 - iv. Stop serving money. (Deuteronomy 15:6; 28:12; Proverbs 22:7; Luke 16:13)
 - v. Make money *your* servant.
 - vi. Be bold. (Matthew 25:14-30; see also Matthew 22:1-13)
- C. Jesus invests (2 Corinthians 8-9; John 12:24; Psalm 126; Philippians 1:21; Exodus 15:2)