

SERMON NOTES:



3rd May, 2026

Part 1 - For the Life of the World
Living as Exiles

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Where is History Heading?

- If Jesus returned next week... would you still go to work?

3 Core Christian Agreements about “these last days” we live in.

1. Inaugurated Eschatology

- “The Kingdom of God has come near” (Mark 1:14–15) but is also our “blessed future hope” (Titus 2:11-13)
- We live in the “already, not yet” Kingdom

2. We Are Priests and the Temple

- 1 Peter 2:9 → We are a Royal priesthood
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 → We are God’s temple.
- Implication: God’s presence dwells in and through us and our lives are a kind of priestly service.

3. We Are Exiles

- Not fully at home in this world because we live in “Babylon” (world systems opposed to God).
- Gods words to His people going into exile encourage them to do life!:
 - Like build houses, plant gardens, etc. Jeremiah 29:4–7
 - And to seek the shalom of the city. Shalom = wholeness, flourishing, peace

3 Errors to Avoid

- Fortification → withdraw, hide
- Domination → control, overpower
- Accommodation → blend in, compromise

The Gospel rejects all three

Instead we are called to faithful presence. To be in the world, not of it

God’s Call to Exiles

- Don’t escape the city, Don’t condemn the city, Don’t defeat the city
Rather... BLESS the city

The Gospel Is Bigger Than just “going ot heaven”

- The good news transforms our work, relationships, community... and will transform all creation.
- Ephesians 2:10 teaches us that we are “saved for good works”
- Colossians 3:23 teaches us to “work as unto the Lord”
- Note: This is not working “FOR” our salvation but “OUT OF” our salvation

God's Future Shapes Our Present

- We don't work to save the world. We work because Jesus is already King
- Meaning faithful work still matters. Regardless of where we are on the timeline.

All of Life Is Priestly Service

- Every role matters:
 - Parent, worker, student, retiree, patient, customer, sales person
- No faithful work is wasted

God's Big Plan: Oikonomia (οἰκονομία)

- Meaning: stewardship, administration, "economy" of God
- God's design for how life works

Ephesians 1:10: God's desire is to unite all things in Christ

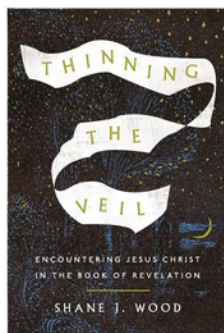
- We each play a role in reflecting God's "economy"

Living It Out

- Our lives are small reflections of God's Kingdom with Jesus as King.
- We point to God's design by:
 - Living as faithful exiles, considering how to reflect His ways in every aspect of life.
 - And that is what the rest of our series is going to be about.

.....

Additional resources that have been helpful in Mick's preparation towards this message:



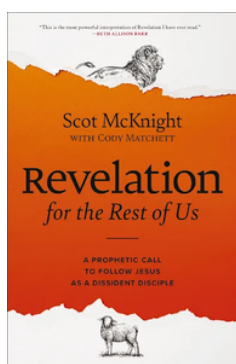
Thinning the Veil



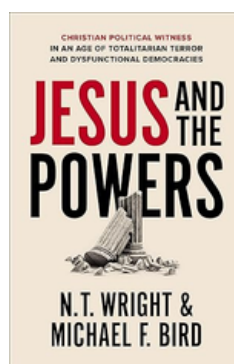
Human Flourishing and the End of the World
(Article)



Ken Keathley - Senior Professor of Theology, at
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



Revelation for the
Rest of Us



Jesus and the Powers

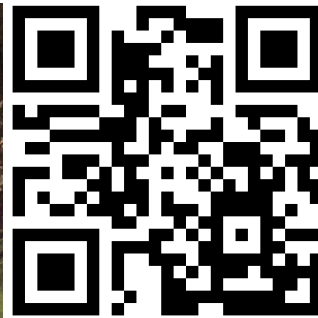


CONNECT – help people get comfortable

How important is the giving and receiving of gifts to you? What feelings arise in you at the topic of gift-giving?

REVIEW

Watch Episode #1: Exile



Read the key idea, verse, and passage. What insights did you take away from this week's scripture and message?

Key Idea Our salvation is a call to live as exiles as we bless the world.

Key Verse *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.*

Ephesians 1:7-10 (ESV)

Key Passage *⁴ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (ESV)

continued on next page

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE – *taking time to listen to God and respond*

Pray: We seek you Lord with the desire to be with you, hear you, and follow you.

Journal: Read Jeremiah 29:7 aloud and reflect on what God might be showing you by responding to the following questions:

- What do I seek most from God, what is the spiritual longing of my heart?
- In what circumstances can I embrace the posture of blessing this week?
- Whom can I seek to bless this week?
- What is my prayer for myself, as I seek to know and trust God's purposes?

Share: What was this experience like for you? What did you discover?

PRAY – *share requests with one another*

After listening to each other, close by praying for the needs that have been shared among the group.

CHALLENGE – *live it out in the coming week*

Each morning pray that God will fill you to the full, and give you eyes to see where you can be a blessing. Go through your day knowing your true nature as an exile.

In the evening go over your day and take note of all the places you saw God at work, and where you made a difference as an exile.

At the end of the week look at your notes. Is there any change from day 1 to day 6?