



Living in Exile: Sent Ones in Babylon

Jeremiah 29:4-13

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- 627-580 BC Jeremiah's years as a prophet



False Prophet's Message: Babylon will fall within 2 years

PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER

False Prophet's Message:
Babylon will fall within 2 years

Jeremiah's Message:
Israel will remain in exile for 70 years;
God has a good plan

Jeremiah 29:4-13

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: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

Jeremiah 29:4-13

⁶Take 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. ⁷But 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 29:4-13

⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:4-13

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.


Jeremiah 29:4-13

¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

The background of the image is a night sky featuring a vibrant green aurora borealis on the left side and a dense field of stars, including the Milky Way, on the right. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a mountain range.

Babylon: Any kingdom that is
resistant to God's Kingdom

PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER



All believers are exiles
“Foreigners and exiles on earth...
longing for a better country - a
Heavenly one” Heb 11:13,16

How to live as missionaries in Exile

- What that doesn't mean

How to live as missionaries in Exile

- What that doesn't mean
- What that does mean

How to live as missionaries in Exile

- What that doesn't mean
- What that does mean
- How to do it

Living as missionaries in Exile


What it doesn't mean

- Syncretism

Living as missionaries in Exile

What it doesn't mean

- Syncretism
- Sectarianism

The background of the image is a night sky filled with stars, with a prominent band of the Milky Way galaxy visible. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a greenish-blue near the horizon. At the bottom, there is a dark silhouette of a mountain range with some snow patches.

Syncretism: Combining or
amalgamating different views
or values into one.

Syncretism is taking things that are opposed to God, but valued by our culture and folding it into our theology so we convince ourselves it's God's value too

Sectarianism: the existence of divided and actively competing communal identities, resulting in a strong sense of Otherness

Sectarianism is removing me
and my community completely
from that which we consider
Other (e.g. wicked)



Living as missionaries in Exile

What it does mean

- Build houses and gardens

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- Marry and increase in number

Living as missionaries in Exile

What it does mean

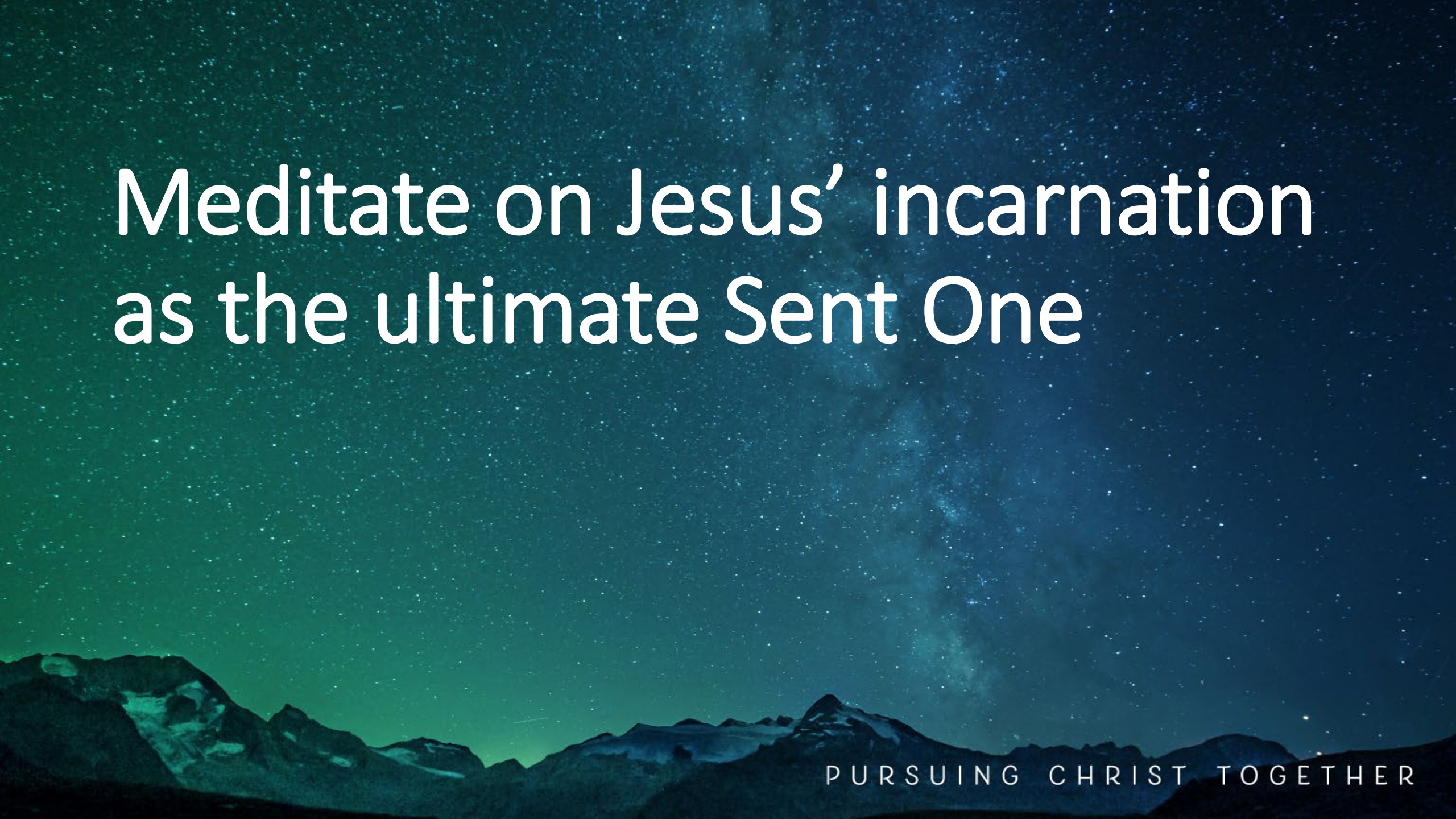
- Build houses and gardens
- Marry and increase in number
- Seek the good of the City, for if it prospers, you too will prosper



Living as missionaries in Exile

How to do it

PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER

The background of the image is a night sky featuring a vibrant green aurora borealis on the left side, transitioning into a dark blue sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible against the glowing sky.

Meditate on Jesus' incarnation as the ultimate Sent One

PURSUING CHRIST TOGETHER

If Syncretism is your temptation

- What does Babylon tell you that conflicts with Scripture? How do I wrestle with that Reality?

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- What does Babylon tell you that conflicts with Scripture? How do I wrestle with that Reality?
- What are the ways I'm tempted to avoid what God is calling me to do, say, or believe in order to fit in

If Sectarianism is your temptation

- Do I have relationships with people who are not Christians? How can I invest in those people?

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- How can I invest my time and resources outside of the church as well as inside?

If Sectarianism is your temptation

- Do I have relationships with people who are not Christians? How can I invest in those people?
- How can I invest my time and resources outside of the church as well as inside?
- How can I bless the communities I'm a part of (e.g. neighborhood, kid's school, CU community, etc.)

Pick one

- Spend time this week meditating on Scripture and Jesus' incarnation
- Do an honest self-assessment about where you're tempted to syncretize. Journal and discuss with a trusted peer
- Come up with an actionable way you can get out of the Christian bubble and bless the Babylon you're in this week