

I. The Real Question

A. The Immediate Question

1. Done with Mark
2. We need to know what's coming
 - a. Reference to Revelation, prophecy, eschatology
 - b. Easy Question to Answer **Revelation 13**
 - (1) Sea Beast
 - (a) Not mostly a matter of identification as function
 - (b) What effect does this person or sociopolitical system have on the world and the church?
 - i) **Revelation 13:5 (ESV)** *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.*
 - a) Pride
 - b) Blasphemy
 - c) Authority
 - ii) **Revelation 13:7 (ESV)** *Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,*
 - a) Persecution
 - b) War
 - (2) Land Beast
 - (a) Not primarily a matter of who but what
 - (b) What effect does this person or religious system have on the world and the church?
 - i) **Revelation 13:14 (ESV)** *and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.*
 - a) Deception
 - b) Redirection
 - ii) **Revelation 13:-15 (ESV)** *And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.*
 - a) Death

B. The Real Question: What should we do?

1. God gives us a look into the future, into what's coming.
2. The real question is what should we do?

C. Jeremiah 29: The Letter from God to The Exiles

1. **Jeremiah 29 is God's answer to His people living in exile in a world that is not their friend, away from home but not away from Him!**
2. **Live in the present confident in the One Who knows His plans for the future.**
3. Specifics
 - a. Very specific audience:
 - (1) v. 4 "all those I carried into exile"
 - (2) The circumstances of their lives and faith in a direct consequence of the providence of God
 - b. Very specific instructions
 - (1) v. 5-7 Verbs
 - (a) Build
 - (b) Settle
 - (c) Plant
 - (d) Eat
 - (e) Marry
 - (f) Have kids
 - (g) Find spouses for the kids you have
 - (h) Increase/do not decrease
 - (i) Seek the peace and prosperity of the city of your exile
 - (j) Pray and prosper
 - (2) In faith and obedience make a life in the present
 - (3) But upon what hope?
 - c. Very specific promise
 - (1) **Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV) For 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.**
 - (2) Hope is not in the plans but in the One Who knows His plans
 - (a) God Who is sovereign
 - (b) God Who is wise
 - (c) God Who redeems
 - (d) God Who saves
4. **On the basis of His own person and character, God calls His remnant people to live in the present with hope and confidence because the future remains in His capable, sovereign hands.**

II. How will Cornerstone live in the present trusting God for the future?

A. Four Cornerstones for Cornerstone

1. Establish our theological identity
2. Engage our educational responsibility
3. Enact our relational opportunities
4. Empower our mission priorities

B. Descriptions (Plans)

1. Theological identity -
 - a. Who is God, according to His self-revelation
 - b. Who are we, according to God's revelation
 - c. Commitment:
 - (1) Study the word of God
 - (2) Arrive at a systematic theology
 - (3) Adopt a church covenant
2. Educational Responsibility
 - a. What is our congregational and personal responsibility, according to God's word, for the discipling the next generation?
 - b. *Zealous*, David Michael, Truth78
 - c. Commitment:
 - (1) Embrace our God given responsibility to actively disciple our children for faith in Christ and life in the kingdom of God
3. Relational Opportunities
 - a. Create and enact opportunities for all us to develop the meaningful personal relationship characteristic of the fully integrated Body of Christ
 - b. Commitment
 - (1) To participate in basic opportunities to get to know one another
 - (2) To create opportunities for us to become fully functional members of the Body of Christ in the world
4. Mission priorities
 - a. Danger of becoming inward rather than outward focused
 - b. Commitment:
 - (1) Empower our mission priorities
 - (a) Through sacrificial giving
 - (b) Through faithful obedience
 - (c) Through personal participation

III. Commitment:

A. **Cornerstone, commit to living a life of faith and obedience together in the present, no matter what comes, because you are confident in the person and promise of the One Who knows the plans He has for us.**

1. The question is not "what's coming?"
2. The question is, **"How will those who live by faith in Jesus Christ live as exiles in the world in our day?"**

B. Commitment

1. Commit to Christ.
2. Commit to Hope