

# Rebooting Christianity: Digital Church

(Jeremiah 29:4-10)

- Introduction:
1. I have heard people argue that “going digital” during the pandemic was a death blow to Christianity as we knew it.
  2. Some are saying we can forget about assembling for worship services and Bible classes like we used to; that day is over.
  3. In-person-church-attendance will now be about as successful as a shopping mall in a day of Amazon.
  4. Many are not coming back to in-person assemblies following Covid, arguing that if online worship was acceptable during Covid, then it’s acceptable after Covid – if not, why not?
  5. In this lesson, I want to attempt to answer this question and encourage some of us to consider our responsibilities to the church, our families, and our God.

## I. Crisis Conduct

- A. (Jeremiah 29:4-10)
- B. Judah was going to be exiled to Babylon for 70 years.
- C. Consider what this meant for their worship to God.
  1. No more Feast Days (Pentecost, Passover, Tabernacles).
  2. No more access to the temple.
  3. No more sacrifices.
  4. No more Day of Atonement.
- D. Although they could no longer do these things, they made other arrangements in their effort to stay in touch with God.
  1. They built synagogues.
  2. These were not a replacement for the temple but were an effort to keep people connected to God and his word.

## II. Post-Crisis Conduct

- A. (Haggai 1:1-15).
- B. The people returned to Jerusalem after their 70 years of captivity, and apparently the didn’t see the need to worship like they did prior to the captivity.
- C. Eighteen years have past and they had not restored their worship.
- D. God tells them to rebuild the temple and that they do not have his blessings because they have failed to rebuild the temple.

## III. Observations

- A. God understood and had patience with their “crisis conduct,” but he did not give permission for them to continue in their “crisis conduct” after the crisis was over (Haggai 1:9).
- B. Failing to return to “normal” brought God’s judgment upon the people.

- C. Is online worship for God or self?
  - 1. If you're still worshiping at home, is it because of a present crisis, or is it about what you find convenient and preferable?
  - 2. Are you doing what you're doing for God or for you?

- Conclusion:
- 1. We need to examine ourselves.
  - 2. The church here has always demonstrated faithfulness in attendance.
    - a. This is not a statistic about which we can boast.
    - b. It is a commitment that leads to blessings that cannot be realized any other way.
  - 3. I am thankful for the technology we have today and the way we can utilize it for good, but I am also aware of the dangers it presents.