

# THRIVING IN BABYLON

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL



## PART 1: DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART

### Daniel 1:1-8

**1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

**3** Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, **4** young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. **5** And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. **6** Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7** To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

**8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

/// Daniel was written around 630 B.C.

/// Daniel chronicles the Babylonian captivity that took place 605 B.C.

/// Daniel was around the age of 13- 16 years old when he was taken captive.

“Daniel was written to encourage the exiled Jews by revealing God’s program for them, both during and after the time of Gentile power in the world. Prominent above every other theme in the book is God’s sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and nations, and their final replacement with the True King.” –John MacArthur

### 1. The Captivity (vs. 1-2)

POINT: Captivity travels down the same road as disobedient choices.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” Galatians 6:7

“be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23

“Never interpret the silence of God as the indifference of God.” –Erwin Lutzer

## 2. The Culture (vs. 3-7)

*Babylon*: Symbolizes a confused and corrupt world system.

Nebuchadnezzar was looking for:

- Good families
- Good looking
- Gifted in wisdom
- Giving

“I see the same strategy successfully employed by the evil one in our own day. However, in our case, it is often voluntary! Naively and sometimes willingly, parents send their children off to a secular college or university as lambs prepared to slaughter. Isolated from their church and Christian friends, they are quickly seduced by so-called intellectual elites and walk away from Christ.” The evil one knows what he is doing! It does not mean parents should never send their children to secular or state universities. It does mean, though, that we fail to appreciate the danger and deception of false ideas if we do not adequately prepare students from the environment and support them while they are there.” –Daniel Akin

\*85-90% of those leaving student ministry never come back to the church faithfully.

POINT: Isolation and indoctrination leads to danger.

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 2:1-2*

*Power of the Air (world)*: Represents realm, sphere, influence.

*“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” John 15:18-19*

POINT: Our culture will always contradict Christianity.

## 3. The Choice (vs. 8)

Daniel (Elohim is my judge) >>> Belteshazzar

Hananiah (Yahweh is gracious) >>> Shadrach

Mishael (Who is like Elohim) >>> Meshach

Azariah (Yahweh helps) >>> Adednego

*“For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.” 2 Kings 18:6-7*

POINT: Family discipleship eats culture for breakfast.

*“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” John 17:9-19*

“Some ships go east, and some go west  
Before the wind that blows;  
It’s the set of the sail, and not the gale;  
That determines where it goes.” (Source Unknown)

POINT: Only a life of studying and submission to the scriptures will keep you from stumbling.

POINT: The world’s way is NEVER better than God’s way.