

APPLICATION

5 Keys to Thriving while Living in Babylon



_____ to the True King

We have *purposed* to follow God over all

Don't cave to the _____ demands to submit!

Remember: God's rewards are the _____ choice

Hebrews 11:25-26 – “[Moses chose] rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”



Deep Ties to _____

We need each other's fellowship and encouragement!

DANIEL CHALLENGE #1 – Invite someone over for _____

Make a commitment to *at least* a monthly meal with fellow believers from church. (*Who will you invite? When?*)



Courageous Testimony: _____ but _____

We honor the earthly king – but we *obey* God

Trust God to handle the _____ of our faithfulness!

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”



Reliance on _____: Daily and Urgent

Our *power* comes from God – not human might

DANIEL CHALLENGE #2 – Start a ' _____ '

Make a commitment to pray *FOR* others and *WITH* others.
→ *When will your prayer time be?*



Gardening with an Eye on the _____

Make Babylon *better*, while we wait for the *Eternal* Kingdom



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

How to Thrive while Living in Babylon

Part 7: “Faithful: Whether We’re Delivered Or Not”

TODAY'S TEXT: Daniel 3:1-21

3:1 – A Monument of _____

“Threescore” = 60 (3 x 20)

“Cubit” = an ancient measurement of length based on the distance from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger.

Babylonian Royal Cubit = 19.8 inches

Total statue height = _____ feet!

- In his vision, only the _____ was made of gold!
- Daniel foretold Babylon's _____ by a new empire of silver...
- Nebuchadnezzar wants _____ empire to continue forever!



3:2-3 – Where was _____?

- We know for _____ that he didn't bow down! (**Daniel 6:5-10**)
- Perhaps exempt from the command? (*King embarrassed?*)
- Probably sent _____ on assignment! (**Daniel 2:48**)

3:4-5 – The Demand for _____

“Worship” = *s°gïd* = to prostrate oneself, to lay flat on the ground – especially in reverence or in submission.

Exodus 20:3-5 – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them” (**#1 & #2 of the Ten Commandments**)

Romans 6:16 – “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

3:6 – The Threat of _____

“Furnace” = *’atûn* = fireplace, burning, flaming

From Archeology: a large, multi-purpose kiln or oven, often made of adobe, used for firing the bricks used to build Babylon's walls and canals. We have found Cuneiform inscriptions that mentions these as a place for burning those who blasphemed the gods!



Sumerian Kiln, 1910
25 feet high

1 Peter 4:12 – “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you...”

3:7-12 – The Pressure of the _____

Exodus 23:2 – “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment”

Proverbs 29:25-26 – “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.”

Mark 15:15 – “And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”

1 Peter 3:14-17 – “But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear... For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

3:13-14 – The _____ of a King

“Rage” = *r²qaz* = violent anger

“Fury” = *ħēmā'* = heat, fever, venom, burning anger

Proverbs 19:12 – “The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.”

3:15 – The Direct _____ to God

Psalms 42:3 – “My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?”

FACING THE FIRE:



The Fires of _____

- Lost their families, homes, their country and everything familiar



The Fires of _____

- Pressure to fit in with co-workers, and the world around them



The Fires of _____

- The Persecution of Gossip & Betrayal



The Fires of _____

- Fear of the King's Fury, Fear of Death, Fear of Suffering

FAITH TO FACE THE FIRE:

Daniel 3:16-18



A _____ and Reasoned Faithfulness

“Not Careful” = *lā' ħāšah* = not in a hurry, not quickly, not excited

1 Peter 3:17 – “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

“Our God” → Christ died for us, it's ok if we must _____ for Him

Philippians 3:8 – “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”



Say (and remind yourself!) of what is _____

“is able” → Trouble and loss are **not** a sign that God doesn't _____ or that God has abandoned us

Hebrews 13:5-6 – “...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”



Choose to _____ God – despite not understanding

“but if not” → it's only _____ trust when we don't understand!

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” – Charles Spurgeon

“Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace.” – Oswald Chambers