

APPLICATION

5 Keys to Thriving while Living in Babylon



_____ to the True King

Our *true* _____ and *true* _____ is in Heaven

Philippians 3:20 – “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”

“Conversation” = *politeuma* = commonwealth, government, citizenship

We are _____ here in Babylon

2 Corinthians 5:20 – “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”



Deep Ties to _____

We need each other's fellowship and encouragement!



Courageous Testimony: _____ but _____

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



Reliance on _____: Daily and Urgent

Our power comes from God – not human might



Gardening with an Eye on the _____

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

Jeremiah 29:4-5 – “Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them... seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

How to Thrive while Living in Babylon

Part 1: “The Bigger Picture”

Today's Text: **Daniel 1:1-8**

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Who: The Prophet _____

Matthew 24:15 – “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place...”
(quoting **Daniel 11:31**)

When: Between 536 and _____ BC

- 931 BC – King Solomon dies, the kingdom is divided
- 722 BC – The northern kingdom is conquered by Assyria
- 627 BC - Jeremiah warns of the coming Judgement and captivity
- 608 BC – Israel made a vassal to Babylon (*Daniel taken captive*)
- 597 BC – Israel's 1st rebellion: The Temple is looted
(*Ezekiel taken Captive*) (**2 Kings 24:11-14**)
- 586 BC – Israel's 2nd rebellion: Jerusalem totally destroyed
(*Jeremiah into exile in Egypt*) (**2 Kings 25:9-12**)
- 539 BC - Persia conquers Babylon
- 538 BC - King Cyrus allows Jews to begin to return from exile
Jeremiah 29:10 – “For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.” [608 BC – 538 BC = 70 years!]
- 536-530 - **The Book of Daniel is Written**
(*Daniel switches to 'present tense' beginning in chapter 7*)
- 432 BC - The last book of the Old Testament (*Malachi*) is written

Authenticity: We have Great _____

- ➔ Jesus _____ authenticated it!
- ➔ Incredible cultural and historical _____
- ➔ Dead Sea Scrolls _____ the ‘Maccabean era’ theory

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 1: The Steadfast _____ of Daniel & His Friends

Daniel 1:8 – “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat...”

Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Vision of the Coming _____

Daniel 2:39 – “And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass...”

Chapter 3: Incredible _____ and the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:17-18 – “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Chapter 4: The Spectacular _____ of King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:25 – “They shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and shall make thee to eat grass as oxen...”

Chapter 5: The End of an _____: The Writing is On the Wall

Daniel 5:26 – “God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it...”

Chapter 6: Loyal _____ and Courage in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6:5 – “Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

Chapters 7-8: The Coming Empires: Great and Terrible _____

Daniel 7:17 – “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth...”

Chapters 9-10: The Coming _____ Kingdom of the Messiah!

Daniel 9:24 – “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

Chapters 11-12: The Near Future and the Great _____

Daniel 12:1 – “and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time...”

The Text: Daniel 1:1-8

1:1-2 – Earthly kings... and the _____ of Kings

- ➔ The _____ king of Israel is defeated by the _____ king of Babylon
- ➔ It's not _____! It's all part of the _____ of the true King of Kings
Isaiah 39:5-6 – “Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.”

2 Kings 24:3-4 – “Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.”

Daniel 2:20-21 – “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding”

1:3-7 – The Plan to _____ God's People into _____

- ➔ Change their _____
- ➔ Change their _____
- ➔ Change their _____
- ➔ Change their _____

Daniel = “God is my judge” ➔ **Belteshazzar** = “Bel protects his life”

Hananiah = “God has favored” ➔ **Shadrach** = “the great scribe”

Mishael = “Who is what God is” ➔ **Meshach** = “guest of a king”

Azariah = “Jehovah has helped” ➔ **Abednego** = “servant of Nebo”

2 Kings 17:15 – “...and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.”

1:8 – The Resolve to Stay _____ to the True King

“Purposed” = **דִּישׁ** = Set in place, appoint, ordain, establish

Romans 12:2 – “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”