

## Dealing with Cultural Battles

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Oakbrook Community Church

Daniel 1

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### Babylon Invades God's People

1-2

- 605bc Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem
- God's judgment Deut 28:15-68; Jer 4:7; 2 King 24:1,10

### The True Battle

3-7

- Babylon didn't want destruction, they wanted Babylonians
- Ashpenaz sent to take cream of the crop: Daniel & his friends
- To be trained in the language & literature of the Babylonians 4
- To be given new Babylonian names:
  - Daniel - *God is my judge*      Beltashazzar - *Bel protects my life*
  - Hananiah - *Yah is gracious*      Shadrach - *Command of Aku (moon god)*
  - Mishael - *Who is what El is*      Meshach - *Who is as Aku is*
  - Azaraih - *Yah has helped*      Abednego - *Slave of the Nebo*

### Daniel Draws a Line

8-13

- Why food and not education or blasphemous names?
- Daniel desired to worship God only – Babylonian eating & feasting included worship of false gods
- Daniel understood the problem and danger so he drew a line
- Why just 4 young men out of so many (thousands) 2 Kings 24:14

### Dare to be a Daniel

8-13

- He knew God was sovereign and in control
- He was gracious and asked permission humbly
- God's children doing His work use God's methods, not the worlds!
- 1 Peter 3:13-17
  - 1) honor God; 2) be prepared; 3) yet do it with gentleness & respect
- Jesus' instructions Greatest Commandments: Mt 22:37-40
  - Love God 1<sup>st</sup> – ask how you can honor/worship God in all things
  - Love others as given opportunity – we are left here as God's servants to make His name great Jn 17:21-22
- How did Daniel know these things? He knew God's Word:
  - Psalm 119:10-11; Psa 111:10; Prv 1:7; 4:7; 9:10
  - BE A STUDENT OF GOD'S WORD TO KNOW GOD'S WAYS!
- God used Daniel mightily v21 - Daniel was a godly politician for some 70 years! Likely Daniel influenced Cyrus the conquering king to issue the Cyrus Edict 539bc allowing God's people to return to Jerusalem.
- How will God use you in the roles He has sovereignly placed you in?

## Discuss, Think & Apply:

Learn about the instructions God gave to His people in Deuteronomy 28 in the covenant blessings & warnings.

- What did God's people deserve based upon Dt 28? How patient was God to His people?

More History: Read 2 Kings chapters 24 & 25. This records the 2<sup>nd</sup> 597BC and 3<sup>rd</sup> 586BC deportations. What do you learn about Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and methods?

- Where would you have drawn a line: education; being given an offensive name; eating at the king's table?
- How can you apply Daniel's response to modern day issues? What are some of the modern day issues we face as Babylon invades and seeks to indoctrinate?
- Consider Daniel's humble response to the chief of the eunuchs. How would you teach those techniques to someone else if they were faced with a similar situation?
- Are you grounded in God's Word and Ways like Daniel must have been?
- What "lines" in today's culture do we need to draw? How can you be gracious, humble and gentle in dealing with them? How do so many deal with them today?

## Tools for Bible Reading:

- Visit <http://www.oakbrookpca.org/bible-reading-plans/>
- <http://theaquilareport.com/bible-reading-plans-2018/>
- Establish a plan and grow in God's Wisdom in this coming year!