

THE LIVING



FROM CHAOS



STORY

TO ORDER





Welcome to Babylon

Daniel 1



Living as Christ-followers “in the world, but not of it”

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... “Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” [Jeremiah 29]

Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits. [1 Peter 1:11–12]



Welcome to Babylon—Daniel's education

- The liberal arts program at BU
Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility... He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians... The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.



Welcome to Babylon—Daniel’s education

- The liberal arts program at BU
- Saying “no thanks” to the dorm food

Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself in this way.



Welcome to Babylon—Daniel’s education

- The liberal arts program at BU
- Saying “no thanks” to the dorm food
- The creative elective

“Please test your servants for ten days: give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”



Welcome to Babylon—Daniel’s education

- The liberal arts program at BU
- Saying “no thanks” to the dorm food
- The creative elective
- Making the honor roll

At the end of the ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. Nebuchadnezzar talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.



Welcome to Babylon—our application

In a world that...

...is foreign to our ways and our God, be certain:

Our God is in control

The Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into Nebuchadnezzar's hand...

God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel...

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning...



Welcome to Babylon—our application

In a world that...

...is foreign to our ways and our God, be certain:

Our God is in control

...challenges our consciences and spiritual practices, be confident: **As you draw your line**

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.



Welcome to Babylon—our application

In a world that...

...is foreign to our ways and our God, be certain:

Our God is in control

...challenges our consciences and spiritual practices, be confident: **As you draw your line**

...has a plurality of ideas and practices, don't fret:

Christianity “works best”

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.



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