

# LIVING IN BABYLON

Daniel 1:1-21



## SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we started a new series on the Book of Daniel as we examined what it meant for Daniel and his friends to live in Babylon, and ultimately, what it means for us to live in a metaphorical 'Babylon.' More importantly, what does it look like to remain steadfast and be faithful in a kingdom that is trying to gain our allegiance and loyalty? Three things to consider that will help us remain faithful: Recognition of the True King, Conviction of our True Identity, Consecration of our entire being.

Recognition of the True King - that in the midst of all the turmoil and changing kingdoms, Daniel recognizes that God is sovereign and is ushering in an eternal kingdom. We can also take solace in that fact - it begs us to consider whether we actually recognize that and live our lives with this 'God-centered' reality rather than a 'self-centered' reality.

Conviction of our True Identity - that we would be sure of our identity as children of God just as Daniel maintained his identity as part of the covenant people of God. And as we are confident in our identity, that it would birth convictions that dictate how we live our lives.

Finally, Consecration of our entire being - that in our decision to set ourselves apart as holy unto God, we would take on these spiritual practices (not just as something to do), but something that helps us understand our identity as people set apart for His purposes.



## OUTLINE

1

### RECOGNITION OF THE TRUE KING

Daniel recognizes the different moments in which God is moving in and around him (even in the everyday circumstances). We also need to re-orient ourselves so that we can truly recognize God's movement in and through our lives. Do we make decisions with God in mind and do we consider whether our actions align to the purposes of God?

2

### CONVICTION OF OUR TRUE IDENTITY

Daniel understood that his identity as part of the covenant people of God was not limited to where he was (Jerusalem vs Babylon), but that it was the most precious thing to him that he needed to hold onto. What we hold onto as our identity gives birth to the convictions that dictate how we live our lives. May our identity as children of God birth convictions that dictate how we choose to live our lives. Let's be thermostats that change the temperature around us rather than being thermometers that constantly change based on the environment around us.

3

### CONSECRATION OF OUR ENTIRE BEING

Daniel and his friends wanted to be set apart for God's holy purposes. May our reasons for fasting and being 'set apart' be one way that we express our desire (especially as New Testament believers) for Jesus, the Bridegroom to return.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How do you make decisions in your life? Where does God fit into that process?

2

Are there areas of your life that are difficult to give over to God? Why or why not?

3

In what ways can we practically bless and bring God into our environments rather than reacting to the environment around us?

4

How do we distinguish what we should hold fast in conviction to Christ and what we should learn to live in the world?

5

In what ways are we tempted by the 'rewards of this world' that try to get us to change our loyalty/allegiance?

6

As we are convicted in our identity in Christ, what are things in our lives that we need to consecrate so that we can continue to grow in our likeness of who God is?



## BIG IDEA

As believers living in a metaphorical Babylon (the antithesis of the Kingdom of God) - may we be people that recognize the true king, are convicted by our true identity, and consecrate ourselves to be set apart for the purposes of God. May that cause us not to detach from this world, but to earnestly seek the welfare of the cities in which we live so that we can see the Kingdom of God influence the world around us for His glory.