



THE ROAD OF EXILE

01: Living In Babylon

THE ROAD OF EXILE HANDOUT

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SOUTHBELT CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction

What does the word **EXILE** mean? Or what does it mean to be **EXILED**?

Exploring The Text

Daniel's World

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it." (Daniel 1:1, NIV)

What did this mean for Daniel?

When Everything Changes

“And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.” (Daniel 1:2, NIV)

Exile did not mean God had suddenly lost control.

Babylon Wants to Shape Daniel

Daniel 1:4 says they were to be taught **“the language and literature of the Chaldeans.”**

Babylon is trying to shape who Daniel becomes.

What can Daniel remember? _____

Daniel Resolved

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.” (Daniel 1:8, NIV)

Living in Babylon is not the same as belonging to Babylon.

Faithfulness Requires Discernment

This is one of the tensions we will explore throughout this series. Sometimes we might imagine we have only two choices. **Daniel shows us another way.**

Daniel had to learn when he could say **yes** and when faithfulness required him to say **no**.

Faithfulness does not require _____, _____,

or _____.

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Faithful in Babylon

“To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.” **(Daniel 1:17, NIV)**

“And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.” **(Daniel 1:21, NIV)**

Daniel knows who he _____.

Living in Babylon

How do we love our neighbors without losing our identity? How do we seek the good of our community while remaining faithful to Jesus? How do we participate in the world around us without allowing that world to determine who we become?

Daniel's Answer: **Remember who you** _____.

Continuing the Journey

Daniel could not choose where he lived. But he could choose whether Babylon would determine who he became. The same is true for us.

One More Thing:

Living in Babylon is not the same as _____ to Babylon.

Scripture Acknowledgement

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For Additional Study

BibleProject: [Book of Daniel](#)

BibleProject: [The Way of Exile](#)

BibleProject: [Exile](#)

N.T. Wright: [End of Exile: Daniel, Jesus, and Redemption \(N. T. Wright Q&A\)](#)