

Lessons from Daniel Bible Study

Lesson 1 - December 2, 2020

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## Lessons from Daniel *God's Judgment is Redemptive*



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## God's original Model of Liberty

- ↳ Gen. 1:26-28 – The Liberty Model – 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 2:1-5
  - ⌘ A culture that protects life - “be fruitful”
  - ⌘ A culture that protects liberty – “replenish”
  - ⌘ A culture that protects private property – “dominion”
  - ⌘ A civil government with negative law (few powers so that religious and civil liberty can be protected)
  - ⌘ Decentralized government in family, church, state
  - ⌘ Generational continuity protecting family dynasties

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## God's Remnant Model of Captivity

- ⌘ Genesis 3:7-24 – due to sin, the Captivity Model
  - ⌘ will sacrifice its children on the altar of selfish idolatry
  - ⌘ will produce tyranny, beginning in the home
  - ⌘ will turn productive work into “slave” labor
  - ⌘ will have positive (permit) law where all rights are government-granted and religious liberty is very small
  - ⌘ will be centralized, controlling family and church
  - ⌘ will leave inheritance to the state, not the children

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## The Liberty and Captivity Models

### God's goal is the Liberty Model

- ⌘ Requires responsibility for *maintaining* self-government
- ⌘ Less than 5% of all nations have had liberty in world history
- ⌘ For four hundred years Israel had a Republic – 1450 – 1050 BC
- ⌘ Israel chose a King; and after a civil war, Israel (722) to Assyria and Judah (586) to Babylon

### God still rules in Captivity Model

- ⌘ God deals with the heart of His people to serve and love captors
- ⌘ 95% of all nations in history have had monarchy/tyranny
- ⌘ Israel failed to maintain self-government, going into captivity
- ⌘ Daniel provides a model of how God prepares His people to serve their captors to produce liberty

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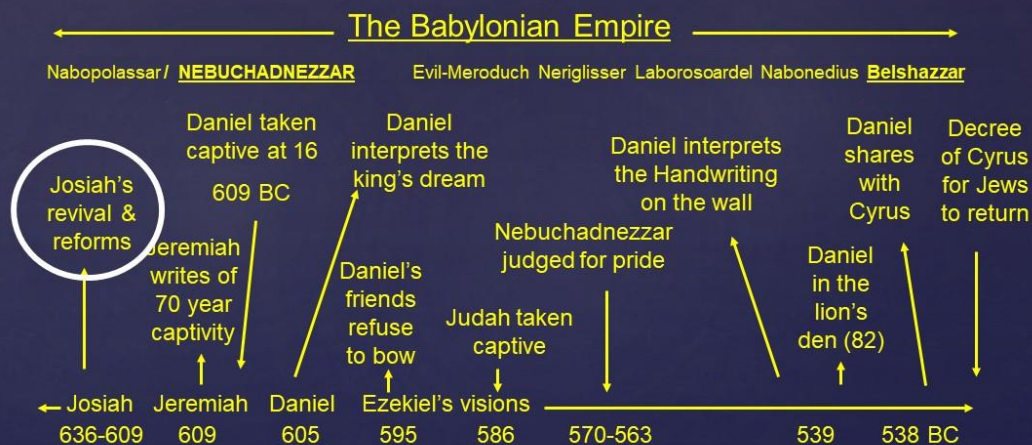


## Some Biblical Premises to Remember

- & God is *Sovereign* over our Liberty and Captivity
- & The Church in America has not been obedient in training her children or embracing a Kingdom worldview... we are under His *Judgment*
- & We must be *willing* to be refined under captivity
- & The Judgment of God is *redemptive* and thus He can deliver us and intervene at any time – *mercy triumphs over judgment and that is our hope!*

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## The Babylonian Empire "An Empire of Pride"



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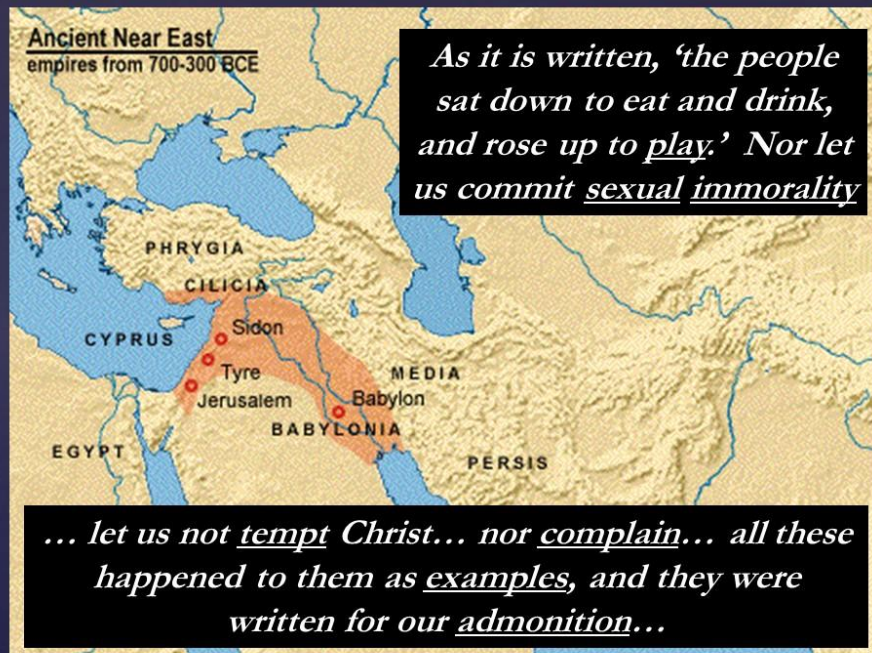
## Why did God send Israel into Captivity?

They refused repeated warnings to repent

- ↳ Steps of Decline that led (and lead) to captivity
  - ⌘ Mixture of Godly and Ungodly philosophies of life
  - ⌘ Compromise of God's Law and Obedience to Him
  - ⌘ Division – loss of enduring values that unite
    - ↳ Israel lost its *Land, its King and their Temple*
  - ⌘ Captivity to a foreign power – (Israel 722; Judah 586)

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1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 10:6-11  
*Now these things  
(lessons from  
Israel) became our  
examples, to the  
intent that we  
should not lust  
after evil things as  
they also lusted.  
And do not  
become idolaters  
as were some of  
them...*



*As it is written, 'the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.' Nor let us commit sexual immorality*

*... let us not tempt Christ... nor complain... all these happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition...*



## Can the modern Church learn from Ancient Israel?

### Ancient Israel

- ⌘ Lusting after evil, and sacrificed their children to pagan gods
- ⌘ They would work in order to eat, drink and be merry (entertained)
- ⌘ They gave themselves to sexual perversion of every kind
- ⌘ They tempted God (Christ) by their lack of repentance and failing to pass down enduring values of *land, king and temple*

### Modern Church

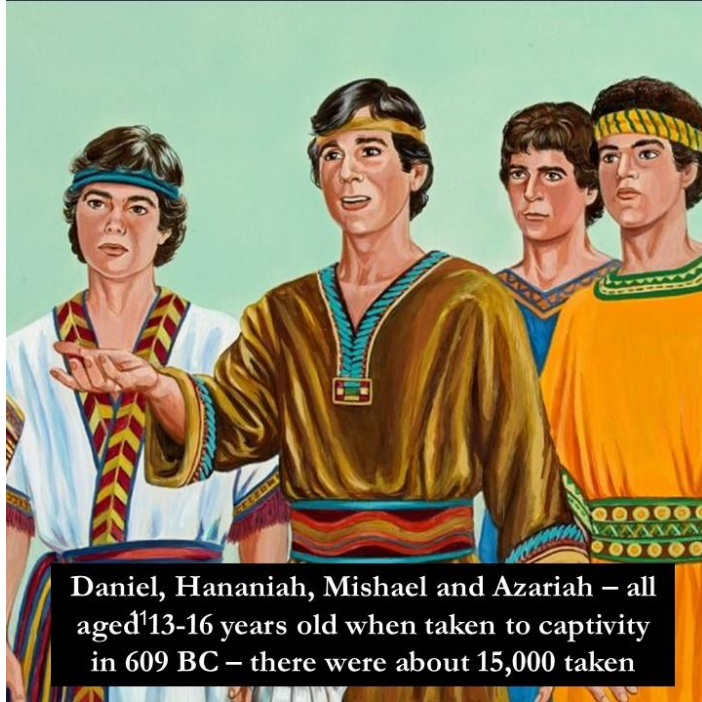
- ⌘ Evil is normal, and pagan training / abortion are rampant
- ⌘ We are an entertainment driven society, we work to play
- ⌘ Sexual perversion is not only permitted, it is accepted by law
- ⌘ We have tried everything to return to liberty except repentance and passing down the distinctives of *liberty, self-government and Christianity*

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## God's Purpose for Captivity

- ⌘ Experience some slavery to appreciate liberty
- ⌘ Go through the discipline of valuing prayer, devotion to God, and holiness while in captivity
- ⌘ Cultivate deep repentance and fear of God; a hatred for sin and its consequences
- ⌘ The power of a remnant who is delivered and restored to God through loving and serving others
- ⌘ Reteach the fact that *isolation* and *assimilation* are to be avoided but *influence without being unclean* is God's way

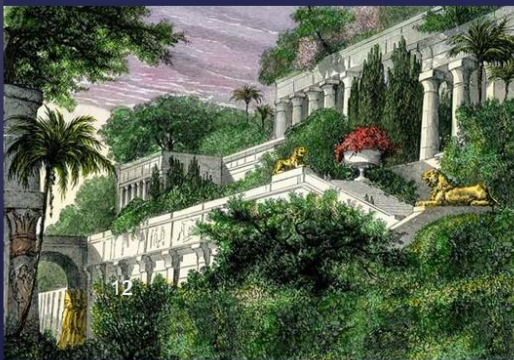
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Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah – all aged<sup>1</sup>13-16 years old when taken to captivity in 609 BC – there were about 15,000 taken

Daniel 1:4-5  
*...young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans... and three years of training for them*

- Walls 87 ft wide, 350 ft high
- Ziggurat modeled after the Tower of Babel by Nimrod
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon – one of the 7 wonders of the world built for Nebuchadnezzar's wife



## Welcome to Babylon





## The Culture of Babylon

- ⌘ No rights, religious or civil liberty, nor any appeals process
- ⌘ Marduk (Bel – Baal) – main god of ziggurat
- ⌘ Hadad (Addad) – god of weather
- ⌘ Ishtar – goddess of sex, war, justice, political power
- ⌘ Daniel (God is my Judge) to *Belteshazzar* (Bel's Prince),
- ⌘ Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah were named *Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego* (all pagan deities)
- ⌘ All four were trained three years in Babylonian religion, customs and culture *yet they remained faithful to their God!*

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## Trained in Babylonian Culture

*...For three years, they were educated in Nebuchadnezzar's court; they were introduced to the literature and customs of Babylon. They were inundated with various kinds of pagan ideas regarding sexuality, the meaning of life, and all of the "wisdom" found in Babylonian mythology. The intention was to brainwash them for future service... they became experts in Babylonian protocol... yet (they) endured pagan indoctrination without losing their faith. (The Church in Babylon, Erwin Lutzer)*

*...Babylon was also known for its demonic influences. The state-sponsored religion was satanic, and the core curriculum of the schools of higher learning included a large dose of astrology and the occult. (Thriving in Babylon, Larry Osborne)*

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## Jeremiah's Letter to the Captives – chp. 29

⌘ *Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.*

⌘ *Settle down; learn the language of your captors*

⌘ *Build a family legacy... beget sons and daughters*

⌘ *Seek the peace of the city (invest and serve in it)*

⌘ *Pray to the Lord for it; in its peace you will have peace*

⌘ *Rehearse God's Promise... After seventy years are completed, (in His time) I will visit you...*

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Jeremiah 29:11-13

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with all  
<sup>16</sup> your heart.*



*v. 14, 20 – I will be found of you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity... Therefore hear the word of the Lord, all of you of the captivity...*



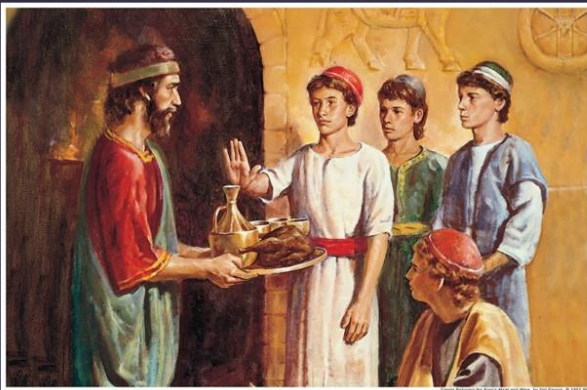
Daniel 1:8

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

The line could have been drawn in relation to worship, morality or any number of areas

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## Where do you draw the line?



*v. 12-13 - Please test your servants for ten days and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies...*

Daniel 1:9

- *...he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*
- *Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.*
- *They offered an alternative to save the life of their captor!*

## Lesson One – *God’s Judgment is Redemptive*

- ⌘ Daniel, at 14 – followed Jeremiah’s advice, saw God!
- ⌘ He led a remnant, perhaps less than 1% of teens
- ⌘ They purposed not to defile themselves, yet...
- ⌘ offered an alternative, *in submissive disobedience*
- ⌘ They were willing to lose their lives for the life of their captor rather than compromise convictions
- ⌘ They were lights in the midst of darkness!

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## Suggested “homework”

- ⌘ Read Daniel, chapter 1 and Jeremiah, chapter 29
- ⌘ Ask God to give each of us a heart for the city in which we dwell and the desire for a creative alternative so that if we must disobey, it is done though an attitude of *service and love!*

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