

WHY WE SHOULD LIVE **WISELY** IN

BABYLON

PART TWO



PASTOR ESTHER ST. JOHN

Why We Should Live Wisely in Babylon - Part 2

December 6, 2020

Texts:

- ❖ Daniel 1 & 2
- ❖ Galatians 3: 7-12, 27-29
- ❖ Jeremiah 29:11

Why Should We Live Wisely in Babylon?

□ Because We are People of the Future!

A. Introduction

- Thank God for godly examples of men and women in our lives and who have gone before who have lived their lives not to please themselves but God.
- If there is ever a message that is in season it is the series; “*Living Wisely in Babylon.*” In the book of Daniel we see godly men who lived wisely in a Babylonian system, coming to the forefront for us to learn from and to use their lives as a pattern for godly living.



In the book of Daniel we see these godly men Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. These young men were taken as captives to Babylon under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar.

- They were taken captive to Babylon because of the decisions of their fore-parents and leaders. They were unfaithful to their God, Jehovah
- I want to interject here that the decisions we make have great implications, positive or negative
- Therefore, we need to weigh our decisions carefully and wisely, before making choices
- Our decisions affect others and not just us
- Our decisions have rewards or consequences

- 
- Babylon was now home away from home. The prophecy against Israel in the book of Jeremiah was that God's judgement was against them because they did not walk in obedience to His laws and statutes.
 - But according to **Hosea 4:12** "...[a] spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God." This is pretty graphic language used to describe God's people unfaithfulness to Him.
 - Therefore, **Daniel 9: 2** announces; it would be 70 years in the desolation of Jerusalem.
 - **Deuteronomy 6:14**, states; "*You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you*"
 - In **Jeremiah 7:23**, God said, "*but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you (NIV).*"

- 
- As God's people they were living as they pleased, as though there would not be any consequences to their actions
 - They were God's representative in the earth to show forth His glory and His loving kindness and tender mercies to other nations. Now they were just like other nations, this decision took them farther than they ever thought and kept them longer than they would have desired to stay
 - They were now living in Babylon and some would live and have children there, die and be buried there, and some would return home to Jerusalem

B. Our Example Defines Who You Are

- ❖ *"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God (3 John 11, NIV)."*
- ❖ In **Philippians 3:17-19** Paul the apostle exhorts; *"Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things (NIV)."*



B. Our Example Defines Who You Are (cont'd)

- We see godly examples from Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah as people of God living wisely under a Babylonian system
- In this story Daniel decided not to defile himself with the king's meat and his decision affected his companions

C. Abraham Seed are God's People

- ❖ **Galatians 3: 7-9**, tells us; *“And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the gentiles by faith, announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”*
- ❖ **Galatians 3: 26-29**, states; *“So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (NIV).”*
- ❖ *“God redeemed us so that the blessing of Abraham might come on the gentiles through Christ so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit (**Galatians 3:14**).”*

6 Things we Need to Know from Galatians 3:26-29

1. We are in Christ who believe by faith
 2. In Christ, the barriers have been broken down
 3. In Christ, God does not differentiate between Jews and Gentiles
 4. In Christ, God does not differentiate between male and female
 5. In Christ, God does not differentiate slave or free
 6. In Christ we who believe by faith are all One
- In Christ the barriers between Jews and Gentiles, male and female, slave and free are broken down - "It has been taken away."
 - To God there is no difference because we are one in Christ Jesus

D. We Come in the Volume of the Book - the Bible

- The volume of the book is the WORD of God, where it is written of us:
 - ❖ It is written of us that the Lord shall make us the head and not the tail and we shall be above only and no beneath -
Deuteronomy 28:13
 - ❖ *“But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever (Daniel 7:18 NIV)”*
 - ❖ Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God -
Romans 8:14
 - ❖ We are kings and Priest unto God the Father – **Revelation 1:6**

E. We Are People of the Future - Jeremiah 29:11

- GOD'S THOUGHTS TOWARD US, IS TO BLESS US AND NOT TO HARM US AND TO GIVE US A HOPE AND A FUTURE
- Definition of word Future:
 - 1) time that is to come; what is going to happen
 - 2) an expectation of advancement or progressive development
- The people of God are always Present and a people that is Future
- As God's people that is present and future, we have a part to play in God's plan in the earth to advance the kingdom of God and to pray His will in the earth

E. We Are People of the Future (cont'd)

- We have a part to play, like:
 - ❖ Joseph in Egypt
 - ❖ Daniel in Babylon
 - ❖ Esther in Persia
 - ❖ Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles
- We have the advantage of knowing from what God has already revealed; what will happen to the present world powers, and the future earth
- It is written of us that we are priests and kings



5 Things We Can Learn:

1. Our destiny and confidence lie in the choices we make
2. Destiny is a choice with a destination. It is taking us somewhere (Joshua 24:15, NIV)
3. God already decided who will receive and possess His eternal kingdom (Daniel 7:18, NIV)
4. The Babylonian system: The Sprit of Babylon is assigned to hinder, frustrate, and sabotage the fulfillment of purpose, undermine destinies, and imprison souls of man but God has already given us the victory! (1 Corinthians 15:57)
5. God's word will be fulfilled in the earth (Psalm 2:1-12)



Conclusion

- Today is a day of **choice**. Serve the Lord with confidence saints of the most high God, knowing you have a glorious hope in Christ.
- As long as we keep serving Him in spirit and truth our future in Him is certain.
- Today is a day of **decision**: it is still the day of God's salvation. It is open to you and He is calling you into His loving care.
- A decision to serve God today is to be apart of the People of the Future!