

Interlocked Series

Lesson #27.1

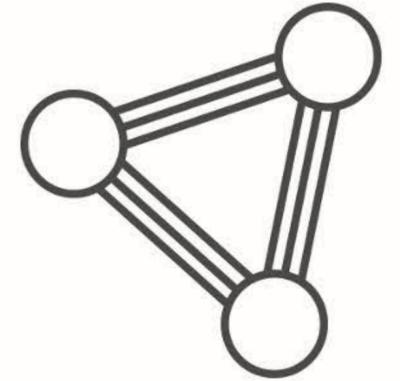
January 9, 2025

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2025, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

INTERLOCKED

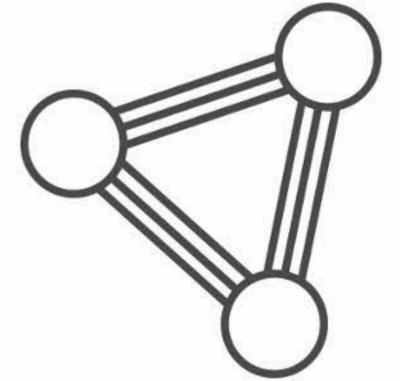


Lesson 25: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 25B The Prophets

- **The Bible's Commentary on the Blessings and Curses**
- **The Eternal Promises of Land, Seed, Blessing**
- **The Unresolved Mystery of the Prophets**
- **Is the Role of the Prophet Active in the Church Today?**

INTERLOCKED

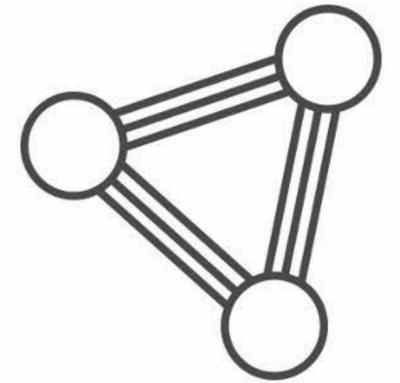


Lesson 26: Sent into Exile

Lesson 26A Exile

- **Transfer of Political Power to Gentiles**
- **Transfer of Political Power from Israel to Gentile Rulers (603 BC)**
- **End of Solomon's Dynasty (598 BC)**
- **Departure of the Shekinah Glory (591 BC)**

INTERLOCKED

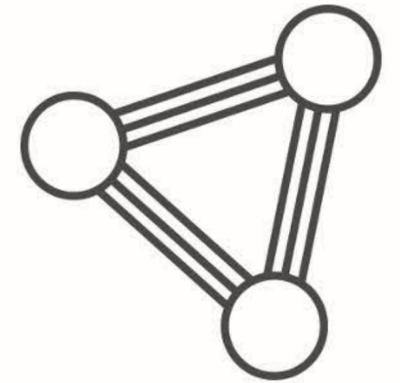


Lesson 26B: Sent into Exile

Lesson 26B Exile

- **The Beginning and Role of Prophetic Literature**
- **How should we Understand Prophetic Literature?**
- **The Rise of the Kingdom of Man: Religion, Philosophy, Globalism**
- **Does God Still Speak to People in Dreams?**

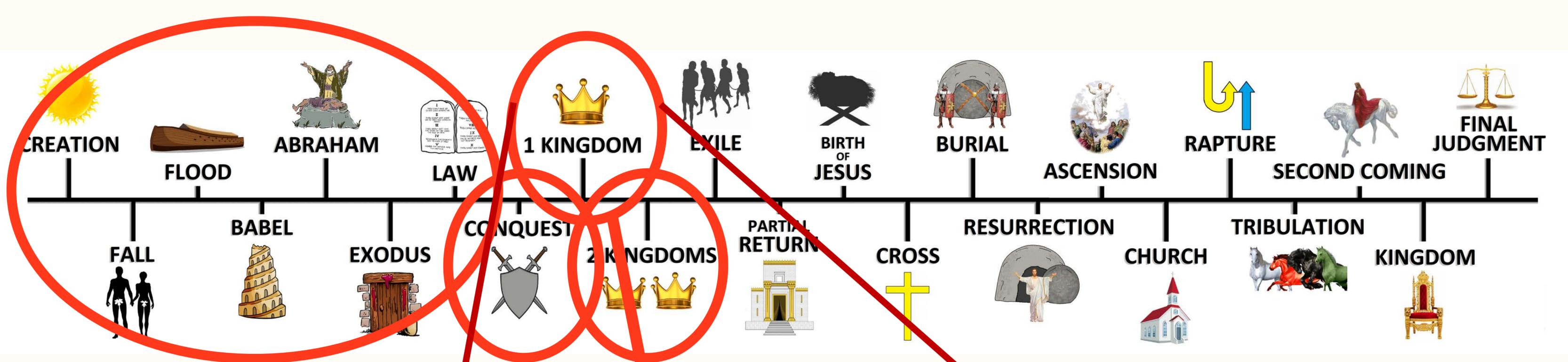
INTERLOCKED



Lesson 27: Living as Believers in a Pagan Culture

Lesson 27A

- The Book of Daniel is a “Wisdom” Book**
- Life for Exiles in a Pagan Culture**
- How to Face Conflicts with Hostile Pagan Governments**



Torah
Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth

1–2 Samuel
1–2 Kings
1–2 Chronicles

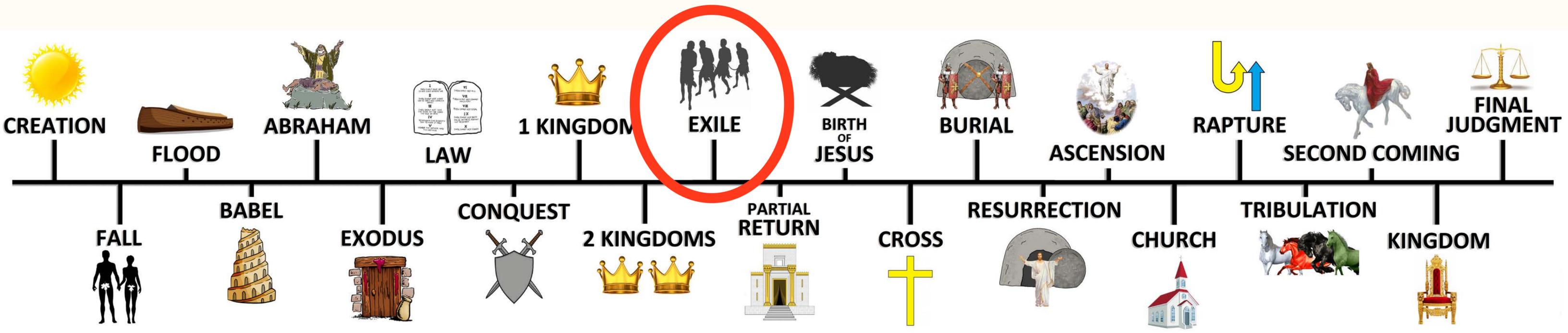
Kings
FOR
Israel

King
David

King
Solomon

Kingdom
Divided

Decline of
the Kingdom



CREATION

FLOOD

ABRAHAM

LAW

1 KINGDOM

EXILE

BIRTH OF JESUS

BURIAL

ASCENSION

RAPTURE

SECOND COMING

FINAL JUDGMENT

FALL

BABEL

EXODUS

CONQUEST

2 KINGDOMS

PARTIAL RETURN

CROSS

RESURRECTION

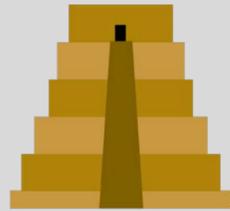
CHURCH

TRIBULATION

KINGDOM

Pagan Kingdom of Man

Based on WORKS
Man would save himself through his own ideas



Babel



Egypt



Canaan

God's restraining hand on the pagan kingdom of man

Rise of the Kingdom of Man

Kingdom of God Based on GRACE God would save man

Election



God chose Abraham



God saved Israel



God built Israel:

- Law
- National anthem
- Temple worship
- Feasts & festivals



Conquest and Settlement in the Promised Land



Kings in Israel:

- Unified kingdom
- Divided kingdom

Israel and Judah turned against God: Paganized—unbelievers

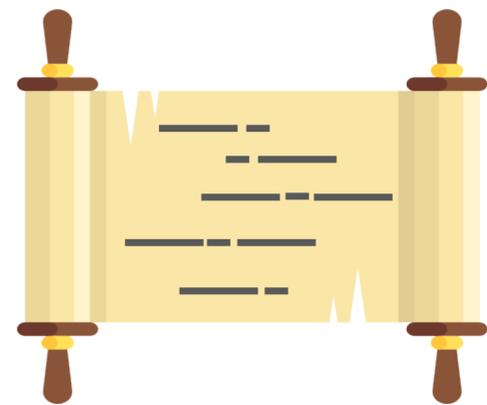
Few believers

Grey shows paganization



Exile: Kingdom of God Ended

Job of the Old Testament Prophets



A.
God's
historians



B.
God's
prosecuting attorneys



C.
God's
Scripture writers

Correct Understanding of *Yahweh*

Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level
CREATOR
(*Yahweh*)

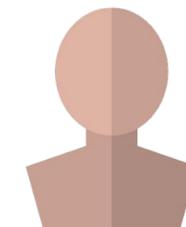
INFINITE SOVEREIGN *YAHWEH*

2nd level
creature
(man)

• finite
limited
man



Idol 1



Idol 2

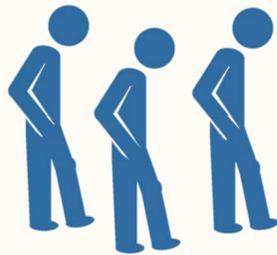


Idol 3

The nation of Israel was no different from the rebellious pagans.

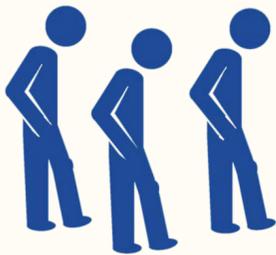
- **They rebelled against *Yahweh* from the time God first made them into a nation.**
- **They rebelled against His Mosaic Law.**
- **They rebelled when God told them to conquer the Promised Land of Canaan.**
- **They rebelled by asking for a human king instead of honoring *Yahweh* as their king.**
- **They rebelled by ignoring the prophets God sent to warn them of judgment if they didn't repent.**
- **They rebelled even when God sent judgment to discipline them.**

The book of Daniel is a “wisdom” book



Israel
exiled

721



Judah exiled
until 515 BC

586



515

Year
(BC)
not to
scale



TANAKH



Torah (Law)

**Navi'im
(Prophets)**

**Ketuvim
(Writings)**

ENGLISH OLD TESTAMENT

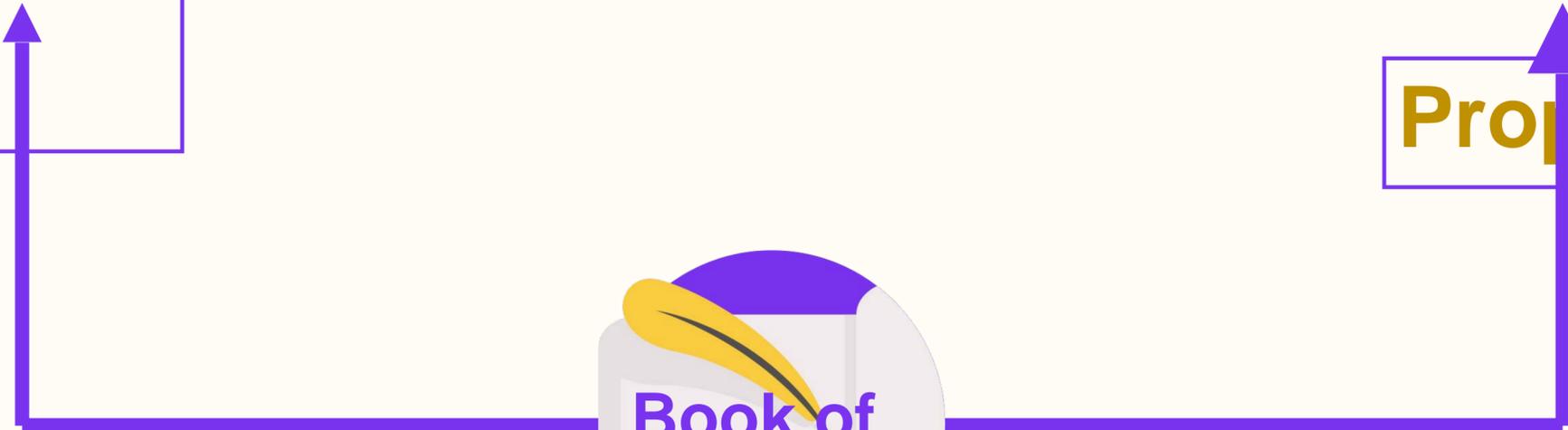


Law

History

Wisdom

Prophets





WISDOM

on how to live in the
pagan kingdom of man



HOPE

to help believers
survive the tough times



Lessons from the life of
Daniel and his friends

Revelations about the
future to give
long-range hope



Life for the Young Exiles in the Pagan Kingdom of Man

Dan. 1:3, “Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles,

Dan. 1:4, “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.”

Dan. 1:5, “And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

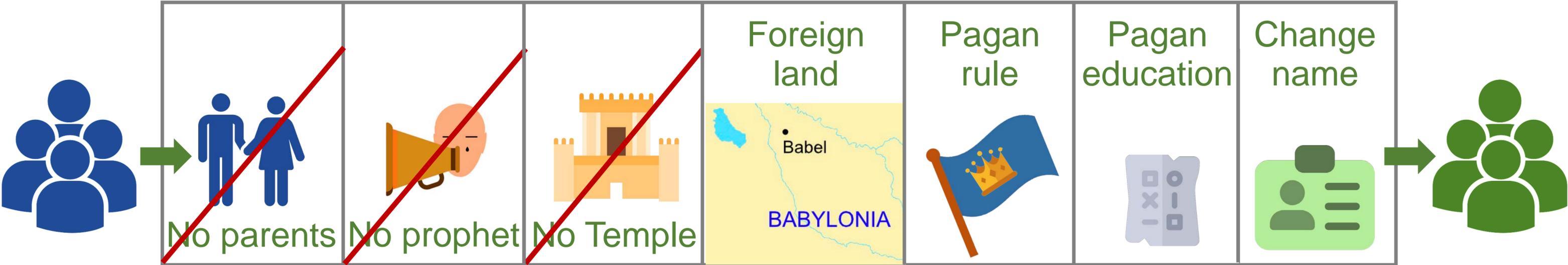
Dan. 1:6, “Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Dan. 1:7, “To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.”

The king's plan was to change the Jewish boys into Babylonian citizens by:

- i. Giving them a pagan education,**
- ii. Immersing them in pagan culture, and**
- iii. Erasing their identity and public testimony.**

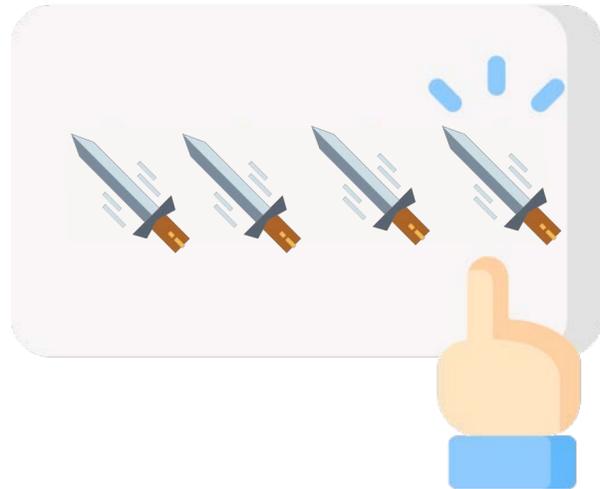
Re-education program: turn Jewish young men into Babylonian citizens



Their original names and meaning	Their Babylonian names and meaning
Daniel (“ God is my judge ”)	Belteshazzar (“May Bel protect his life”)
Hananiah (“ <i>Yahweh</i> is gracious”)	Shadrach (possibly referring to the idol Marduk)
Mishael (“Who is like God ?”)	Meshach (“Who is Acho?”, the moon god)
Azariah (“ <i>Yahweh</i> is my helper”)	Abed-nego (“Servant of Nebo”, a false god)

Biblical principles guiding how Daniel, Hananiah, Michael and Azariah lived

1



Choose the battle

2



Protest as peacefully as possible by submitting to authority

3



Use practical arguments

A. How Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah lived and the biblical principles guiding them.

Principle 1: Choose the battle.

Dan. 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; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

1 Cor. 8:4, “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

1 Cor. 8:5, “For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),

1 Cor. 8:6, “yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

1 Cor. 8:8, “But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.”

1 Cor. 10:14, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Cor. 10:15, “I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.

1 Cor. 10:16, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1 Cor. 10:17, “For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

1 Cor. 10:18, “Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?”

1 Cor. 10:19, “What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?”

1 Cor. 10:20, “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

1 Cor. 10:21, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.

1 Cor. 10:22, “Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?”

1 Cor. 10:25, “Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience’ sake;

1 Cor. 10:26, “for ‘the earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness.’ ”

1 Cor. 10:27, “If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience’ sake.”

1 Cor. 10:28, “But if anyone says to you, ‘This was offered to idols,’ do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience’ sake; for ‘the earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness.’

1 Cor. 10:29, “ ‘Conscience,’ I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man’s conscience?”

Principle 2: Protest as peacefully as possible by submitting to authority.

Dan. 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; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Dan. 1:9, “Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.”

Rom. 12:8, “he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Principle 3: Use practical arguments.



May we have permission not to eat the food we have been given?



YES

... you don't need to eat the food we provide.

NO

... you must eat whatever we give you!

MAYBE ...?

Dan. 1:10, “And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, ‘I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.’

Dan. 1:11, “So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Dan. 1:12, “ ‘Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Dan. 1:13, “ ‘Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.’ ”

Dan. 1:14, “So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.”

Dan. 1:15, “And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies.””

Dan. 1:16, “Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.””

Dan. 1:17, “As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan. 1:18, “Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan. 1:19, “Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

Dan. 1:20, “And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”

But what if the Gentile government demands something that is outright anti-God?

THE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

BUILDS SOCIETY

**1. Responsible
Choice**

2. Marriage

3. Family

**RESTRAINS
SOCIETY**

**4. Civil
Government**

**5. Tribal
Diversity**

**Promote
stability, blessing,
perpetuation of
the human race**

**BLESSES
SOCIETY**

6. ISRAEL

Bless the world

**Discipline and
punish and
restrain evil**

1 Pet. 2:13, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

1 Pet. 2:14, “or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

1 Pet. 2:15, “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

1 Pet. 2:16, “as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

1 Pet. 2:17, “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

Situation 1: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah in the fiery furnace under King Nebuchadnezzar

Dan. 3:4, “Then a herald cried aloud: ‘To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

Dan. 3:5, “ ‘that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

Dan. 3:6, “ ‘and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.’

Dan. 3:7, “So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”

Situation 2: Daniel in the lion's den under King Darius

Dan. 6:6, “So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: ‘King Darius, live forever!

Dan. 6:7, “ ‘All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.’ ”

B. Principles to consider regarding disobeying the government.

1



Disobedience is legitimate when we are prevented from worshipping *Yahweh*.

2



Lean on God and His Word to guide our words and actions.

3



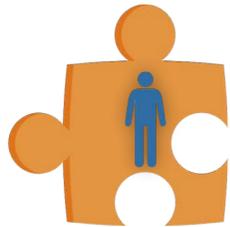
When disobeying, the most powerful witness to God is an act of trust followed by clear explanation of the motive.

4



In disobeying the government, show respect and submit to the required punishment.

5



Know the sovereignty of God and know the believer's role within the pagan kingdom of man.

6



Maintain integrity and continue to pray.

7



Pray for the pagan city.

Principle 1: Disobedience is legitimate when we are prevented from worshipping *Yahweh*.

Php. 3:20, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

Pagan Kingdom of Man

Based on WORKS.
Man would save himself
through his own ideas.

Kingdom of God
Based on GRACE.
God would save man.



**Believers are citizens of the
Kingdom of God**

**Jer. 27:4, “And command them to say to their masters,
‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel—thus you
shall say to your masters:**

**Jer. 27:5, “ ‘ “I have made the earth, the man and the beast
that are on the ground, by My great power and by My
outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed
proper to Me.**

**Jer. 27:6, “ ‘ “And now I have given all these lands into the
hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant;
and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve
him.” ’ ”**

Dan. 3:15, “Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made,”

Jer. 27:7, “ ‘So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son’s son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them.

Jer. 27:8, “ ‘And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,’ says the LORD, ‘with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.’ ”

Creator-creature Distinction

1st level
CREATOR
(*Yahweh*)

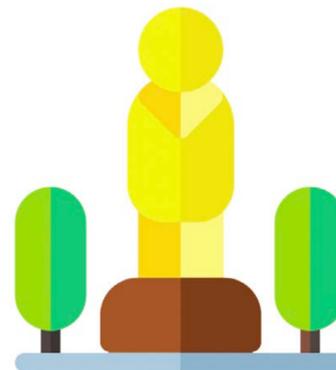
INFINITE SOVEREIGN *YAHWEH*

2nd level
creature



finite, fallen
Nebuchadnezzar

NOT 1st level or 2nd level
Lifeless



Nebuchadnezzar's
government-
sponsored idol

Principle 2: Lean on God and His Word to guide our words and actions.

Dan. 3:17, “ ‘If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

Dan. 3:18, “ ‘But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’ ”