

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Welcome to Exile!

PASSAGE: Daniel 1:1-2

DATE: January 2, 2022

I. Four Reasons to study Daniel

1. Understand the shifting cultural reality is an opportunity to be embraced, not a movement to be feared.
 - “We are entering a new era in which there is not only no social benefit to being Christian, but an actual social cost. In many places, culture is becoming increasingly hostile toward faith, and beliefs in God, truth, sin, and the afterlife are disappearing in more and more people. Now, culture is producing people for whom Christianity is not only offensive, but incomprehensible.” Tim Keller, *How to Reach the West Again*
2. Wisdom to know how to live as a Christian when America feels more like Babylon than Jerusalem.
3. Embrace the divine calling as an “engaged alien”
 - “Conservative Christians in America are undergoing a huge shift in the way we see ourselves in the world. We are on the losing side of a massive change that’s not going to be reversed, in all likelihood, in our lifetimes. Christians must adapt to the changed cultural circumstances by finding a way to live faithfully in a world in which we’re going to be a moral exception.” – Al Mohler
 - “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” – 1 Peter 2:11
 - “We live in a time of exile. At least those of us do who hold to traditional Christian beliefs...The Western public square is no longer a place where Christians feel they belong with any degree of comfort. For Christians in the United States, this is particularly disorienting. In Europe, Christianity was pushed to the margins over a couple of centuries—the tide of faith retreated {slowly}. In America, the process seems to be happening much more rapidly.” – Carl Trueman, *A Church for Exiles*
 - “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.” – Hebrews 11:13
4. Trust in a sovereign God who reigns over everything and whose dominion has no end

- 2:20-21, "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings."
- 3:16-17, "16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king."
- 4:25, "till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."
- 7:14, "And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."
- "This life will not be easy, because there is raging around us 'a continual and irreconcilable war,' and neutrality is not an option. Life may get harder. Society may get unfriendlier. Faith in Christ may become still more unacceptable and obedience to Christ still more costly. But Jesus reigns, and Jesus will return. We may not understand every part of the picture but stand back and see the broad sweep of it. God has won. God wins. And so we will prevail too, beyond the battle that you and I are a part of and must fight well in." —Alistair Begg

King	Date	Context in Daniels's Life	Bible Reference
Josiah	640-609 B.C.	Daniel's birth: 620 B.C.	2 Kings 22:1-2
Jehoahaz, son of Josiah	609 B.C. (3-month reign)		2 Kings 23:30-34
Jehoiakim, eldest son of Josiah	609-597 B.C.	King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem	Daniel 1:1-2
Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim	598/597 B.C. (3-month reign)	Daniel taken into captivity	2 Kings 24:6-16
Zedekiah, another son of Josiah	597-586 B.C.	Jerusalem is captured and destroyed: 586 B.C.	2 Kings 25:1; Jer. 39:1; 52:4; Ezek. 24:1-2

- "By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? – Psalm 137:1-4

Benediction:

"All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. – Psalm 145:10-13