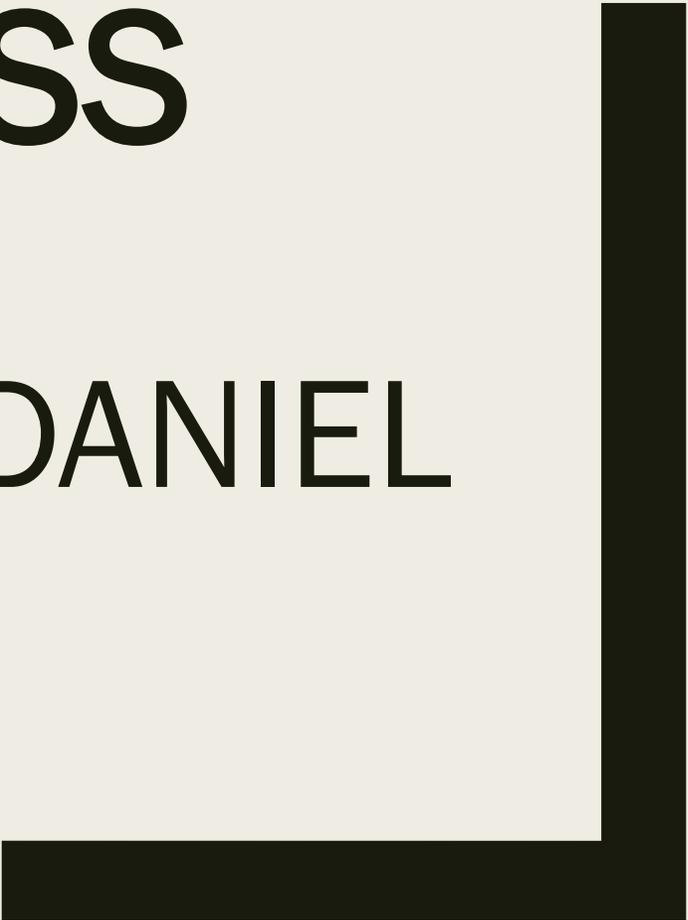




FAITHFULNESS

THE MESSAGE OF DANIEL
FOR TODAY





DANIEL 1

**FAITHFULNESS IN EXILE
(OR A HOSTILE WORLD
ENVIRONMENT)**



Daniel 1:2 “....And he brought them to the land of Shinar” (Babylonia)

- The Babylonian Exile – 605BC to 536BC

- *1 Peter 1:1 (ESV) elect exiles*

- *1 Peter 2:11 (ESV) sojourners and exiles*

- **FAITHFULNESS IN EXILE – Daniel 1**

1- Faithfulness and saying YES (Partially involved in a pagan world)

Yes to ...

- Pagan education (Daniel 1:3-5a)
- Political career (Daniel 1:5b, 18-19)
- Name change (Daniel 1:7)

A way of saying yes to Scripture (Jeremiah 29:1-7)

Critical co-operation

2- Faithfulness and saying NO (Total loyalty is only to God)

- *Daniel 1:8 (ESV) But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.*
- Observing the Jewish food laws (Lev. 20:25-26)?
- Avoiding 'covenant loyalty' to the king (Cf. Daniel 11:26).
- Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29

3- Faithfulness and saying HELP (God gifts and favours his own)

- *Daniel 1:17 (ESV) As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*
- *Daniel 1:20 (ESV) And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.*

4- Faithfulness and saying THANK YOU (God always wins in the end!)

- *Daniel 1:21 (ESV) And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.*
- Daniel survived the exile.
- Babylon was removed.

Romans 8:35-39

'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.