

## *2. Be prepared for our non - Christian culture to try and lead you away from Christ*

*But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.*  
Daniel 1:8

*Meals at this time were not fast food exercises in-between busy schedules. They were an opportunity for friendship and hospitality. Sharing a meal with someone was a way of communicating your acceptance of them.*

*(See Matthew 9:10-17)*

## *3. Trust God to honor your devotion and faithfulness to Him*

*<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven.*

*Philippians 3:17-20*

*We are sojourners, living in exile in a modern day Babylon. Every day we need to ask God for the wisdom to live faithful lives like his kingdom was here as it is in heaven. That's what Jesus taught his disciples to pray for. To be in, but not of this world.*

### Community Group Questions:

1. What is the most important takeaway in this text for you?
2. Suffering is something that makes people question God's existence. How can God be in control and still allow suffering?
3. How often do you share unhurried meals with people?
4. How do you live "in the world, but not of the world"?



Daniel  
How to Thrive in Babylon

Daniel 1

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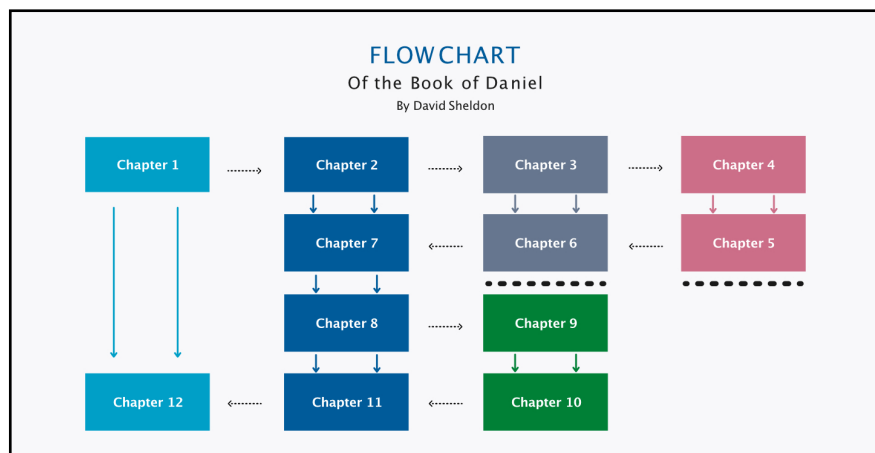
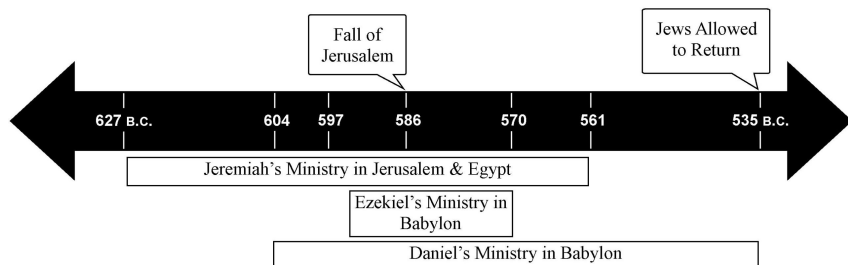
**1** <sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— <sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

<sup>6</sup> Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink.

## Timeline Comparing the Ministries of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel



### 1. God is in control - He will still send you to difficult places

"Because you have not listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the Lord, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations... This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

**Jeremiah 25:8-19,11**

Exile is an important theme throughout the Bible. It is the consistent human condition apart from God.

(See BibleProject video: Exile)

Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

<sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. <sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

[The Holy Bible: New International Version](#) (Da 1:1–21). (1984)