



DANIEL

**HOW TO THRIVE
IN BABYLON**



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**So how do we interact meaningfully
with a world that seems opposite to
everything we believe?**

Be effective!

How?

Like Daniel we do not have to compromise our beliefs by sacrificing our civility in our interactions, by condemning others with whom disagree, nor do we just throw in the towel, because of our fear of confrontation.

DANIEL'S BLUEPRINT FOR LIFE IN BABYLON

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

[Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)

“Be in the world not of the world.”

God says, “I don’t want you to love me and hate the culture nor do I want you to love the culture and then forget me. I want you find a way to love both.”

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?

... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Jeremiah 29:7

I. LOVE THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE NOT JUST YOUR CREW.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?”

Even sinners love those who love them. [Luke 6:32](#)

2 things Jeremiah is telling us:

1. Keep marrying and having kids.

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

Jeremiah 29:5,6

2 things Jeremiah is telling us:

2. The community at large needs Christians.

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 29:7



Dr. Heather Macdonald

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**Disparate Impact
Thinking Is
Destroying Our
Civilization**



Imprimis

DANIEL 2:31–36

“Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

DANIEL 2:31-36

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

DANIEL 2:37-45

37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

DANIEL 2:37-45

39 "After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

DANIEL 2:37-45

41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

DANIEL 2:37-45

44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy."

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ROCK?

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:35

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Daniel 2:35

1. The rock wasn't cut from human hands

"This is not cut out with hands." Verses. 34,45

It is a supernatural revelation.

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ROCK?

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:35

2. The rock is the least valuable substance in the dream.

You have gold, you have silver, but the simple rock, that's what God chooses in the dream to characterize his kingdom.

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ROCK?

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:35

Why? In the eyes of the world?
God's kingdom is less valuable.

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Daniel 2:35

3. The Rock Grows

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Daniel 2:35

3. The Rock Grows

First Jesus came in weakness and in service, and it didn't wipe away all the evil in the world.

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ROCK?

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:35

3. The Rock Grows

Secondly, Jesus' second coming, the kingdom of God will come in total power and fill the whole earth.

MATTHEW 13:31,32

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”

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“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”

What that means now is the kingdom of God is already here in reality, but it's not yet here in its fullness.

ROMANS 8:1

“There is now therefore no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.”

EPHESIANS 2:8,9

For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this is not from
yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by
works, so that no one can boast.

HOW IMPORTANT IS MERCY TO GOD?

For God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy. [Matthew 5:7](#)

HOW IMPORTANT IS MERCY TO GOD?

There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you. **James 2:13**

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

“Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’

Matthew 21:42

