CHAPTER 18
Daniel in Exile
DANIEL 1-3, 6; JEREMIAH 29-31

THE STORY

Introduction
When the Babylonians conquered Judah, they did so in three waves. Daniel and his friends were carried off to Babylon in the first wave around 606/605 BC. They were likely teenagers living as aliens in a foreign land.

What can we learn from Daniel and his friends about living as holy people in an unholy culture?

I. Resist the world's pressure to conform.
DANIEL 1

Daniel and his friends were under enormous pressure to conform.
- Intellectual – a secular worldview.
- Religious – Babylonian gods.
- Personal identity – Names changed.

Do we feel pressured to conform to the world and its values?

What did Daniel do? Verse 8
"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine."

Daniel and his friends chose to honor God and God honored them.
"Those who honor me, I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained." I Samuel 2:31

II. Refuse to bow down to any other god.
DANIEL 3

Daniel and his friends were under enormous pressure to conform.
- Intellectual – a secular worldview.
- Religious – Babylonian gods.
- Personal identity – Names changed.

Do we feel pressured to conform to the world and its values?
Nebuchadnezzar made an image of himself and he commanded everyone to worship him. Daniel’s friends would not bow down and worship him. “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Verses 17-18

They honored God and God honored them. Because of their courage, God was glorified. “Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” Verse 29

“Be of good comfort, Dr. Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out.” Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Latimer – Foxe’s Book of Martyrs

III. Trust in God alone.
DANIEL 6

Daniel is a man of integrity. Daniel’s enemies knew the only way they could bring a charge against him would be in relation to his God. Daniel is thrown into the lion’s den.

Through Daniel, God showed the Persian ruler that God alone is the King of Kings. Daniel was protected because he trusted in his God. Verse 23

“They who honor me, I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.” 1 Samuel 2:31
Conclusion
How do we live as holy people in an unholy world?
• Resist the pressure of the world to conform.
• Refuse to bow down to any other god.
• Trust in God alone.

There are three things we can do to make a difference in our world.
• Participation – our presence is a savoring influence in our world.
• Persuasion – proclaim the truth of God’s Word.
• Prayer – pray at all times and on all occasions in the Spirit.

Two Cities, Two Loves by James Montgomery Boice