

## Daniel: Ancient History, Contemporary Issues, Future Hope

- *“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10)*
- An Era of Exile: The Babylonian World of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC (Daniel 1:1).
  - 605BC | National Subjection
  - 597BC | National Surrender
  - 586BC | National Destruction
  - God often channels His sovereign faithfulness down rocky rivers of providence.
- God’s Sovereignty | Adonai is Sovereign to Judge (Daniel 1:2-4)
  - The Transcendent Actor
  - The Covenant Keeper (Leviticus 26:14-46)
    - Vessels Removed (Daniel 1:2)
    - Vassals Removed (Daniel 1:3; 2 Kings 20:17-19)
  - The Immovable God
    - A Remnant (Leviticus 26:40-44)
    - A Return (Ezra 1:7)
- The Vindication of God’s People (Daniel 1:5-7)
  - Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah
  - Reprogramming & Indoctrination
    - What’s in a Name?
    - The Appeal of Babylon
  - Uncompromising Faith
    - The Providence of God’s Sovereignty
    - The Dilemma of Dual Citizenship
- Grand Reversals
  - Sources of Sustenance
  - Interpretation of Dreams
  - Plots of Destruction
  - Standard Operating Procedure
- Worldly Wisdom vs. Wisdom from Above
  - Wisdom of Babylon: polytheistic writings, occult practices, astrology, divination, magic, etc.
  - Heavenly Wisdom (Romans 12:1-3; James 3:15-17)
- Conclusion: “We preach Christ...” (1 Corinthians 1:23)
  - In the Gospel we see God’s careful sovereignty on display even through the atrocities of the cross, because it’s through Christ’s perfect life and sacrificial death that His people truly are vindicated. There really is a “grand reversal” in Christ: we who were dead in sin are now alive; what seemed to be a defeat, led to ultimate victory. This gospel is high above any wisdom of man! And so, we see in the book of Daniel another foretaste of our riches in Jesus.

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