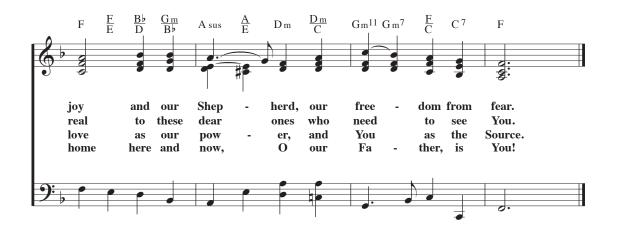
(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

Living in Babylon



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Adoniram J. Gordon (1836-1895); arr. by Ken Bible GORDON 11.11.11.11.

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TOPICS: God's Love; Pilgrimage, Life as a; Relationships

LEAD-IN: By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." (John 13:35, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Reflection on Daniel 1

Imagine a ruthless foreign enemy completely destroying your homeland, killing many of your family and friends, then forcing you and many others to move to their land and serve them. Even your old name is taken away.

And where is your God in all this? He commands you to make their home your home, to settle in and make a life for yourself there, and to seek the welfare of your new country.

As a young person, the life ahead of you will now be serving your captors and finding a way to settle into this foreign place.

This was Daniel's situation. This would now be Daniel's entire life.

And in a way, it is our life as well. Our daily challenge is to be both a good citizen of Babylon and a good citizen of the Kingdom of God.

We are to find a way to be true to our loving Father while being true in our present relationships and societal obligations.

We are to live the truth, even when it means swimming against the current of our culture. But we are to hold to the truth with the gentleness and joy of Jesus, without harsh, obnoxious arrogance. We are to lead by example,

not by force; to be fearless, and yet kind; to love our enemies and humbly serve them.

We are to live every day in the deep-down confidence that we serve the Sovereign God, and He is the loving Father of every human being. How can we face this daily challenge? By walking in the Spirit of Christ.

And as you go, find wisdom and encouragement in the life of Daniel.

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