

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.

Hymn: [Living in Babylon](#)

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