#### In The World, But Not Of It

An Introduction to Daniel

What will the End times be like? DOES THE BOOK OF DANIEL PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE END TIMES? Does the book of Daniel promise faithful believe's the same kind of prosperity and success on earth that Daniel and his frie ids enjoyed?



In a 4-session course, Rev Dr Gordon Wong will respond to these questions and bring us through the BOOK OF DANIEL with its important message for people living in the harsh realities of the ancient (and present) world. The book challenges us to remain faithful in the face of life's uncertainties and to believe in the certainty of God's eternal and loving control.

#### **Disclaimer:**

This course will *not* provide or predict *details* of "The End Time".

SPEAKER: REVD DR GORDON WONG

13 & 14 OCTOBER; 20 & 21 OCTOBER 2017

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

#### If it is not for details of The End of Time,

Why study Daniel today?

#### Two Reasons:

- 1. The world of Daniel 1-6 is like our world today
- The world of Daniel 7-12 is also like our world today

#### 4 Sessions ...

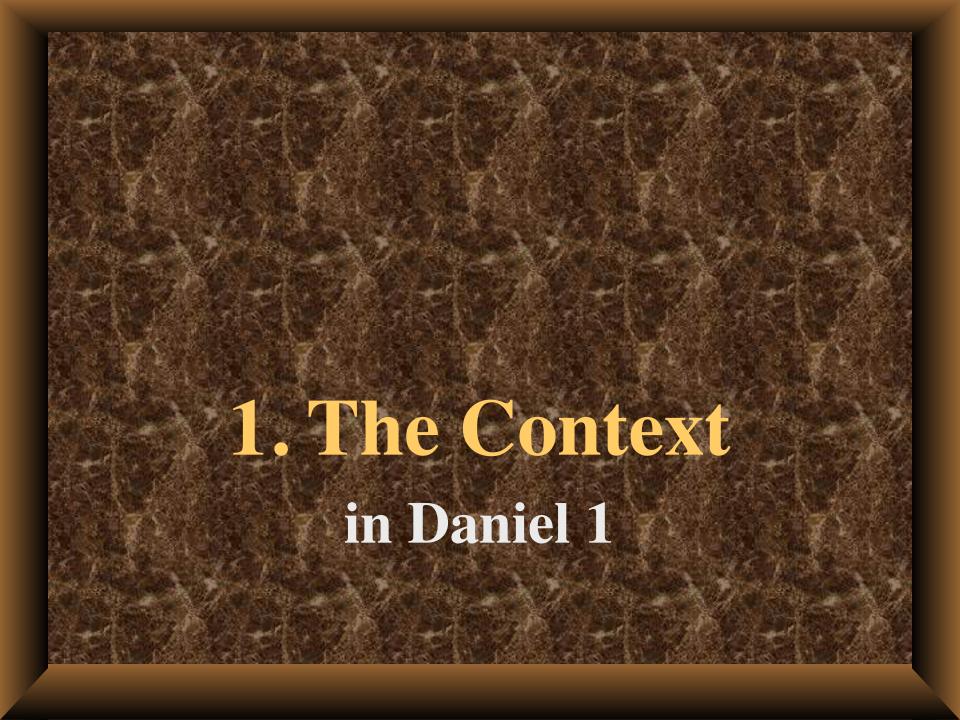
- Intro, Daniel 1 & 2
- 2 Daniel 6 & 7
- 3. Daniel 10 & 11
- 4. Daniel 12 & Summary

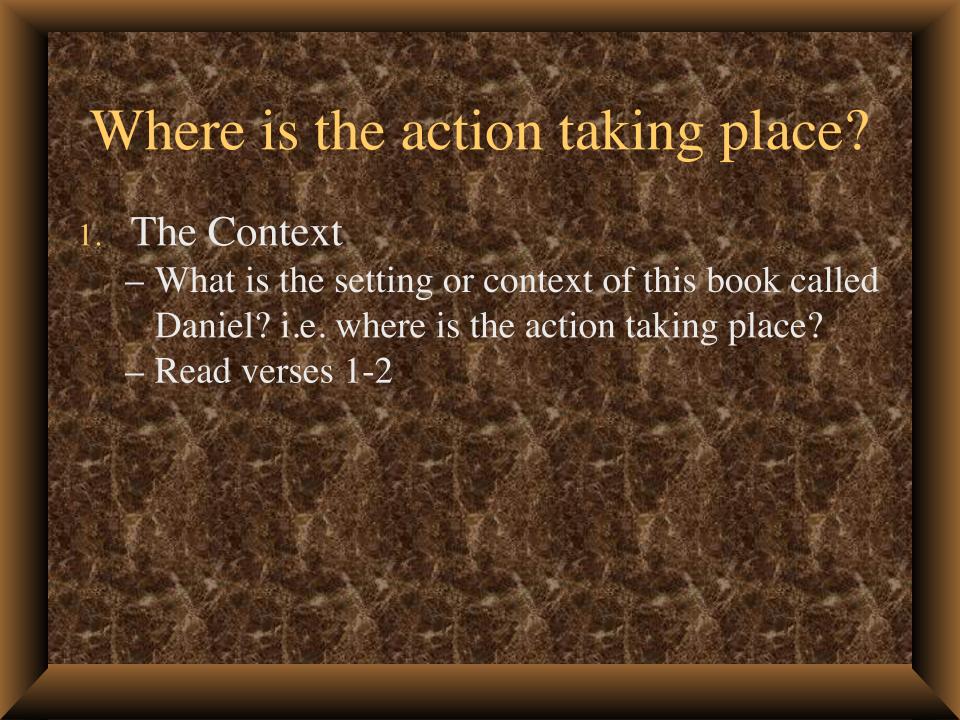
#### Some Reading suggestions

- Joyce G. Baldwin, Daniel
- John E. Goldingay, Daniel
- Donald E. Gowan, Daniel
- D.S. Russell, Daniel: An Active Volcano
- Seow Choon-Leong, Daniel
- Gordon Wong, Faithful to the End
  Good devotional paperbacks
- John Goldingay, Daniel and The Twelve Prophets For Everyone
- Chris Wright, Tested by Fire: Daniel 1-6
- Roy Clements, Practising Faith in a pagan world

# TOO HOLY? Marketplace Faithfulness

#### DANIEL 1





#### **Daniel 1:1-2**

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

#### Where is the action taking place?

#### 1. The Context

- What is the setting or context of this book called Daniel? i.e. where is the action taking place?

Verse 2: in Babylonia (= not life in Jerusalem) Life in EXILE

# Life in Exile DANIEL Uhh...what's the Exile?

## From this Temple (Where?) (Whose God?)



... to this temple
(Where?)
(Whose god?)

- 1. The Context
  - What does it mean to be in Babylon, in EXILE?
  - See verse 2 again
  - And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

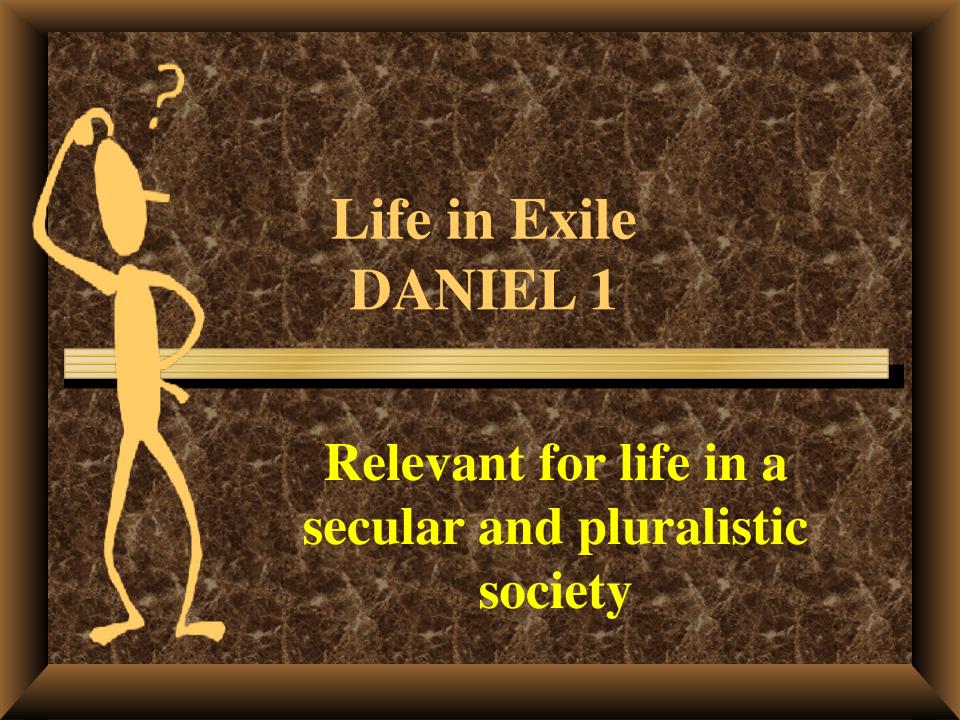


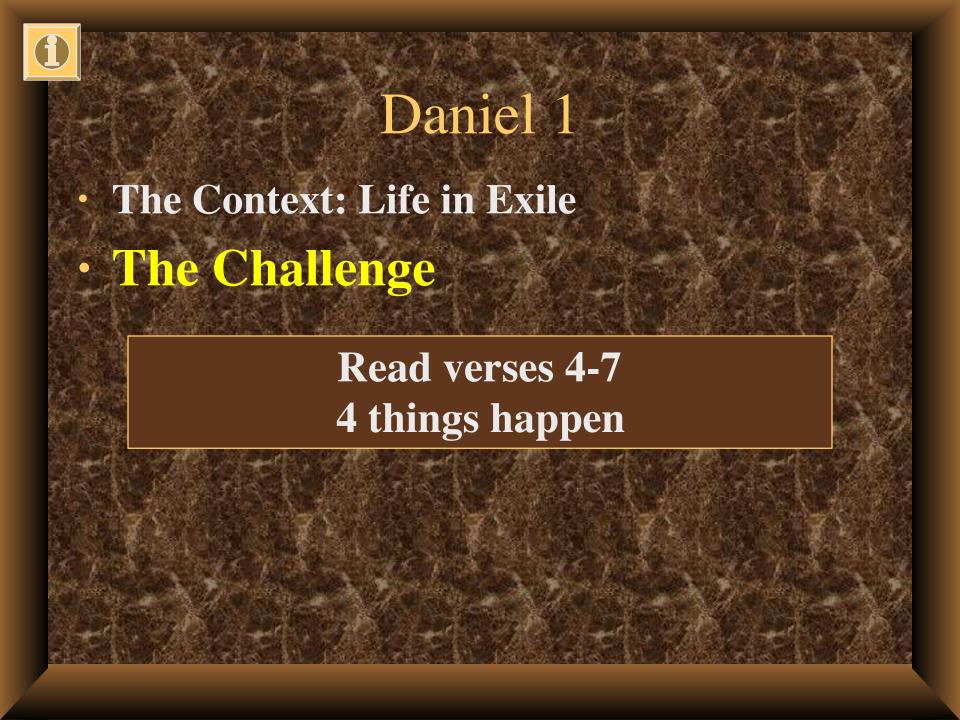
#### The Context of Daniel 1

Life in EXILE

- ·Life in Babylon, not in Jerusalem
- Life in a place where our GOD is not worshipped by those in power
- Life in a place where people worship other gods

Life in the World, not in Church





#### **Daniel 1:4-7**

He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table... They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. ... The chief official gave them new names ...

#### The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

#### Life in Exile: Coping with Changes

- -Babylonian c<u>ulture</u> & language (verse 4)
- -Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- -Babylonian names (verse 7)
- -Babylonian employment (verse 19)

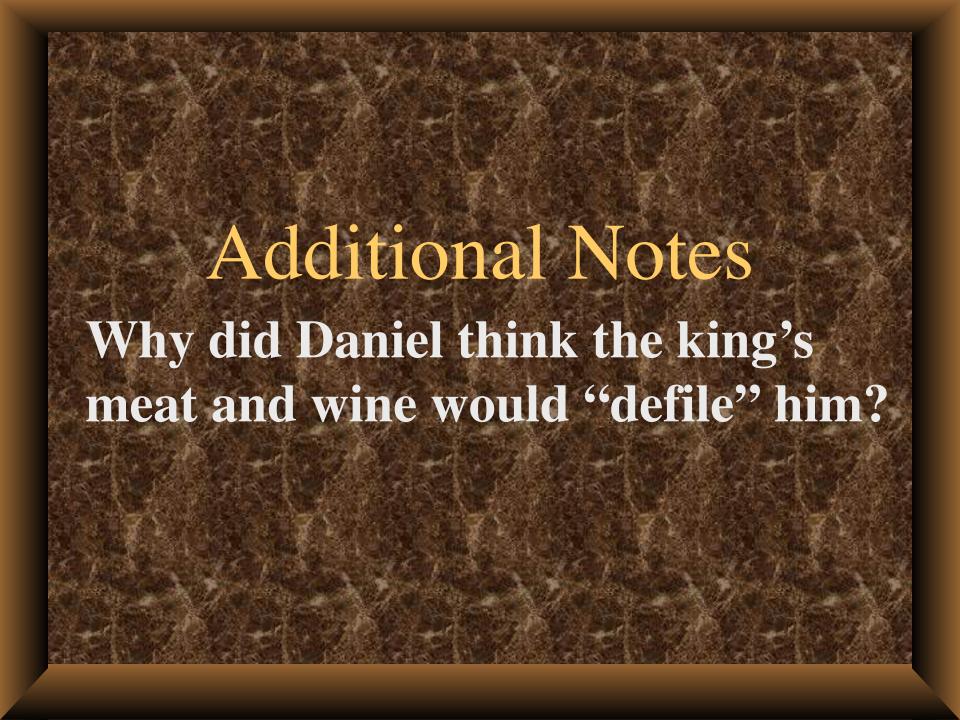
How will Daniel and friends respond?

#### The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

#### Life in Exile: Coping with Changes

- -Babylonian c<u>ulture</u> & language (verse 4)
- -Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- -Babylonian names (verse 7)
- -Babylonian employment (verse 19)

Daniel rejects the food. But why?





#### Bible Quiz!

Without looking at your Bible, who can say the names of Daniel's 3 friends?

### Babylonian Names Daniel 1:7

"The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego."



#### The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

- Life in Exile: Coping with Changes
  - Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
  - Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
  - Babylonian names (verse 7)
  - Babylonian employment (5,19)
- Daniel rejects Babylonian food (verse 8) but accepts Babylonian culture, education, names & employment

#### The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

#### Life in Exile: Coping with Changes

- Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
- Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- Babylonian names (verse 7)
- Babylonian employment (verses 5, 19)

# What to Accept? What to Reject?

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge

Life in Exile: coping with culture A question of Faithfulness (not Food)

What to Accept? What to Reject?

Life in Exile: coping with culture A question of Faithfulness (not Food)

What "faithfulness" involves

Avoid "defilement" / Evil (verse 8)

•determine what to accept / reject



#### Bible Quiz!

Can you guess which English words represent the same Hebrew word?

### Which words are the same in the Hebrew Bible??



- 7: The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.
- 8: But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

### Which words are the same in the Hebrew Bible??



- 7: The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.
- 8: But Daniel <u>resolved</u> not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

### What Babylon determines What Daniel determines



- Verse 7: The chief official gave (determined, set in place) them new names; to Daniel he gave (determined) the name Belteshazzar ....
- Verse 8: Daniel "determined" in his heart not to defile himself ...

What will we be determined by? What will we determine to be?

Life in Exile: coping with culture A question of Faithfulness (not Food)

What "faithfulness" involves

Avoid "defilement" / Evil (verse 8)

•determine what to accept / reject

#### Faithful Christian Living

- **2** Allows some Assimilation and Acceptance of a pluralistic society's conventions
- **2** Determines to be Distinctive as salt and light in the world

# IN the World but Not OF it

Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid "Defilement" / Evil (verse 8)

#### Advance Excellence

•in Work (verse 20)

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid "Defilement" / Evil (verse 8)

Advance Excellence

•in Work (verse 20)

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do it ... for the Lord.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine ... that others may see and glorify your heavenly Father.

Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid "Defilement" / E<u>vil</u> (verse 8) Advance E<u>xcellence</u> (verse 20)

Being Faithful in Exile





#### Modern Challenges & Examples

- Christian Egg Farmers Union?
- Christians in Business, Law, Medicine?
- Homemakers for Christ?

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do it ... for the Lord.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine ... that others may see and glorify your heavenly Father.



#### What would a lifestyle of excellence mean for

- students / children in non-Christian homes?
- a boss / a secretary / office cleaner ?
- homemakers, lawyers, business people, teachers, doctors, etc.?
- someone married to a non-Christian?

### Daniel 1

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Concern: a question of Faithfulness
- The Challenge
  - Christian life in a non-Christian world
  - Christian respect in a multi-religious, pluralistic society

Advance Excellence // Avoid Evil



- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Concern: a question of Faithfulness
- The Challenge: advance excellence // avoid evil

Take courage: God is with us. We are not alone!



### Daniel 1

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge: a question of Faithfulness
  - advance excellence // avoid evil
- The Conviction



# Bible Quiz!

What words in verses 2,9 & 19 are the same Hebrew word?



### Same Hebrew word in 3 verses?

V2: And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God.

V9: Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

V19: To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.



### Same Hebrew word in 3 verses?

V2: And the Lord <u>delivered</u> Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God.

V9: Now God had <u>caused</u> the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

V19: To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.



### Daniel 1

### !TeYIv

- · The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge: a life of Faithfulness
- The Conviction: GOD is in Control
  - •Verse 2: God "gave" Judah into the hands of Babylon
  - -Verse 9: God "gave" to Daniel kindness and compassion
  - •Verse 17: God <u>"gave"</u> knowledge and understanding of *all* kinds of literature

!t;'n"

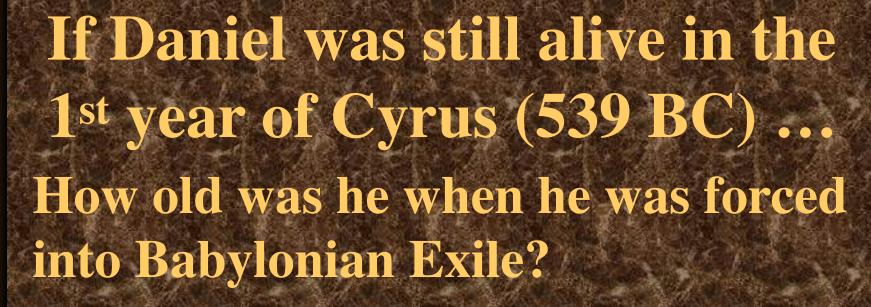
### Daniel 1

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge: a life of Faithfulness
- The Conviction: GOD is in Control

The way the chapter ends: verse 21

"And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus." (539 BC)

Daniel survives the Exile!



(Verse 1 Nebchadnezzar invaded Babylon around 597 BC)

### Life in Exile ...

- 2... a place where the ruling powers and majority do not worship your God
- 2... a place where you have been forced to go, leaving behind any dreams of life in your homeland that you might have had

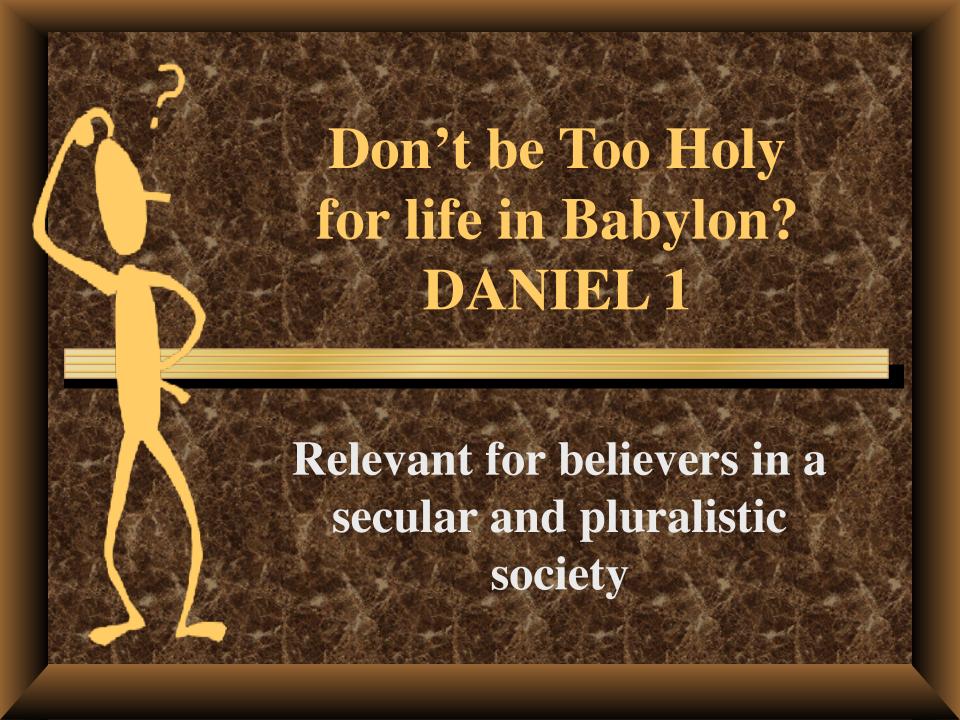
### The Book of Daniel

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge: Faithfulness in Exile
- The Conviction: GOD in Control

**TRUST** in God



Advance Excellence // Avoid Evil





- Jesus in Matthew 5:16
  - Let your light so shine before all people **that they may see** your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## Faithful Christian Living

- Allows some Assimilation and Acceptance of a pluralistic society's conventions
- Determines to be Distinctive as salt and light in the world

# IN the World but Not OF it

### Why study Daniel today?

Two Reasons:

Remaining Faithful when ...

- I. Living in the world of Daniel 1-6
  - = a world where the God you love is not worshipped by the majority of people in power
    - our work places?
    - our country?
    - our homes?

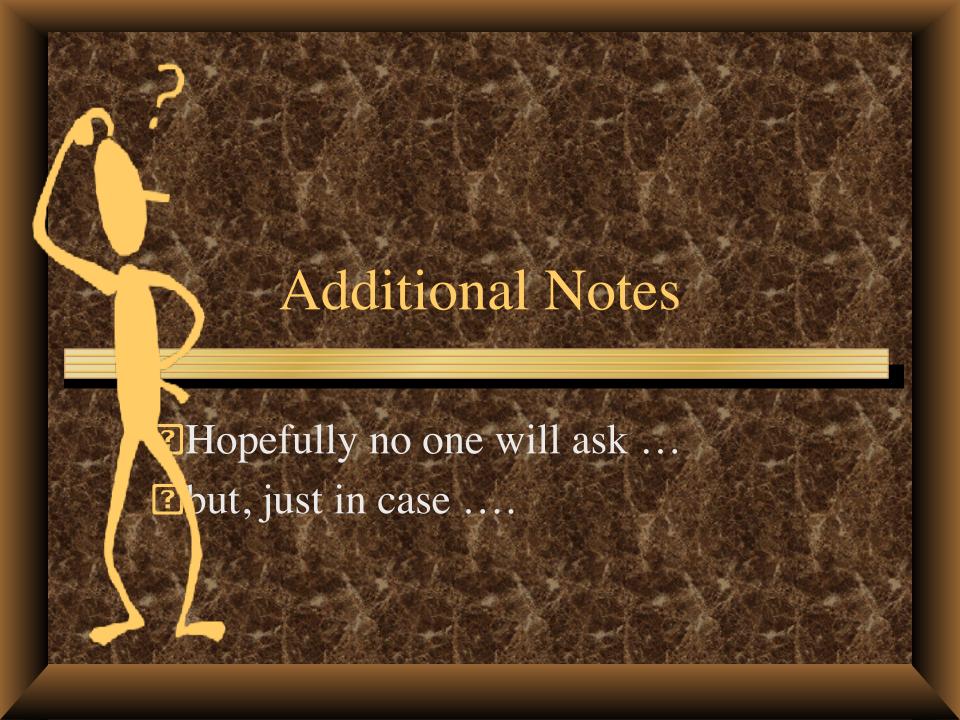
#### What Can I Do? (Paul Baloche)

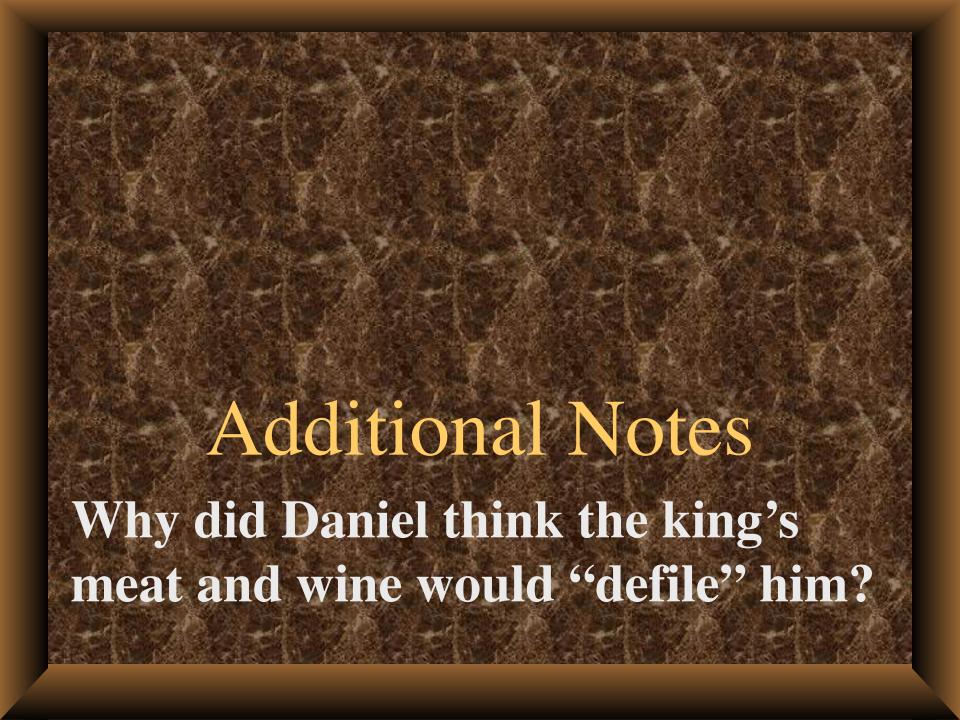
What can I do to thank You,
What can I do but give my life to You
Hallelujah, hallelujah

What can I do to praise You?

Everyday make everything I do a hallelujah
A hallelujah, hallelujah









- A question of food?
  - -Vegetarianism and teetotalism?
  - -Food offered to idols?
  - -Food not properly prepared?
  - -Food prohibited by Moses?



# Why reject Babylonian food?

- A question of food?
- A question of favour?
  - -Solidarity with deprived exiles?
  - -Rejecting a pagan king's favour?



# Why reject Babylonian food?

- A question of food?
- A question of favours?
- A question of faithfulness?
  - Nazirite vows (Numbers 6:1-4)?
  - Link to later 2nd cent. BC food issue? (2 Macc 6:7-9,18)

Life in Exile: Coping with Change A question of Faithfulness (not Food)



### Modern Questions to Ponder

- Can Christians be involved in Politics?
  - Church & State separation?
- Should we reject aid from non-Christians?
  - Totalisator Board?
  - Religious charities?

# What to Accept? What to Reject?

# Additional Note The historical problem of Daniel 1:1 and 2 Kings 24:12-14. Who was king of Judah when Babylon conquered Jerusalem?



### Some historical "problems"

- Daniel 1:1-2 "In the 3rd year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came ... carried off articles from the temple of God ... to Babylon"
  2 conflicting verses?
- 2 Kings 24:10-14 describes the same event as during the reign of Jehoiakim's <u>son</u>, Jehoiachin
- I Jeremiah 25:1 says Jehoiakim's 4th year was only the 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar reign. (2 Kings 24:12 says the siege occurred in the 8th year of Nebuchadnezzar!)

Is this uncertainty significant?

# Significance?

- **Historical uncertainty**: was it Jehoiakim or Jehoiachin? Nebuchadnezzar's 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year?
- Pastoral significance: Daniel and friends are now trapped in exile! This is most significant for understanding the message, regardless of the exact identity of the king.

### Who was Daniel?

- Was he a prophet?
  - No mention of this in the book.
  - Listed under Writings in Hebrew Bible
  - Jesus in Matt 24:15 calls him "prophet"; also at
     Qumran and by Josephus
- What is a "prophet"?
  - In general: "someone inspired by God" cf. King
     David as "prophet" in Acts 2:30