

THRIVING IN *Babylon*

Order of Service | July 7 - 8, 2018

Worship Team	Glory To Glory
Welcome/Greeting	
Worship Team	Seek You It Is Well Your Love Never Fails
Message	Pastor Jay Bruner <i>Thriving in Babylon (Part 1 of 4)</i>
Offering/Dismissal	

The God Over Babylon

Daniel 1:1-3

The Book of Daniel is a story of...

Four Godly men... Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Four lost kings... Nebuchadnezzar II, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus

Four lost nations... **Israel**, Egypt, **Babylonia**, and Persia,

How to THRIVE in Babylon...

*During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah (King of Jerusalem), King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **The Lord gave him** (He delivered to Nebuchadnezzar) victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So, Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god. Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. **Daniel 1:1-3 (NLT)***

Things to notice:

- God **delivered** a broken nation from **itself**. (Israel)
- God **delivered** His instruments of light to the darkest place on earth. (Babylon)
- God's people changed a **lost society** and in doing so **redeemed** its own.

My part...

1. I must remember God has been, and forever will be, in control.

The Lord gave (God delivered to) *him* (Nebuchadnezzar)...and *permitted* (God Allowed) *him* (Nebuchadnezzar) *to take...vvs. 1-2*

...*"I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."* **Hebrews 13:5 (NLT)**

God's Got This!

2. I must remember I am a player in God's sovereign plans.

The Lord... permitted... So, Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god. Then the king ordered... to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah... Daniel 1:2-3 (NLT)

The king (Nebuchadnezzar) said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret." Daniel 2:47 (NLT)

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! ...Therefore, I make this decree: If any people... speak a word against... God... they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!" Daniel 3:28-29 (NLT)

Stay Strong, Stay True, Stay Courageous!

Going deeper on your own. To better understand the book of Daniel, go to www.thebibleproject.com and watch the overview on the book of Daniel. Now read the first six chapters of the book of Daniel. Best estimates are that Daniel and his friends were approximately 16 years of age when they went into captivity and were roughly 85 years old when they served under the last king Cyrus of Persia. Through many different kings and pagan cultures, they never lost their faith or commitment to God. Not only did they not fall away, they grew in strength, wisdom, and influence. Why do you think that happened? What does this tell you about God? What encouragement can you glean from Daniel and his friends? Write out Hebrews 13:5 on a sheet of paper. Below, make a list of the ways you are encouraged by Daniel and his friends, and place it where you can see it daily.