

Week 1

Sermon Series: Exiles: Daniel
Sermon Title: Exiled to Babylon
Sermon Text: Daniel 1:1-21
Study Handout Week of: July 17, 2022
Group Week of: July 24, 2022
Sermon Date: July 31, 2022

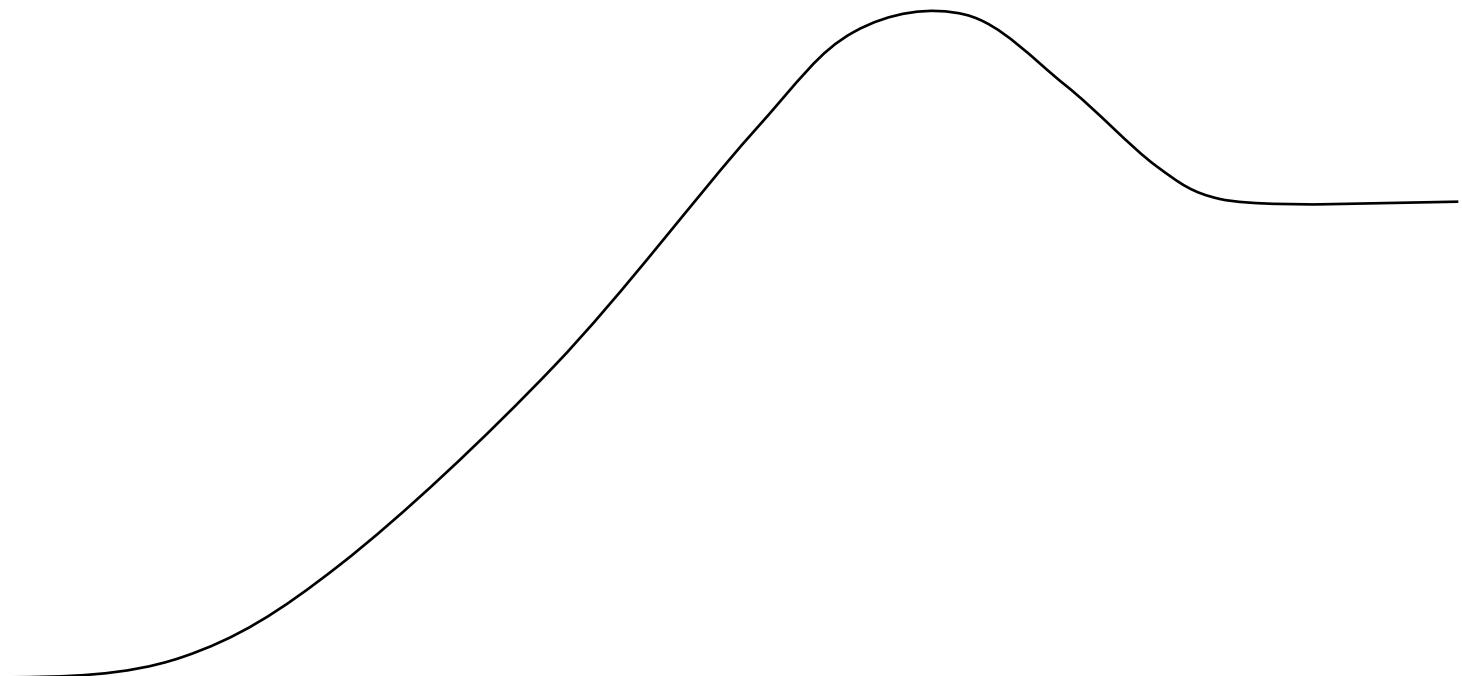
Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Letter to Exiles – Jeremiah 29:1-21
Day 2	Daniel Taken – 2 Kings 24:1-7
Day 3	Fall of Jerusalem – 2 Chronicles 36:9-23
Day 4	Christian Exiles – 1 Peter 1:1-12
Day 5	Living in a Pagan World – 1 Peter 2:11-25

The Text: Daniel 1:1-21

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the “Story Arc” below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) What tests do you see coming to Daniel and his friends and a result of their Babylonian Exile?
- 3) What are the mentioned actions of God in this story and why do they matter?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) What are the differences and similarities between a “sojourner” and an “exile”? Does it make sense to you that Christians could be both sojourner and exile? Why or why not?

- 2) Daniel grew up in Jerusalem, listening to the prophet Jeremiah speak of coming destruction, watching leaders ignore Jeremiah, and then finally sees the city itself conquered (three times!). In the first of the three losses, he is taken away to Babylon. If you were in Daniel’s shoes, suffering the consequences of someone else, would this bring you closer to God or further away from Him? Why?

- 3) Daniel and his friends were to be given the King’s food. This food would likely have been unclean because it likely contained unclean animals/preparation methods. It would have also likely been offered in some way to idols before consumption. For Daniel and his friends, it would have been sinful to eat this food. How would you handle such a situation?

- 4) Observe Daniel’s handling of this dilemma. What do you notice about the way he handles it? What lessons can you apply from this to your own life?

- 5) The key ingredient in the success of Daniel’s appeal, was not his tact, but that God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel (v9). What does this teach us about God and trying to follow Him even when our authorities want us to disobey our God?

- 6) Daniel and his friends study the indoctrination of the Babylonians and demonstrate great mastery of all these subjects before the King. However, they never seem to become believers themselves in Babylonian religion and beliefs. Is it wise for Christians to follow their lead on these matters? Why or why not?

- 7) The exile knows better than anyone that they don’t have the power to change a situation. They also know better than anyone how to depend on God’s sovereignty because of their weakness. How do you find the balance between doing everything you can do, while relying upon the sovereignty of God? As you think about that question, write out one way you want to grow in this area in our study of Daniel. Commit to praying about growth in that area for the next 6 weeks.