

# Building Babylon-Proof Youth

**I. Daniel 1:1-6:** 1 “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god. 3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons [youth, not just descendants] of Israel, including some of the royal family [the governed] and of the nobles [the princes’], 4 youths in whom was no defect [primarily physical, but also moral] who were good-looking [externally managed and well-sighted, able to ‘see’], showing intelligence [skillful, able to learn and apply] in every branch of wisdom [well-balanced in learning of their country/Israel, the Kingdom of God], endowed with understanding [science, organized and systematic knowledge such as theology, morals, etc.] and discerning knowledge [knowing knowledge] , and who had ability [physical strength and/or capacity] for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans [multi-cultural & global capacity]. 5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. 6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego. 8 **But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself** with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.”

## A. The Nature of Babylon

1. Babylon in the Scripture represents a worldly and religious \_\_\_\_\_ by which the Church is taken captive whenever it rebels against accurate kingdom life
2. We see this described in Daniel as the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, invades Jerusalem, conquers it and then takes some of Israel’s prime \_\_\_\_\_ back to Babylon, along with some of the Temple items
  - a. The ‘youths’ described here are somewhere between ages \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_
3. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ state of the Church as it has more and more become ‘Babylonian’ and in captivity to that worldly religious system

B. What we want to look at today is \_\_\_\_\_ did four of those young men live in Babylon without becoming ‘Babylonian’?

### 1. “**But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself**” (vs. 8)

- a. These four youths arrived in Babylon \_\_\_\_\_ equipped, trained and empowered to ‘make up’ their minds to not defile themselves
- b. It is important to see that Babylon cannot defile anyone...those who are defiled are those who have defiled \_\_\_\_\_!

2. This is what we want...our young men and women to exist in Babylon as young men already enabled and equipped to 'make up their mind'!
  - a. We cannot walk the streets of Babylon with our young men and women but they must have something deep in their \_\_\_\_\_ that rise up against the Babylonian system and declares that they will not defile themselves!
3. Let us look at the characteristics of the youths who arrived in Babylon Babylon-Proof!
  - a. What does it mean to be *Babylon-Proof*?
    - (1) **Proof**– 'able to withstand something damaging', ' \_\_\_\_\_ '
    - (2) "That jacket is water proof, when it rains it will not get wet"
  - b. This is not a message on what our 'youth' should be alone, in that we who do the training and equipping and enabling must have these characteristics \_\_\_\_\_ in us!
    - (1) If you and I are not Babylon Proof, we cannot make Babylon Proof our young men and women

### C. Characteristics of Babylonian Proof Youth

#### 1. Kingdom DNA

- a. "...of the royal family"
- b. In the Hebrew the language emphasizes 'of the seed of'...describing these youths as those who were birth out of royal \_\_\_\_\_
  - (1) These are those who know how to govern and \_\_\_\_\_ governed
  - (2) There is built into each of their very identities \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) They know that they exist for a \_\_\_\_\_ above themselves
- c. **Matthew 6.33:** "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

#### 2. Generational Awareness

- a. "...and of the nobles/princes"
- b. They were not just sons of royalty, but grandsons and possibly great-grandsons
  - (1) They carried with them a generational \_\_\_\_\_ and purpose that governed and defined their present moments, hours, days, weeks, months, and years of life
  - (2) They \_\_\_\_\_ that they were not born to just live life for themselves

c. **Hebrews 11.32-12.1:** 32 “And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect. 12.1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”

- (1) Our children must know that they have a \_\_\_\_\_ that goes back to the magnificent days of David, Ruth, Abraham, Moses, etc.
- (2) They and we are not alone, but we have been chosen by God to do our part, in our generation, for our heritage – This makes them very unique—they are \_\_\_\_\_!

### 3. Beauty of Holiness

a. “...youth in whom there was no defect”

b. This comes from the Hebrew word meaning ‘to not \_\_\_\_\_’, or ‘unstained’

- (1) The life and character was such that there was no stain of anything that was \_\_\_\_\_ to God upon them
- (2) **Revelation 19:8:** “It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”<sup>11</sup>
- (3) **Exodus 28.2:** “You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”
- (4) **Psalm 29.2:** “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in holy array.”

(a) “...worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness...” (KJV)

c. These \_\_\_\_\_ of the ‘beauty of holiness is something we must make and then clothe our children with that they may walk in it when they are no longer children

- (1) Children do not buy or make their own clothes until they are older, therefore they ‘beauty of holiness’, their ‘unstained garments’ are our \_\_\_\_\_

(2) **Proverbs 22.6:** “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

(3) **2 Samuel 2.18-19:** 18 “Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD, as a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.”

d. What a shame if we as \_\_\_\_\_ of our children are the ones who stain, or allow their garments to be stained while they have no control over the matter

(1) **James 1.27:** “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself **unstained by the world.**”

(2) Is the environment of your life, home, and mind \_\_\_\_\_ from that of the world which would stain?

e. **BABYLONIAN ‘WORLD’ STAINS** (we will deal at length with these later)

(1) Hate/Anger/Violence/War

(2) Self-rule/rebellion

(3) Sexual perversion

(4) Greed/Love of Money/Competition

(5) Materialism/Love of things

(6) External Beauty

(7) Racism

(8) Social Status Distinction

(9) Laziness/Self-centeredness

(10) Marriage Dysfunction

(11) Pharisaic Church/False Religions

(12) New Age Mysticism/Spirituality/Magic

(13) Mind/Temple Altering Substances (drugs, alcohol, smoking, etc.)

(14) Unhealthy Eating

(15) Hopelessness/Nihilism/Angst

(16) Lying/Deception/Untruthfulness

(17) Inequality/Waste/Global Hunger

(18) Fashion & Physical Display