

IV. Revolting Against The Matrix

A. **Daniel 1.8-9:** “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 that he might not defile himself. Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the officials...”

1. _____ in the Babylonian Matrix leads to complete corruption and conformity to the shapes and configurations of Babylon

a. You cannot just “_____”, or “exist” or be quietly religious

b. Neutrality towards the Babylonian Matrix is _____ to it!

2. In the face of subversive and strategic attack on his _____ (name change, education, enticements), Daniel “**made up his mind**” not to be defiled by the king’s daily ration of choice food and wine

a. KJV: “**Daniel purposed in his heart**”

(1) ‘**purposed**’ – *soom*: “to set in place, make into something”

(2) It is the same word used to describe the _____ of the new names to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

(3) Daniel purposely, actively, and strategically countered the Babylonian Matrix from an internal position of a purposed _____

b. Daniel was _____ that the food and drink, name change, education, training, and special favor was all part of the Babylonian Matrix designed to neutralize his purpose and destiny in God

(1) Daniel did not say, “This won’t send me to _____”

(2) Daniel did not say, “This is not _____ bad”

(3) Daniel did not say, ‘Well, _____ ‘christians’ are doing it’

c. “**...In his heart**”

(1) ‘heart’ – *lehv*: “seat or instrument of a person’s will and thinking”

(2) “[In Biblical teaching] by far the most important organ... is the heart... Its actual physiological importance was, of course, unknown; for the Israelites, in common with the other peoples of the ancient world, appear to have learned nothing of the circulation of the blood. Nevertheless... they were well aware of its presence and operation, so the central importance of the heart was obvious enough; and as a result we find it taking the place of the brain in their thinking as the focal point of a whole range of psychological activity”

(3) Daniel assigned his heart, the very _____ of all his will and emotions and decision making, to not defile himself

- (4) Daniel's decision was not an emotional or conditional one, it was a decision of the heart and _____ which commands emotions to obey!
- (5) Modern science is discovering that we as humans actually have _____ brains, or organs of intelligence and decision-making capacity.
- (a) The Brain, The Intestinal System, and The Heart
- (b) "Much of human brilliance is driven less by the brain in your head than by newly discovered intelligence centers—now called 'brain two and brain three'—in the gut and in the heart. The highest reasoning and brightest ingenuity involve all three of those brains working together."
- (6) This is not "new" to God or Christians, for the Scripture repeatedly speaks of the heart as an organ of intelligence and _____
- (a) **Ephesians 1.18**
- (b) "In the 1990's, scientists in the emerging field of neurocardiology discovered the true brain in the heart, which acts independently of the head. Comprised of a distinctive set of more than 40,000 nerve cells called baroreceptors, along with a complex network of neurotransmitters, proteins, and support cells, this heart brain is as large as many key areas of the brain in your head. It has powerful, highly sophisticated computational abilities. Just as the brain in the gut uses its neural circuitry to act independently, learn, remember, and respond to life, so does the brain in the heart."
- (c) "Another route the heart uses to communicate is through messenger chemicals in the hormonal system. One such chemical in the heart is atrial peptide, a primary driver of motivated behavior. If we don't feel our values and goals, we can't live them. It's the heart, not the head, that plays a dominant role in moving us to excel."

d. What exactly was Daniel's decision?

(1) What it was **NOT**

- (a) A decision to not _____ the Babylonian Matrix
- (b) A decision to _____ and _____ what was good or bad in the Babylonian Matrix
- (c) A decision to eat and then ask for _____
- (d) A decision to _____ in moderation
- (e) A decision to pray and decide what to do at _____ offering of food and drink!

(2) Daniel saw the Babylonian Matrix _____ the actual food and drink and purposed in his heart to avoid all of that which represents and fronts for Babylon

e. Daniel's decision **WAS** a decision to not _____ himself with anything that the King of Babylon offered to him!

(1) Yes... Daniel _____ in Babylon, but he would not defile himself, of his own will and choice

(2) The word defile speaks of a religious defilement, not _____

(a) It is not that the food was unhealthy... the issue was a spiritual one, it was what the food _____

(3) The king's choice food most assuredly would have been food that was offered to Bel, the god of Babylon _____

(a) Nebuchadnezzar would have daily offerings of food and drink to Bel, and then, they would all, as Bel's servants _____ of that same food

(b) Daniel knew this and purposed in his heart to not eat anything that was _____ to Bel!

(4) Can you hear it: "Come on Danny! What's the _____ deal, its just a good band, movie, opportunity, good time, etc."

f. We will never _____ the battle against Babylon as long as the sons and daughters of Zion are defiling themselves with Babylonian delicacies offered to its gods!

(1) The issue is not heaven or hell, it is _____ versus Babylon!

(2) We as Christians, the People of God, even in the _____ of Babylon, must purpose in our heart to not defile ourselves with that which is offered to the god of this world!

(3) We _____ Babylon nothing!

(4) We do not need to be embarrassed to be _____!

(5) Our kids will not be the _____ if they don't know what kind of a wizard Harry Potter is, or don't get to trick or treat, or do not know who Hannah Montana is currently in love with

g. The NT Church understood this _____ and lived accordingly!

(1) **1 Peter 5.12-13**

(2) **Ephesians 5.1-16**

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(3) **1 Corinthians 10.14-22**

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