

When Culture and Convictions Collide
Staying Free of the Babylon Mentality
August 27, 2023

Daniel 4:4-5 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, **contented and prosperous**. I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me.

Daniel 4:22-26 “**Your Majesty, you are that tree!** ...You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you **until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes**. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that **Heaven rules**.”

Daniel 4:28-30 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the **great Babylon I** have built as the royal residence, by **my** mighty power and for the glory of **my** majesty?”

Ephesians 5:10-11 **Carefully** determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, **expose them**.

James 4:7 **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, **so that we may make a name for ourselves**...”

Genesis 11:9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world.

Revelation 17:5 The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the Great. The Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.

Isaiah 47:8-10 “Now then, listen, you **lover of pleasure, lounging in your security and saying to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.**’ I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children.’ Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potent spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, ‘No one sees me.’ **Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you** when you say to yourself, ‘**I am, and there is none besides me.**’”

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Elevate self:

- ✓ Self-_____.
- ✓ Self-_____.
- ✓ Self-_____.

Lower God:

- ✓ God doesn't _____ me.
- ✓ God isn't _____ me.
- ✓ God wants _____ from me.

Key Thought: The Babylon mentality _____ self and _____ God.

Daniel 4:34-37 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my **sanity was restored**. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, **because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.**

Declarations to win in an Ungodly Culture:

1. I will _____ Jesus as King.

Psalm 145:1 I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

2. I will _____ that Jesus is right.

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked change their ways and **banish the very thought of doing wrong**. Let them turn to the LORD that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so **my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**"

3. I will _____ myself.

James 4:10 **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and **He will lift you up**.

"The man on his face can never fall from that position."

Walk Away: When culture shifts, we need to exalt Jesus as _____ and walk in _____.

Elevate self:

- ✓ Self-_____.
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