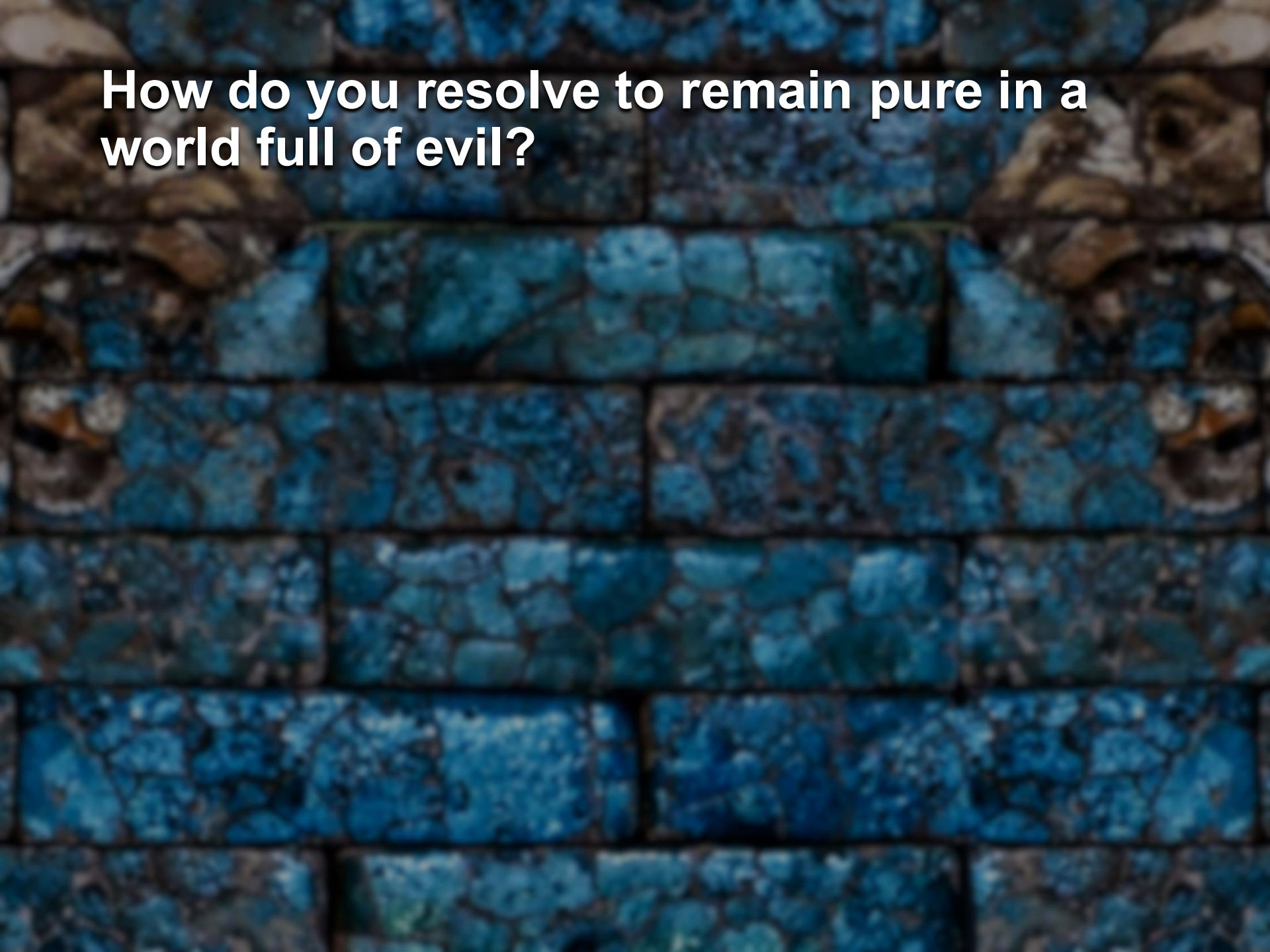
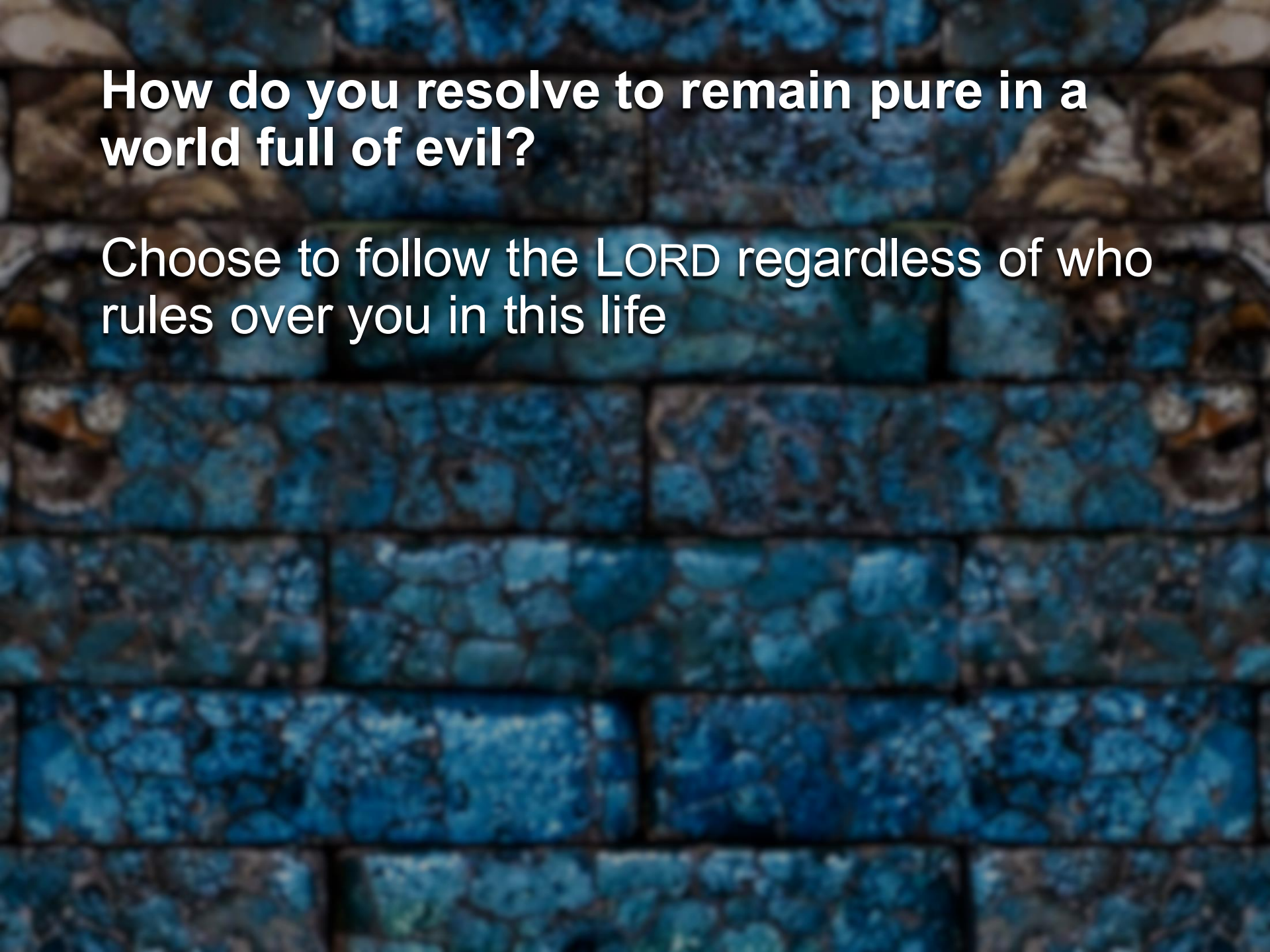


The image shows a close-up of a stone wall. The stones are rectangular and arranged in a regular pattern. They have a mottled appearance with shades of blue, teal, and tan. The surface of the stones is rough and textured, with visible cracks and crevices. In the center of the image, the title 'WHEN BEASTS REIGN' is written in large, bold, yellow 3D letters. The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional look as if they are floating or attached to the wall. The background is a dense, textured wall of these stones, filling the entire frame.

**WHEN
BEASTS
REIGN**

How do you resolve to remain pure in a world full of evil?





How do you resolve to remain pure in a world full of evil?

Choose to follow the LORD regardless of who rules over you in this life

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord **gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, 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 placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

Daniel 1:1-2 ESV

In the third year of the reign of
Jehoiakim king of Judah,
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
And the Lord **gave** Jehoiakim king of...

605 BC

586 BC

539 BC

*Daniel
taken to
Babylon*

*The temple and
city destroyed by
Neb and Judah
taken into exile*

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, **his chief eunuch**, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1:3-4 ESV

*Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, **and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.**”*

Isaiah 39:5-7 ESV

The promises “lost” for these four

- Land – The promised land God had appointed for his people
- Descendants – Future generations to experience the land and presence
- Presence – God would dwell with his people and bless them in the land

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, **his chief eunuch**, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1:3-4 ESV

The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.

Daniel 1:5-6 ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
gave them names: Daniel he called
Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called
Shadrach, Michael he called Meshach,
and Azariah he called Abednego.

Daniel 1:7 ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
yasem them names: Daniel **he yasem**
Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called
Shadrach, Mishaël he called Meshach,
and Azariah he called Abednego.

Daniel 1:7 ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
imposed on them names: Daniel he
imposed Belteshazzar, Hananiah...
Shadrach, Mishaël... Meshach, and
Azariah... Abednego.

Daniel 1:7 ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
imposed on them names: Daniel he
imposed Belteshazzar, Hananiah...
Shadrach, Michael... Meshach, and
Azariah... Abednego. But Daniel
resolved that he would not defile
himself with the king's food, or with the
wine that he drank.

Daniel 1:7-8a ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
imposed on them names: Daniel he
imposed Belteshazzar, Hananiah...
Shadrach, Michael... Meshach, and
Azariah... Abednego. But Daniel
yasem on his heart that he would not
defile himself with the king's food, or
with the wine that he drank.

Daniel 1:7-8a ESV

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
imposed on them names: Daniel he
imposed Belteshazzar, Hananiah...
Shadrach, Michael... Meshach, and
Azariah... Abednego. But Daniel
imposed on his heart that he would
not defile himself with the king's food,
or with the wine that he drank.

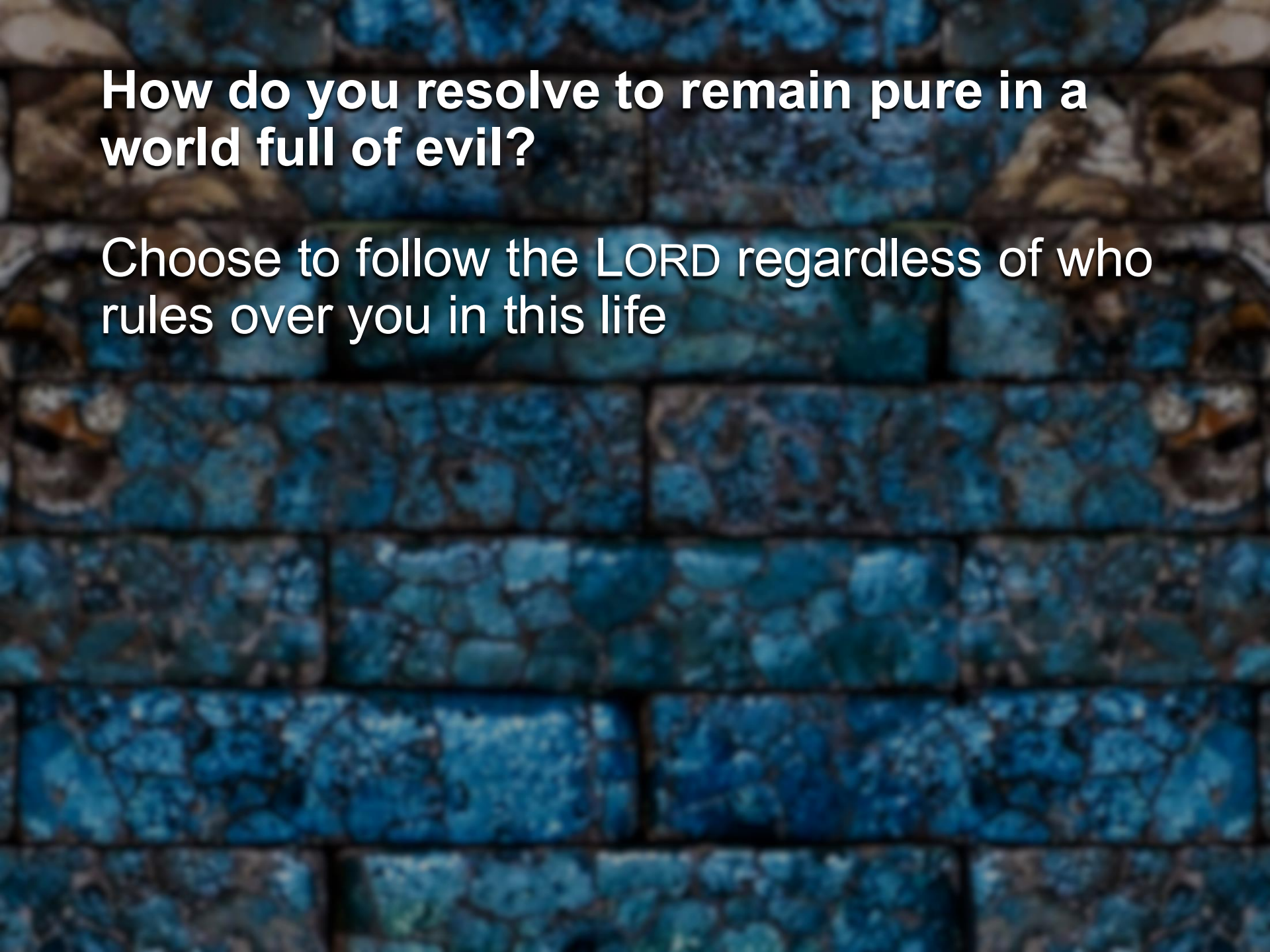
Daniel 1:7-8a ESV

...the meat and wine would have been undesirable because a portion of it was (at least on occasions if not always) first offered sacrificially to the Babylonian gods before being sent to the king and was therefore associated with idolatrous worship... Wood points out that partaking of this food would have been an indirect act of worshiping the Babylonian deities.

Daniel: The New American Commentary

And **the chief of the eunuchs**
imposed on them names: Daniel he
imposed Belteshazzar, Hananiah...
Shadrach, Mishaël... Meshach, and
Azariah... Abednego. But Daniel
imposed on his heart that **he would**
not defile himself with the king's food,
or with the wine that he drank.

Daniel 1:7-8a ESV



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Choose to follow the LORD regardless of whether it brings praise or persecution in this life

Therefore he asked **the chief of the eunuchs** to allow **him not to defile himself.**

Daniel 1:8b ESV

And God **gave** Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of **the chief of the eunuchs**, and **the chief of the eunuchs** said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.”

Daniel 1:9-10 ESV

Then Daniel said to the steward whom **the chief of the eunuchs** had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Michael, and Azariah, “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king’s food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.”

Daniel 1:11-13 ESV

So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Daniel 1:14-16 ESV

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Choose to follow the LORD regardless of whether it brings praise or persecution in this life

Choose to follow the LORD by trusting that he makes his glory known through the obedience of his people

As for these four youths, God **gave** them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, **the chief of the eunuchs** brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:17-18 ESV

And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers that were in all his kingdom. And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Daniel 1:19-21 ESV

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Disciples who make disciples read Daniel 1 and...

Know that we are called to walk in obedience in all circumstances

Pray for the strength to stand strong in whatever may come

Trust that our faithfulness opens doors to share the Gospel

