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# Citizens of heaven; Exiles on earth

Wesley International Congregation

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Tabor Publications

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# GOD'S WORD

## Philippians 3:20-4:1

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

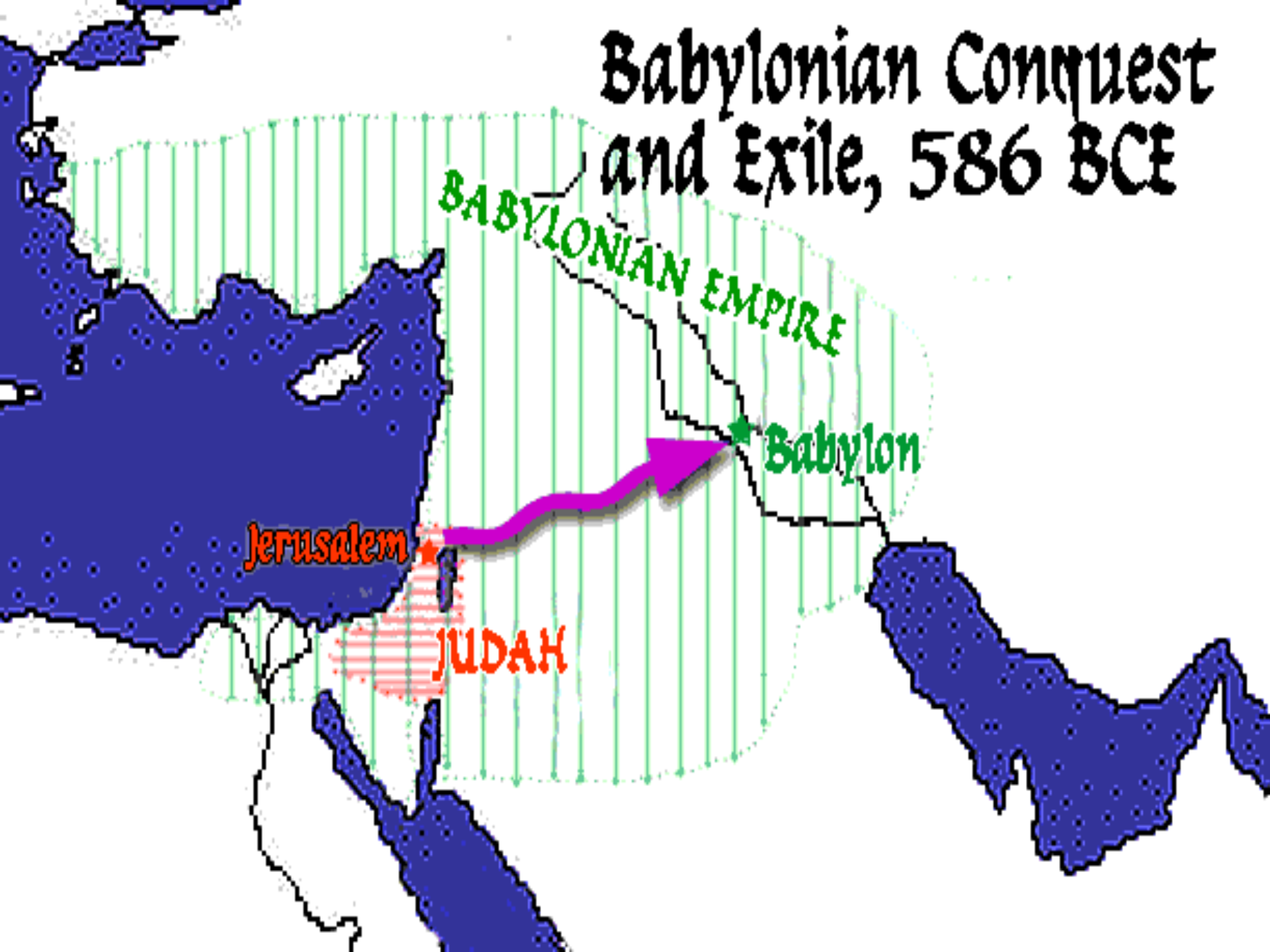
# A Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
As we come to your Word today,  
Please give us  
Sharp minds to understand and  
Soft hearts to believe  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

# The Babylonian Empire



# Babylonian Conquest and Exile, 586 BCE



# 1/Citizens of heaven work for the good of those on earth

## Jeremiah 29:7

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

# 2/Citizens of heaven are culturally sensitive and well-informed

## Daniel 1:3-4

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz...to bring...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.



# 3/Citizens of heaven are led by the Spirit

Daniel 1:17, 20; 4:8

God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

20 The king...found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

4:7 He said: 'The spirit of the holy gods is in Daniel'

# 4/Citizens of heaven do not compromise

## Daniel 1:8

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself...

Dan 3:12 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego... O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

# 5/Citizens of heaven are courageous

Daniel 3:17

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that **we will not serve your gods** or worship the golden image that you have set up.

# 6/Citizens of heaven trust God regardless

## Daniel 3:17-18

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

# 7/Citizens of heaven know the presence of God

## Daniel 3:25

He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

# The Fourth Man



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12aQm9rZkQM>

**8/Citizens of heaven are  
people of integrity**

**All the qualities of these young men  
may be summarised in one word:**

**INTEGRITY**

# Jack Phillips





# A question

**Should we cringe from persecution  
and excruciating pain  
or embrace the opportunity for  
everlasting gain?**

**Will we compromise our conscience  
lest we suffer grievous loss  
or stand for truth and honesty  
regardless of the cost?**

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4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

# A dedicatory prayer

**Let's stand together  
in an act of dedication  
to be people of integrity  
for our time  
and for our culture.**