

Daniel, the Man and the Message

The Backstory: Which Way to Babylon?

Daniel 1:1-2

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Backdrop to the book of Daniel

Sermon in one sentence: When you dig yourself in a hole, quit digging and _____
_____.

Two Questions

Question #1: How did Judah dig themselves into this hole?

² **And the Lord gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. Daniel 1:2a (emphasis added)

To find the answer to this question we need to look at the book of Jeremiah; for God sent him to warn the people of Judah that if they don't repent, God will discipline them.

Three Reasons why God Disciplined Judah:

Reason #1: They traded God for _____. (Jeremiah 2:5, 11-13)

What is an idol?

“An idol is any unauthorized source—person, place, thought, or thing—that you go to in order to meet a need. It is _____ God's rightful place in your life. An idol can be a legitimate source God has provided to meet a need that you take further than you ought. You don't have to bow before a tree to have an idol...all you have to do is go to something God has not authorized as the source to meet your need, or take a source further than you should to meet it. When you do that, you have just bowed before another god.”

Tony Evans

God has a no-compete clause in the Bible. The prophet Samuel said,

Direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him **alone**. 1 Samuel 7:3 (emphasis added)

What were some of Judah's idols?

What are some American Idols?

When it comes to idols we need to westernize them. Our idols aren't made of wood, but we have them nonetheless. American idols come in all shapes and sizes.

Examples:

“When we embrace popular opinion and political correctness, causing us to hold our tongues rather than proclaiming God's truth, they have become an idol as well...there is the idol of ethnicity—allowing our culture and race to dictate our values and choices more than God.”

Tony Evans

John Calvin said the human mind is an idol factory. It generates one idol after another.

How to locate idols:

Anytime *the created* becomes more important than the *Creator*, you have an idol!

Look at your affections and you will find either God or an idol. Look at where your money, time and thoughts drift to and you'll find God or an idol.

Reason #2: They thought God would do nothing about their sin if they gave _____
_____.

My people have forgotten Me days without number. Jeremiah 2:32b

⁸ Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ **and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We**

