

# WISDOM UNDER FIRE (Week 1)

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September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Introduction: Our beliefs as Christians are under attack.

- We are considered radical.
- In the University classroom – sciences, philosophy, ethics.
- Morals in society -Media -Politics.
- Our beliefs have been under attack throughout history, but for the first time in our history we are seeing potential laws being made that threaten our free expression of our beliefs and lifestyle.
- As much as this is new to us, this is not new.
- There have been many believers in the past who have needed wisdom in the fire.
- We find Daniel (a Jew) in the Kingdom of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nebuchadnezzar is diluting them –assimilating them. How had this happened?
- God’s people began to become like the countries around them.
- They were warned via the prophets over and over again.
- Jeremiah (*The Weeping Prophet*) is the last prophet before the fall to Babylon.
- Now Judah is in captivity.

## Important Truths: Deuteronomy 30:15-18; Jeremiah 2:5-20.

### A. First, Israel and Judah were disciplined due to unrepentant sin.

- They were warned but wouldn’t listen.
- What you sow is what you reap.

### B. Second, the Godly were affected by the decisions of the unrepentant.

- A remnant will remain—a small number of believers with a purpose.
- They were not where they wanted to be.

### C. Third, Daniel (and his friends) chose to be God’s men regardless of the circumstances.

- God used them to deliver the message to Nebuchadnezzar.
- God placed them where they would eventually affect the salvation of Israel.

Daniel 1:8 (NIV) *<sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*

### D. Throughout the OT and NT God left us examples of Godly men who were used because they acted in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15-16).

## The series is about what wisdom is:

1. Wisdom begins by seeing from God’s perspective rather than giving up.
  - a. Isaiah 11:1-2 (NIV)
  - b. Daniel 2:21-22 (NIV)
  - c. Acts 17:23b-32 (NIV)
2. Wisdom is the quality of discerning what is true, what is ethically right, and what should be done

in different situations.

3. Wisdom affects your perspective and your attitude (1 Peter 3:13-15 (NIV)).
4. Use wisdom as a grid for your decisions and challenges (James 3:13-18 (NIV)).

### Suggestions:

- Read Larry Osborne “*Thriving in Babylon.*”
- Read the book of Daniel, Hebrews 10-12, and 1 & 2 Peter.
- Invest in this series with us and turn your small group into a group like Daniel had (*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*).

### For Small Group Discussion:

Passages to look at: Daniel 2; James 3: 13-18; Acts 17:22-31

**Ice Breaker:** Have you ever been rafting or been caught in a strong current or a flood? Share about your experience.

### What insights did you glean from the sermon?

1. What did you discover about Daniel and how the Hebrew people got where they were?
2. Read Acts 17:22-31. What does this passage tell you about God, history and the purpose of His people? What was encouraging? What was challenging? What questions do you have?
3. What has been your view of the course of history and God’s involvement in it? If you could have dinner with Daniel, what would you ask him? What do you think he might tell you about being in the midst of a challenging situation?
4. How would you define wisdom? Take a look at James 1:2-8 and James 3:13-18. What are significant elements to wisdom from these passages? What makes this biblical wisdom different from other perspectives of wisdom?
5. What aspect of wisdom do you need as you navigate through this time in our world?
6. What is God showing you about wisdom under fire? How can that affect how you approach this coming week?

**Challenge this week:** Read Daniel chapters 1 and 2. Take note of how Daniel responded in the midst of his circumstances.

**Passages to prepare for next week:** Daniel 1, Jeremiah 29

**Suggestion:** Commit to reading through Daniel 1-9 and 1 and 2 Peter during this series.

**Note:** You may find the book and Right Now Media series: *Thriving in Babylon*, helpful.