

Through the Bible: Life in Exile

Daniel 1



**Knowing God is the key to living
as a faithful presence in the world.**

- Life in Exile
- The Temptation of Exile: Separation
- The Temptation of Exile: Assimilation
- The Goal of Exile: Faithful Presence

Life in Exile

- The life of every society is centered around its gods
- Society's gods call for us to orient our lives around them
- The essence of life in exile: living in a land that's calling you to abandon your God

The Temptation of Exile: Separation

- Separation: Avoid all interaction with the world in order to avoid being corrupted by it
- God blessed Daniel and his friends as they engaged with the society around them
- You can't lovingly engage a society while practicing complete separation from it

The Temptation of Exile: Assimilation

- Assimilation:
 - Doing what it takes to fit in
 - Letting culture, not God's word, tell us how to live
- You can't lovingly engage a society while practicing complete assimilation into it

The Goal of Exile: Faithful Presence

- Requires faith in God's grace
- Requires love for your neighbors
- Requires wisdom
- Requires a perspective beyond the trials of today