



Life in

BABYLON

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

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Daniel – Integrity

*Separatist /
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How do we live in *Babylon*?

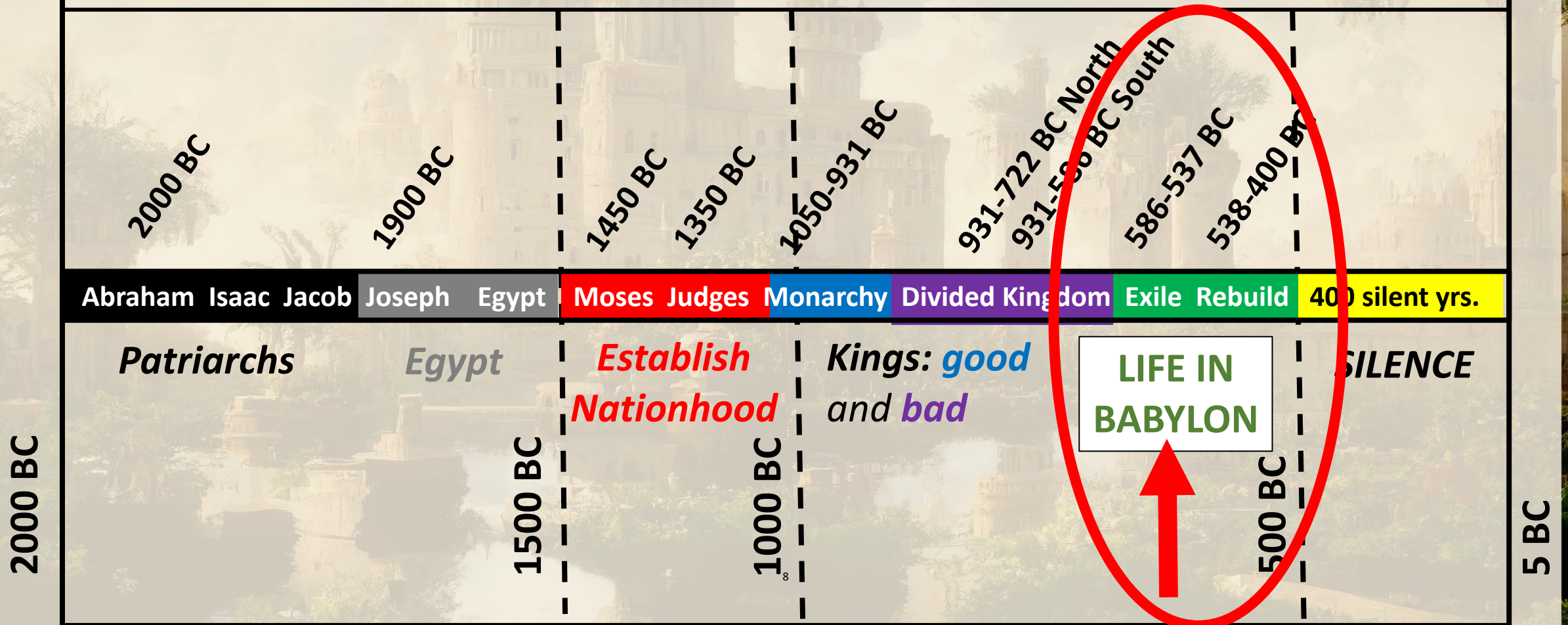
*Buy
into the
culture*

Daniel – Integrity
Jeremiah – Hope

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

Life in BABYLON

Chronology of Old Testament



Life in BABYLON

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Jeremiah 607 BC Daniel | Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego | Ezra / Nehemiah Esther | |
|---|---|---|--|

Divided Kingdom
and after 722 BC just
the southern
Kingdom of Judah

Exile in Babylon 586 – 537 BC

Rebuild

400
silent
years
before
the
coming
Christ

LIFE IN BABYLON

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LIFE IN BABYLON

Life in BABYLON

Rebuilt the Temple - Rebuilt the city wall

Jeremiah

607 BC

Daniel

Shadrach,
Meshach &
Abednego

Ezra / Nehemiah

Esther

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LIFE IN BABYLON

Life in
BABYLON

**How did Nehemiah navigate
living in Babylon?**

How can we navigate living in a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?

Life in
BABYLON

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"



Life in
BABYLON

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"
"I can do hard things, ."



Life in
BABYLON

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."



Life in
BABYLON

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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**How did Nehemiah navigate
living in Babylon?**

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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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**How did Nehemiah navigate
living in Babylon?
*Wisdom***

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**How did Nehemiah navigate
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Wisdom

*The quality of having experience,
knowledge, and good judgment.*

Life in
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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

How did Nehemiah navigate living in Babylon? *Wisdom*

Discernment, Discretion

The quality of behaving or speaking with truthful courage in such a way as to avoid causing unnecessary conflict or offense.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 1:1-3

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel,

² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said to me,


"The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."





**Judah /
Jerusalem**

**Babylonian
Capital**


 Achaemenid Empire



**Judah /
Jerusalem**

**Babylonian
Capital**

**Persian
Winter
Palace**

 Achaemenid Empire

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"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 1:4-11



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Nehemiah 1:4-11

Wisdom starts with humility.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 1:4-11

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned.

⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying,

9 *'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'*

10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

11 **O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."**

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Life in
BABYLON

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 2:4-11

Wisdom takes root in preparation.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 2:4-11

- ¹ In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.
- ² And the king said to me,
"Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart."
Then I was very much afraid.
- ³ I said to the king,
"Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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⁴ Then the king said to me,

"What are you requesting?"

So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said to the king,

"If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him),

"How long will you be gone, and when will you return?"

So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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⁷ And I said to the king,

"If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,

⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy."

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Life in
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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 2:17-18; chapter 3

Wisdom unfolds in delegation.

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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Nehemiah 2:17-18

¹⁷ Then I said to them,

"You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision."

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me.

And they said,

"Let us rise up and build."

So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

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Nehemiah 3

- ¹ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate.
- ² And next to him the men of Jericho built.
And next to them^[a] Zaccur the son of Imri built.
- ³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate.
- ⁴ And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired.
And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired.
And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired.
- ⁵ And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.....
- ³² And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

Life in
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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

Nehemiah 4:1-9

**Wisdom stays strong in
the face of opposition.**

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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Nehemiah 4:1-9

- ¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews.
- ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?"
- ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised.

Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.

⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.

⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

Life in
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Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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Nehemiah 5:1-13

**Wisdom sees those who are
disenfranchised.**

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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Nehemiah 5:1-13

- ¹ Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers.
- ² For there were those who said,
 "With our sons and our daughters, we are many.
 So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive."
- ³ There were also those who said,
 "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain
 because of the famine."
- ⁴ And there were those who said,
 "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our
 vineyards."

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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⁵ Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children.

Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

⁶ I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.

⁷ I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials.

I said to them,

"You are exacting interest, each from his brother."

And I held a great assembly against them

⁸ and said to them,

"We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!"

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

They were silent and could not find a word to say.

⁹ So I said,

"The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"

¹⁰ Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest.

¹¹ Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them."

¹² Then they said,

"We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say."

Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

13

And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised.

I also shook out the fold of my garment and said,

"So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied."

And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

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Wisdom

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How can we navigate living with a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?

Wisdom

A wisdom that...

Starts with humility...

Rooted in preparation...

Unfolds in delegation...

Stays strong in the face of opposition...

Sees those who are disenfranchised.

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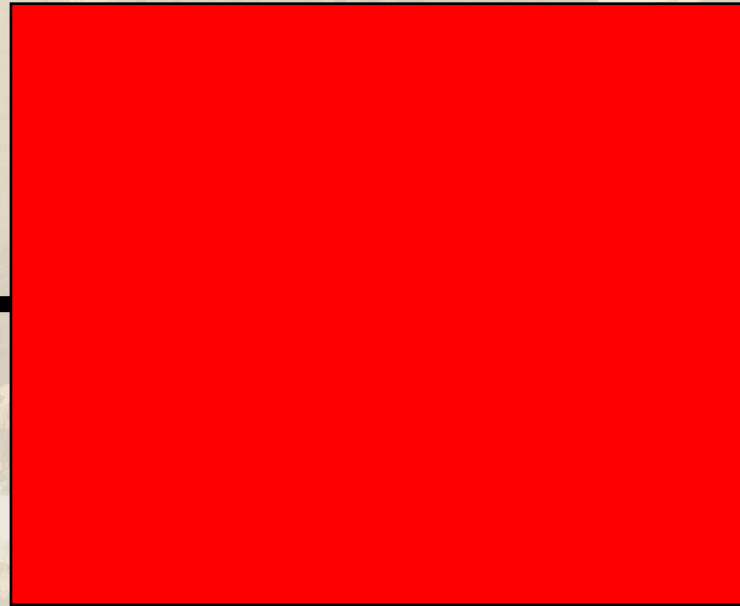
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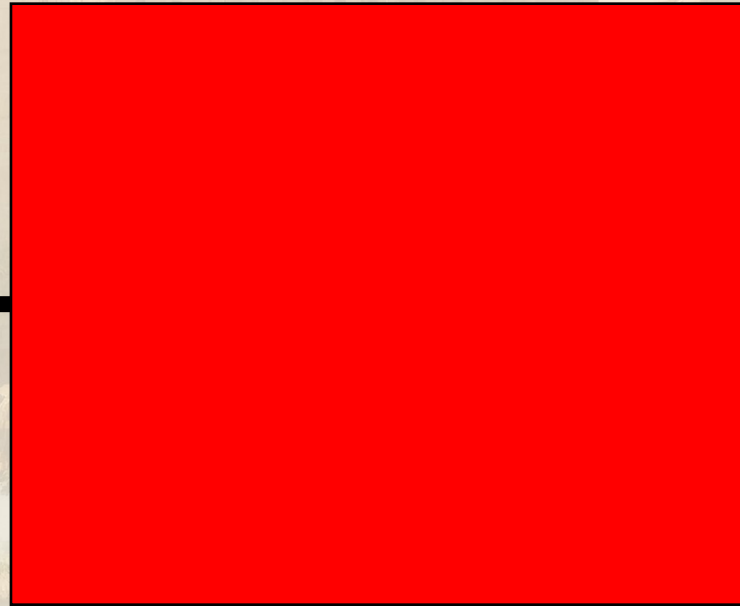
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How do we live in *Babylon*?



Daniel – Integrity



Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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How do we live in *Babylon*?



Daniel – Integrity
Jeremiah – Hope



Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

"I can do hard things, through God who strengthens me."

How do we live in *Babylon*?



Daniel – Integrity

Jeremiah – Hope

Esther –



Nehemiah: "God is my comfort"

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How do we live in *Babylon*?



Daniel – Integrity

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