

# The Pilgrim Life Begins

Scripture: **Daniel 1**

Series: **The Pilgrim Life: Living as God's People in a Pagan Land**

Sunday, April 3, 2016



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## Overview

God raised up the Babylonians to bring his people (Judah) into exile. We see God's sovereignty over all kings and kingdoms from the book of Daniel. Additionally, we can learn about how to rightly live as a Christian pilgrim in a pagan culture. **The Christian life is a pilgrim life where we follow Jesus through a pagan world that is not our home.**

## Corroborating Texts

I Kings 12; Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20; I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Peter 2:11-12

## Discussion Questions

1. God caused the nation of Babylon (Chaldeans) to raise up and conquer the southern kingdom (Judah). Is God essentially admitting his "people" have failed? What is the purpose of exile? (See Deuteronomy 28:1, 15, 49; 30:1-3). God is righteous in administering his covenant blessings and curses. Even in exile, the purpose is to humble his people so they will be eventually brought back into his presence and the land.
2. In what ways is the Christian life like Daniel and those in the exile? (See I Peter 2:11). How is it also markedly different now that God's messiah has come? (See I Peter 2:9)
3. We read Colossians 1:13-14 during communion. How does the death and resurrection of Israel's messiah accomplish deliverance from the domain of darkness (vs. 13a), transfer us to a new kingdom (vs 13b) and redeem us (vs 14)? How is this represented in communion?
4. The pilgrim life begins wherever you are right now. As you consider your pilgrim life, think about what God has done for you. Review I Corinthians 6:9-11. Contrast your life before and after Christ. How should Christians think of themselves if they grew up in a "Christian home," accepted Christ at a young age, and have never done anything Paul lists in these verses?
5. The pilgrim life requires obedience. Do you tend to avoid obedience because there can be inherent risk? Are you absolutely convinced that obedience is part of your identity as a Christian pilgrim? Or do you just obey enough to make it look like you care? What is stopping you from obeying God as you ought? (Try to help your group move beyond a simplistic answer of sin.) Finally, what is the purpose of obedience (I Peter 2:12).
6. The pilgrim life engages culture. Are there things in American culture that you mindlessly consume, but should be more discerning about? Do you see yourself as an extension of Christ's body (via the Spirit) and, therefore, able to redeem/heal broken pieces of our culture? How can your community group engage culture in that way?