

IN THE JETSTREAM

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RESISTING THE CULTURAL CURRENT

by James Maasen



FCAP.org

Lessons from Daniels's Faithful Stand

In the Western world today, Christians find themselves living in a cultural landscape that can be likened to the biblical Babylon. Just as the authors of the New Testament warned, our society is marked by moral relativism, secularism, and a subtle pressure to conform. Drawing inspiration from the story of Daniel and his friends, we can glean valuable insights into resisting the cultural currents of our time while remaining steadfast in our faith.

The Cultural Tide

Culture often exerts a powerful influence on individuals, subtly shaping their beliefs and values. Today, Christians face the temptation to conform to societal expectations, compromising their faith to fit in. However, as followers of Christ, we are called to be in the world but not of it (John 17:14-16). To understand how to resist the cultural current, let us turn to the amazing story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

The Babylonian Challenge

When Daniel and his friends were taken captive by the Babylonians, they found themselves in a foreign land with a culture vastly different from their own. The Babylonians sought to assimilate these young Hebrew men, subjecting them to a system designed to erode their faith. They were offered the finest food and wine from the king's table, but accepting this would require them to violate the Torah. Instead of resisting every aspect of Babylonian culture, Daniel and his friends chose their battles wisely.

Faithful Resistance

Daniel and his friends did not immediately reject everything that Babylon offered them. They recognized the importance of engaging their culture in certain areas without compromising their core convictions. They chose to respectfully engage with the Babylonian culture and gained favor in the process. However, when confronted with the moment of truth, they remained unwavering in their loyalty to God.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego give an extraordinary example of resistance in their response to the king's command to worship the golden statue. While everyone around them bowed down, they stood firm together, refusing to compromise their worship of the one true God. Their faithfulness to God resulted in their miraculous deliverance from the fiery furnace.

Lessons for Today

As Christians living in a sort of modern Babylon, we must emulate Daniel's wisdom and courage. We need to be discerning in our engagement with the prevailing culture, identifying areas where compromise would violate our conscience and biblical principles. We are called to be salt and light, influencing our society for the glory of God (Matthew 5:13-16). To do this effectively, we must be well-grounded in God's Word, seeking His guidance and wisdom.

Furthermore, prayer is crucial as we navigate the challenges of our time. We need to cultivate a deep relationship with God, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us and empower us to stand firm in our faith. By immersing ourselves in Scripture, cultivating prayer, staying grounded in Christian community, and relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance, we can remain faithful to Christ even amidst the pressures of our modern-day Babylon.

Living as Christians in the West today presents unique challenges reminiscent of the biblical Babylon. However, drawing from the example of Daniel and his friends, we can resist the cultural currents without compromising our faith. By engaging wisely, discerning truth from falsehood, and relying on God's strength, we can be faithful witnesses and lights in a society desperately in need of God's transformative love.

This article was written by James Maasen, Ministry Manager for FCAP International.



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"If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there Your hand will guide me, Your strength will support me."
Psalm 139:9-10



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free online
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Spiritual Warfare
Part 4 - The Shoes of
the Gospel of Peace**

Save the Date!
**Thursday, Sept 21
5 pm EDT (2100z)**

Speaker
Jake Joseph
General Director FCAP

Even if you missed the intro, please join us
as the series continues. At the beginning
of each session, there will be a brief recap.

**2024
FCAP
CONFERENCE**

MORE INFO COMING SOON!

WHEN:
**APR 30TH-
MAY 4TH**

WHERE:
**FRANKFURT,
GERMANY**

REGISTER

Monthly Events:

**LADIES
Fellowship & Prayer**

Tuesday
Sept 5 & 19
9:30am EDT
(1330z)

**MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP &
PRAYER**

Tuesday
September 12&26
9:30am EDT
(1330z)

**Engaging in
Prayer & Praise**

Thursday, Sept 14
9:30am EDT
(1330z)

Thursday, Sept 28
12:00pm EDT
(1600z)

Everyone Welcome!

Sign-in instructions to connect on Zoom
for our Fellowship & Prayer:

LINK for using computer for video
Meeting ID: 7704619320
Password: fcap1234

For audio only by phone, dial into
+1 646 876 9923 US
Meeting ID: 7704619320
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