

A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

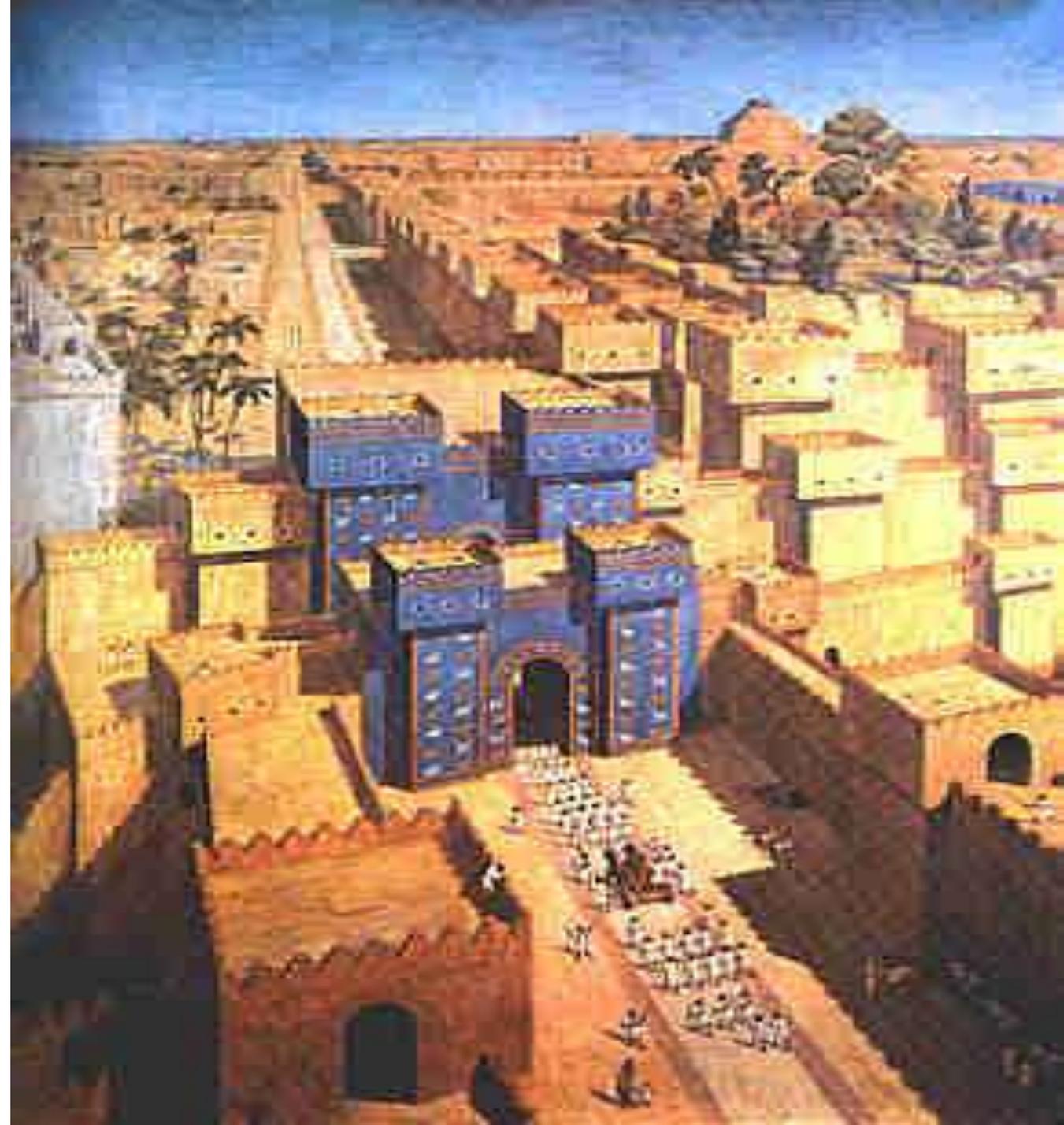
Daniel 1:1-20

Temptation to **COMPROMISE**

- **“Compromise” is NOT a bad word!**
 - *See 1 Corinthians 9:19-22*
 - *Daniel submitted to MANY changes.*
- **To A Point! [1:8]**
- **Still, would have been so easy to surrender!**
 - *Greatness of Babylon*



Splendor Of This Capital Of Ancient World!









Temptation to **COMPROMISE**

- **Not a BAD word!**
 - *See 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.*
 - *Daniel submitted to MANY changes.*
- To a point! [1:8]
- **Still, would have been so easy to surrender!**
 - *Greatness of Babylon*
 - *Daniel so young, far from home.*
 - *“Small” thing.*
 - *Know “CAN’T WIN.”*

Yet, Daniel DID “Win!”

1. **No matter how great our enemies, with God leading us we ought NEVER to be intimidated.**
2. **Even young teen can, MUST stand. Whether home or away, stand for OWN convictions.**
3. **Nothing SMALL about GOD’S will. One defeat leads to another!**
4. **Victories lost because failed to TRY!**

Temptation to be **SELF-RIGHTEOUS**

- *“I’m right and proud of it.”*
 - Pharisee praying at Temple [Luke 18:9-14].
 - Lost sons [Luke 15:29].
 - Simon the Pharisee [Luke 7:36].
- Equate being exalted with looking down on others.
- Such despising of others makes one obnoxious.

Such NOT Case With Daniel!

- “...He asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs”.
[Daniel 1:8-9 RSV]
- “Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.” [vv.12-13]

Daniel Chose To Do RIGHT...

- Without being condescending, arrogant or hateful.
- Such would not have evoked “favor and sympathy” of Babylonians!
- He showed spirit of meekness and restraint.
- He shows US the way.

WE Are Also *STRANGERS IN CAPTIVITY!*

- Satan tempts us to **COMPROMISE OUR PRINCIPLES!**
- As INDIVIDUALS:
 - *Young people today must dare to be different.*
 - *Their parents must also overcome pressure of conformity.*

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 - **As COLLECTIVE:**
 - *Evangelism or “marketing?”*
 - *Work of church or “play” of church?*
 - *Doctrinal compromise?*

METHODIST DOCTRINE ON ***DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE***

- [The Doctrines And Discipline Of The Methodist Episcopal Church – 1896]
- *“No divorce, except for adultery, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the cause of adultery, nor to divorced parties seeking to be reunited in marriage.”*

The Doctrines And Discipline Of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South – 1914

- *“The Ministers of our Church shall be prohibited from solemnizing the rites of matrimony between divorced persons, except in case of innocent parties who have been divorced for the one scriptural cause.”*

The Doctrines And Discipline Of The Methodist Church – 1940

- *“No Minister shall solemnize the marriage of a divorced person whose wife or husband is living and unmarried; but this rule shall not apply (1) To the innocent person when it is clearly established by competent testimony that the true cause for divorce was adultery or other vicious conditions which through mental or physical cruelty or physical peril invalidated the marriage vow, nor (2) To the divorced persons seeking to be reunited in marriage.”*

The Doctrines And Discipline Of The Methodist Church – 1960

• *“In view of the seriousness with which the Scriptures and the Church regard divorce, a minister may solemnize the marriage of a divorced person only when he has satisfied himself by careful counseling that (a) The divorced person is sufficiently aware of the factors leading to the failure of the previous marriage, (b) The divorced person is sincerely preparing to make the proposed marriage truly Christian, and (c) Sufficient time has elapsed for adequate preparation and counseling.”*

The Discipline Of The United Methodist Church – 1984

- *“Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as regrettable but recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry ... We encourage an active, accepting and enabling commitment of the Church and our society to minister to the members of divorced families.”*

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 - **As COLLECTIVE:**
 - Evangelism or “MARKETING”?
 - Work of church or “PLAY” of church??
 - Doctrine of compromise?
 - ***Discipline? Women’s role? Etc.***

Satan Tempts Us To ***SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS***

- **We Can Be “Right” And Be LOST!**
 - Pharisee at Temple may said truth when boast “I fast twice in a week, etc.” but could not claim “And I love my neighbor as myself”!
 - **We** have reputation for haughty spirit.
- Galatians 6:1 ***Brothers, if a person is caught doing something wrong, those of you who are spiritual should restore that person in a spirit of gentleness. Watch out for yourself so that you are not tempted as well.***
- **See 2 Timothy 2:24.**