



THE BOOK OF
Daniel

Living In a Strange Land

Daniel 1:1-21, 1 Peter 2:9-12, Philippians 2:14-16

We Must Stand Up For Who We Are

- Daniel and his friends' new names were based on Babylonian culture and its gods.
- Jewish food laws were part of Daniel's identity as a servant of the God of Israel.
- Daniel wanted to remember that he was one of the chosen people of God.
- If ungodly people are immoral or have different values, they are living in a way that is consistent with who they are.
- When we take a stand, we need to be wise about how we do it so we do not come across as self-righteous or arrogant.

We Need To Excel In The Environment In Which We Live

- Daniel and his friends knew more about Babylonian religion and culture than most Babylonians.
- God helped Daniel and his friends excel in the pagan culture of Babylon.
- Christians should excel in learning, with well-rounded information, and opinions that are carefully developed and not based on lies.
- In work or business, Christians should shine light on shady dealings and dark atmospheres.
- Christians should be known for their service in and to the community.

Conclusion

- Christians should not be naïve about dangers in our culture.
- In a world that is so often ungodly and full of darkness, we are to shine by:
 - Standing up for who we are
 - Excelling in the environment in which we live
- *Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*