

We Are Just Passing Through

Daniel 1:1–8 (NIV) — (1) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **(2)** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. **(3)** Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— **(4)** young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. **(5)** The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king’s table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king’s service. **(6)** Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **(7)** The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. **(8)** But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

"Joshua 24:15 (NIV) — (15) But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

I) Remember Who We Are

John 1:12 (NIV) — (12) Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Malachi 3:17 (NLT) — (17) “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NIV) — (9) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **(10)** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 John 2:14 (NIV) — (14) I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

II) Remember Who We Represent

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT) — (20) So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

Luke 10:19 (NLT) — (19) Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

1 John 2:6 (NLT) — (6) Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT) — (1) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

III) Remember Why We Are Here

Isaiah 43:10–12 (NIV) — (10) “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. **(11)** I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. **(12)** I have revealed and saved and proclaimed— I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “that I am God.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) — (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jeremiah 29:4–14 (NIV) — (4) This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **(5)** “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **(6)** Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. **(7)** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” **(8)** Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. **(9)** They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD. **(10)** This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. **(11)** For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **(12)** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **(13)** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **(14)** I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”