



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CRAMERTON

STUDENT YOUTH MINISTRY - MIDWEEK SERVICE

www.firstbaptistcramerton.com/youth | youth@firstbaptistcramerton.com

COUNTER CULTURE SERIES

Part 1: Counter Cultural

Scripture: Daniel 1:1-21 (ESV) p737

“Living Faithfully in the Word, while being in the World”

1. (Leviticus 26:33,39) p105 **Israel is unfaithful to God’s Covenant** - God promises destruction of their land and exile to His people if they are unfaithful to His terms:
 - **Idolatry** - Worshipping and Trusting in anything but God.
 - **Unfaithful to Observe Sabbath** - Not obeying God’s commandments.

 2. (Isaiah 39:1-8) p599 God **gives** Israel into the hands of the Babylonians: The Temple is destroyed and plundered, the Royal/Noble Youths are exiled to Babylon .
 - **Vessels of the Temple** - The claim is: “My god is better than your God!” Many believed that God of Israel “had lost” to the gods of Babylon.
How would God vindicate Himself now that Israel has been conquered?
 - **Assimilation of Youths** - Babylon systematically assimilated the Royal/Noble Youths of Israel into Babylonian culture: **New Names, New Diet, New Practices**
How do we deal with the temptations of living in the World?

 3. Daniel and his friends are Counter-Cultural - ***Who is Daniel?***
 - Daniel is a man of _____.
He determined that he would not be defiled by paganism and idolatry.

 - Daniel is a man of _____.
His total life and his every decision in a pagan culture were paved by prayer.

 - Daniel is a man of _____.
His life was used by God to accomplish God’s purposes.
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4. **God's Sovereignty and Faithfulness** - God's faithfulness is proved sufficient for Daniel throughout the 70 years of Daniel's exile: God sets up and removes rulers, yet God sustains His faithful servant Daniel.

How does God show his sovereignty in Chapter 1 of Daniel?

- God gave Daniel _____ and _____ in the sight of the Chief.

- God gave Daniel and friends superior _____.

- God gave Daniel and friends _____ and _____ in wisdom.

- God gave Daniel understanding in all _____ and _____.

BREAK INTO BOYS AND GIRLS ROOMS

- **Israel was given into the hands of Babylon for worshipping false idols and not trusting God... What do you worship? What do you trust?**

- **As servants of God, how can God use us to accomplish His purposes?**

- **After reading this scripture, how are we supposed to interact with earthly authorities? (Parents, Teachers, Managers, etc.)**

- **After reading this scripture, how are we supposed to deal with the temptations of the World? (i.e. Peer and Social Pressures)**

Closing Prayer Topic:

Father God, we pray that you will guide us as we strive to live faithfully in this broken fallen World. We are your servants, and we pray that you will use us as representatives of Christ to others who are in need of Christ. Thank you for your steadfast love for us. Forgive us of our sins, and help us to forgive others who have sinned against us.

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