

EXCELLENCE IN EXILE, PART 1
LIVING FOR THE GOOD OF A BAD CITY
Psalm 137:1-9; Jeremiah 29:4-11; Daniel 1:1-2

When a culture becomes spiritually dark, God's people can graciously turn on the light.

Psalm 137:1-9

When a culture is spiritually dark, God's people can get in a FUNK.

It's hard to worship and be glad when the past seems better than the present. (1-6)

It's hard to worship and be glad when you're waiting for God's justice. (7-9)

Jeremiah 29:4-11

When a culture is spiritually dark, God's people can help unbelievers FLOURISH.

Avoid isolation—become a good member of the community where God has placed you. (4-5, 7)

Avoid assimilation—maintain your spiritual identity and values while living in a pagan land. (6)

Avoid delusion—reject the false hope of the false teachers who offer quick and easy solutions. (8-9)

Anticipate restoration—embrace the true hope of God's promise for a brighter future. (10-11)

Daniel 1:1-2

When a culture is spiritually dark, God's people must determine to live by FAITH.

Recognize the hand of God in the chaos that makes you feel far from him. (1-2a)

Recognize the heart of God for those who are actually far from him. (2b)