

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

Part 1: Standing Out in a Foreign Land

KNOW THIS

- In the last days (**2 Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV**)
 1. Times of stress / pressure
 2. A culture adversarial toward God and no longer silent
 3. People not improving character wise
- How do we respond to this darkening culture?
 1. Rant and match their anger and attitude - pushing people is not effective
 2. Put the right people into government - helps, but will not change hearts
 3. Become more aware not more afraid
 4. Determine to live differently (**Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV**)

FOUR THAT STOOD OUT

- A forced culture change (**Daniel 1:5-9 NKJV**)
 1. Changed their names - to reflect their gods
 2. Changed their language and literature
- Daniel determined not to defile (pollute, stain, make impure) himself
 1. Jewish food laws were very specific
 2. The move was risky
 3. Daniel's fear of God was greater than his fear of Babylon
- God's hand in a foreign land (**Daniel 1:17-20 NKJV**)
 1. God's favor - people being disposed to be good toward you
 2. God's wisdom - His ability to gain knowledge and skill
 3. God's promotion - these four worked directly for the king

STANDING OUT IN A FOREIGN LAND (CULTURE)

- Be aware of the tactics
 1. The fear of not fitting in
 2. Changes subtle and not so subtle
- Determine not to be defiled (**2 Peter 2:7-8 NIV**)
 1. The environment we are constantly around has an impact
 2. We have to be intentional about the intake of our lives
 3. Having a genuine fear of God will be the biggest motivator
- God's hand on our lives is a difference maker
 1. He can give us wisdom and understanding beyond years / experience
 2. He can give us favor - even among those who do not know Him (**Psalms 5:12 NKJV**)
 3. He can promote us - wherever we are now, we can move up