

A HELPFUL METAPHOR AND MINDSET FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING IN MODERN AMERICA

Study # 3 “THE EXPERIENCE OF AN EXILE”



**Brief illustration, observation to share with the class
that supports the legitimacy of thinking of the USA
as “Babylon.”**

“galuts by grace”



The LORD . . .
captures us,
sends us **into**
exile, and
keeps us ? ?



**Nebuchadnezer's army attacked
and besieged Jerusalem**

605 BC

597 BC



**587 BC destroying
the Temple and city**

**King Zedekiah's sons murdered . . .
end of Davidic dynasty . . .
promises failed ? ?**





King Nebuchadnezer to King Jehoiakim . . .
“Gothca!”

**Nebuchadnezer
(Babylon)**

vs.

**Jehoiakim
(Judah)**

Marduk

vs.

YHWH

**WINNER . . . ?
Marduk ? !**





**YHWH gave the king of Judah into
Nebuchadnezer's hand ? ?**

Deut. 28:47, 49, 52, 58



Some of Babylon's "human booty" included the

"Judah four"

Daniel 1:1-8a

**the best,
the brightest . . .**



will become Babylonian

Handwritten text in cuneiform script on a scroll, likely a historical document or record.



“Feast of learning” at the University of Babylon



Feast of food and wine as well . . .

**“ . . . the king’s food or with the wine that he
drank . . . ” Dan. 1:8b**

Maybe I am being too sensitive.

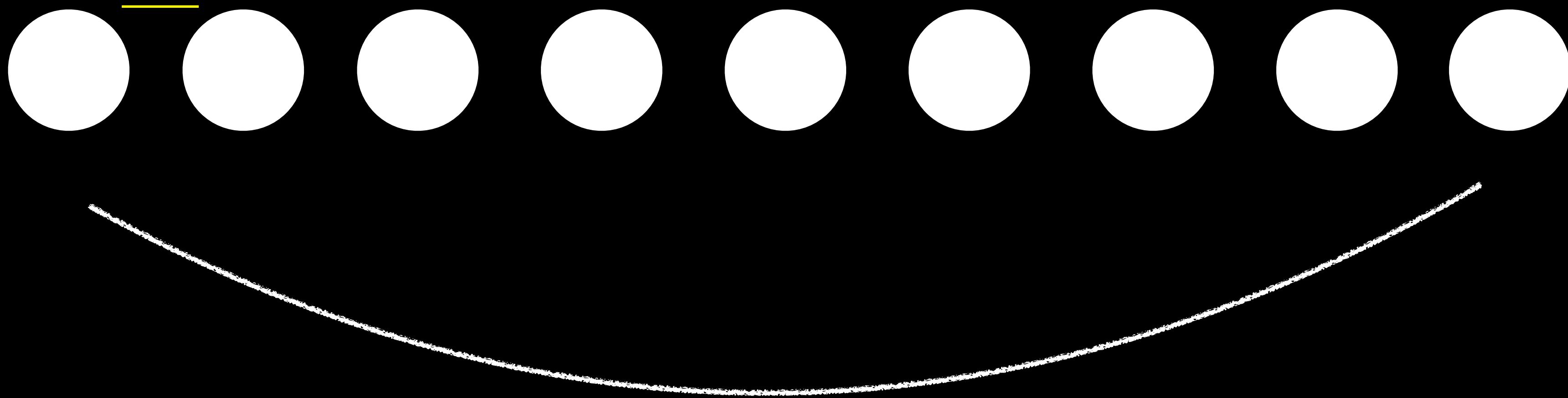
Would it really hurt?

don't need to be fanatical do I?

be reasonable



**Moving a small distance at a time becomes
a long distance from your starting point
over time**





Demas, one of Paul's fellow workers, in love with this present world, deserted him (2 Tim. 4:10)

It is not easy being an exile

Jews living in Babylon (6th c. BC) had “issues”

Christians living in Rome (1st c. AD) had “issues”

Christians living in Lancaster county (21st c. AD)
have “issues”



assimilate



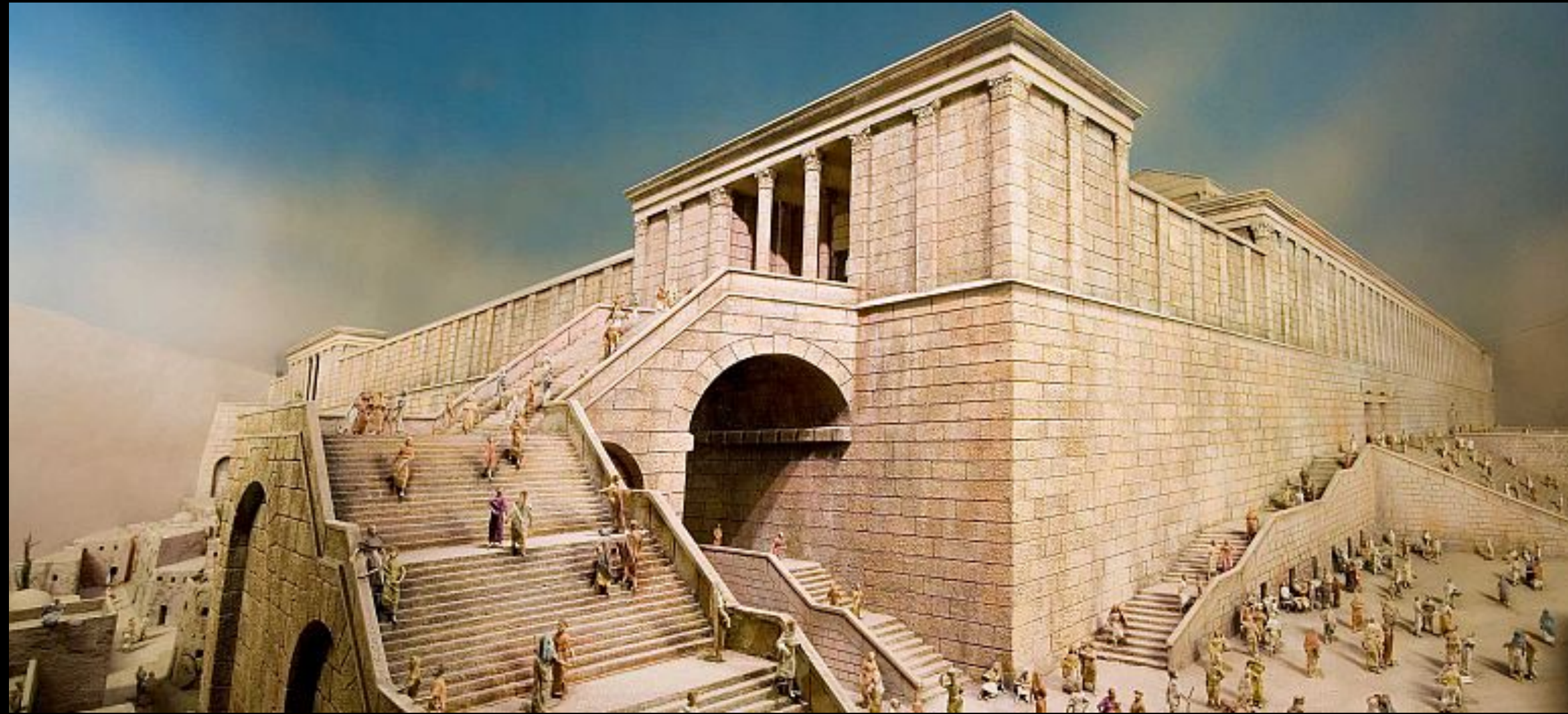
in it but . . .

the World

not of it

withdraw

**the LORD with them
in Jerusalem**



**the LORD with them
in Babylon**



The LORD with us now in Lancaster County





young Daniel's heart-set



old Daniel's heart-set

THOUGHT/REFLECTION EXERCISE

Do you think you are at risk or in any danger of becoming desensitized to the “toxins” in our culture?

Have you drawn any lines, resolved to not do certain things because of their ability to blunt your spiritual zeal?

In prep for next week, try to think honestly about your attitude toward culture.