



We are **ambassadors** for God's Son,
stewards of God's mysteries,
and **coworkers** in God's kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Therefore, ***we are ambassadors for Christ***, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

"Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and ***stewards of the mysteries of God***. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."

1 Corinthians 3:9

"For we are God's ***fellow workers***"

Alien ambassadors must have two sensitivities:

1. Firm boundaries of loyalty to the values of their true home.
2. The diplomacy to work with the powers of their temporary home.

DANIEL 1

vs. 1-7

vs. 8-21

Literary structure

Babylonia assumes supremacy over Israel vv. 1-2

Young men subjected to pagan training vv. 3-7

Daniel avoids defilement v. 8-16

Young men teach the Babylonian king vv. 17-20

Daniel proves supreme over the Babylonians v. 21

Daniel 1

"8 But Daniel ***made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank***; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials ***that he might not defile himself***."

Ancient Jewish identity was marked by three distinctives:

- **Sabbath observance**
- **Circumcision**
- **Dietary rules**

Daniel 1:8

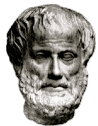
“he would not defile himself”

נאֵל

**The food and wine
may have identified him too
closely with the king so as to
threaten his identity as a Jew.**

Three questions

**1. Is America our promised
land or our Babylon?**



**Classic
government**



**Enlightenment
rationalism**



**Puritan
Christianity**

***Freedom from
the authority of***

the state superstition the church

***Democratic
Republic***

***Reason &
Pluralism***

***Protestant
moral vision***



- ✓ **We have a special
contempt for external
authority.**
- ✓ **We have a special
commitment to personal
autonomy.**



***“Why don’t Catholics get
to vote on church policy?”***

“This is America!”



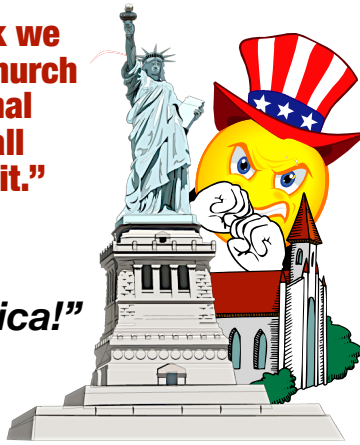
***“No one has the
right to tell me
what I have to
believe or do
to be a good
Christian.***

“This is America!”



**“Upon this rock we
will build OUR church
and no external
authority shall
stand against it.”**

“This is America!”



Protestantism - 670 million

- **Baptist churches - 105 million**
 - Southern Baptist Convention - 16.3 million
 - National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. - 7.5 million
 - National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. - 5 million
 - Nigerian Baptist Convention - 3 million
 - Progressive National Baptist Convention - 2.5 million
 - American Baptist Churches USA - 1.4 million
 - Brazilian Baptist Convention - 1.4 million
 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International - 1.2 million
 - Myanmar Baptist Convention - 1.1 million
 - Baptist Community of the Congo River - 1 million
 - National Baptist Convention, Brazil - 1 million
 - National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. - 1 million
 - National Missionary Baptist Convention of America - 1 million
 - Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches - 0.8 million
 - Baptist Convention of Kenya - 0.7 million
 - Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia - 0.6 million
- **Anabaptist and Free churches - 5 million**
 - Schwarzenau Brethren/German Baptist groups - 1.5 million
 - Mennonites - 1.5 million
 - Plymouth Brethren - 1 million
 - Moxvians - 0.7 million
 - Amish - 0.2 million
 - Hutterites - 0.2 million
- **Quakers - 0.4 million**
- **Waldensians - 0.05 million**
- **Methodism - 75 million**
 - United Methodist Church - 12 million
 - African Methodist Episcopal Church - 3 million
 - Methodist Church of Great Britain - NA
 - Methodist Church Nigeria - 2 million
 - African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - 1.5 million
 - Church of the Nazarene - 1.9 million
 - Methodist Church of Southern Africa - 1.7 million
 - Korean Methodist Church - 1.5 million
 - United Methodist Church of Ivory Coast
 - Christian Methodist Episcopal Church - 0.9 million
 - Methodist Church Ghana - 0.8 million
 - Free Methodist Church - 0.7 million
 - Primitive Methodist Church - NA
 - Chinese Methodist Church in Australia - NA
 - Free Wesleyan Church - NA
 - Free Methodist Church in Canada - NA
 - Methodist Church in India - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Methodist Church - NA
 - Wesleyan Methodist Church - NA
 - Wesleyan Methodist Church-Allegheny Conference - NA
 - Christ's Sanctified Holy Church - NA
- **Congregationalism - 5 million**
 - United Church of Christ - 1.2 million
 - Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola - 0.9 million
 - United Congregational Church of Southern Africa - 0.5 million

- **Lutheranism - 87 million**
 - Evangelical Church in Germany - 26.9 million
 - Church of Sweden - 6.9 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - 4.8 million
 - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - 4.7 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - 4.6 million
 - Danish National Church - 4.5 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - 4.3 million
 - Batak Christian Protestant Church - 4 million
 - Church of Norway - 3.9 million
 - Malagasy Lutheran Church - 3 million
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod - 2.4 million
 - The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria - 1.7 million
 - United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India - 1.5 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.9 million
 - Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church - 0.8 million
 - Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil - 0.7 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa - 0.6 million
- **Pentecostalism - 130 million**
 - Assemblies of God - 60 million
 - New Apostolic Church - 11 million
 - International Circle of Faith - 11 million
 - The Pentecostal Mission - 10 million
 - Church of God (Cleveland) - 9 million
 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel - 8 million
 - Church of God in Christ - 6 million
 - Apostolic Church - 5.5 million
 - Christian Congregation of Brazil - 2.5 million
 - Universal Church of the Kingdom of God - 2 million
 - Church of God of Prophecy - 1 million
 - God's Love Pentecostal Church - 0.8 million
 - Indian Pentecostal Church of God - NA
- **Presbyterianism - 40 million**
 - Presbyterian Church of East Africa - 4 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Africa - 3.4 million
 - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - 3.0 million
 - United Church of Canada - 2.6 million
 - United Church in Australia - NA
 - Presbyterian Community of Congo - 2.5 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Korea - 2.4 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Cameroon - 1.8 million
 - Church of Scotland - 1.1 million
 - Presbyterian Church of the Sudan - 1 million
 - Presbyterian Church in Cameroon - 0.7 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Brazil - 0.7 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Ghana - 0.6 million
 - Presbyterian Church of Nigeria - 0.5 million
 - United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million
 - Presbyterian Church in America - 0.3 million
- **Continental Reformed churches - 30 million**
 - Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar - 3.5 million
 - United Church of Zambia - 3.0 million
 - Protestant Church in the Netherlands - 2.5 million
 - Swiss Reformed Church - 2.4 million
 - Evangelical Church of Cameroon - 2 million
 - Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor - 2 million
 - Christian Evangelical Church in Minabaja - 0.7 million
 - United Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.6 million
 - United Church of Christ in the Philippines - 0.6 million
 - Protestant Church in Western Indonesia - 0.6 million
 - Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua - 0.6 million
 - Protestant Church in the Moluccas - 0.6 million
 - Reformed Church in Hungary - 0.6 million
 - Reformed Church in Romania - 0.6 million
 - United Reformed Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million

- **Non-denominational evangelicalism - 80 million**
 - Calvary Chapel - 25 million
 - Born Again Movement - 20 million
 - Association of Vineyard Churches - 15 million
 - New Life Fellowship - 10 million
 - True Jesus Church - 2.5 million
 - Charismatic Episcopal Church - NA
- **African initiated churches - 40 million**
 - Zion Christian Church - 15 million
 - Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim - 10 million
 - Kimbanguist Church - 5.5 million
 - Church of the Lord (Aladura) - 3.6 million
 - Council of African Instituted Churches - 3 million
 - Church of Christ Light of the Holy Spirit - 1.4 million
 - African Church of the Holy Spirit - 0.7 million
 - African Israel Neweth Church
- **Seventh-day Adventist Church - 17 million**
- **Restoration Movement - 7 million**
 - Churches of Christ - 5 million
 - Christian Churches and Churches of Christ - 1.1 million
 - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - 0.7 million
- **Nontrinitarianism - 27.5 million**
 - Latter Day Saint movement (Mormons) - 14.1 million
 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 13.8 million
 - Community of Christ - 0.25 million
 - Jehovah's Witnesses - 7.3 million
 - Iglesia ni Cristo - 6 million
 - Oneness Pentecostalism - 6 million
 - United Pentecostal Church International - 4 million
 - Pentecostal Assemblies of the World - 1.5 million
 - Church of Christ, Scientist - 0.4 million
 - Friends of Men - 0.07 million
 - Christadelphians - 0.05 million
- **Anglicanism - 82 million**
 - Anglican Communion - 80 million
 - Church of Nigeria - 18 million
 - Church of England - 13.4 million
 - Church of Uganda - 8.8 million
 - Church of South India - 3.8 million
 - Anglican Church of Australia - 3.7 million
 - Episcopal Church in the Philippines - 3.0 million
 - Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia - 2.5 million
 - Anglican Church in Tanzania - 2.5 million
 - Anglican Church of Southern Africa - 2.4 million
 - Episcopal Church of the United States - 2.2 million
 - Anglican Church of Canada - 2.0 million
 - Anglican Church of Kenya - 1.5 million
 - Church of the Province of Rwanda - 1.3 million
 - Church of the Province of Rwanda - 1 million
 - Church of Pakistan - 0.8 million
 - Anglican Church of Burundi - 0.8 million
 - Church of the Province of Central Africa - 0.6 million
 - Church of Christ in Congo-Anglican Community of Congo - 0.5 million
 - Scottish Episcopal Church - 0.4 million
 - Church of Ireland - 0.4 million
 - Continuing Anglican movement - 1.5 million
 - Traditional Anglican Communion - 0.5 million
 - Anglican Church in North America - 0.1 million
 - Anglican Orthodox Church - NA
- **Nestorianism - 1 million**
 - Assyrian Church of the East - 0.5 million
 - Ancient Church of the East - 0.3 million

**One of the reasons Orthodox Christianity is so
offensive to American culture is that it calls
for submission
to authority
outside our
control.**



***“I do not mind submitting to the rules
if I can notarize them first!”***

***Our culture is too much like
ancient Babylon and our attitude
is too much like ancient Israel***

- ✓ **Americans think they are or
can be the promised land.**
- ✓ **Americans pay lip service
to a god they insist on
controlling.**

Three questions

1. Is America our promised land or our Babylon?
2. What is the “choice food and wine” of our culture that we should refuse?

Real defilement is not from without but from within.

Matthew 15

“¹¹ It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man. . . . ¹⁸ But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.”

Christians are not under the Law of Moses but are constrained by the Spirit of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.”

This is our food and wine.

the object of our



**faith
hope
love**

John 6

“⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

The choice food and wine of our culture



Lesson

**We are Christians
serving in America,

not Americans
who happen to be
Christians.**

Three questions

1. Is America our promised land or our Babylon?
2. What is the “choice food and wine” of our culture that we should refuse?
3. How can we be diplomatic ambassadors?

Christian capitalism

Competition that is fair

It is motivated by the pursuit of efficiency, and effectiveness as stewards more than personal comfort and power as consumers.

Cooperation that is proactive

It is sensitive to the well-being of the community as well as the family and the individual.

Compassion that is sacrificial

It is free to be generous and sensitive in addressing the true needs of others, especially those without power or dignity.

Christian democracy

Participation

Render to Caesar - model, voice and vote our values.

Civil discourse

Speaking our minds while respecting and listening to differing perspectives.

Tension & Compromise

Balancing common good with personal freedom.

Social & legal tolerance

Respecting majority rule and minority rights.