

1. THE GREATEST CHALLENGE WE FACE TO OUR CHARACTER IS THE CONCERTED EFFORT OF THE WORLD TO SQUEEZE US INTO ITS MOLD.

Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Romans 12:1-2 *“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”*

A. Ashpenaz’s job was to lead these Jewish kids into becoming Babylonian **CONVERTS**, shift their loyalties, and shift their worship from Jehovah God to the gods of the Babylonians.

B. There were 3 parts of the reprogramming strategy:

1. Re-educate these children into the principles and benefits of the **NEW** society. (Daniel 1:4)
2. Disconnect these children from their **IDENTITY** with God.
3. To **REGULARLY EXPOSE** these children to ideas and values that their parents had taught them were wrong or unhealthy for them. (Daniel 1:5)

2. TO SURVIVE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THIS WORLD, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT MUST HAPPEN WITHIN US.

A. Purpose to live by a **GODLY** standard. (Daniel 1:8)

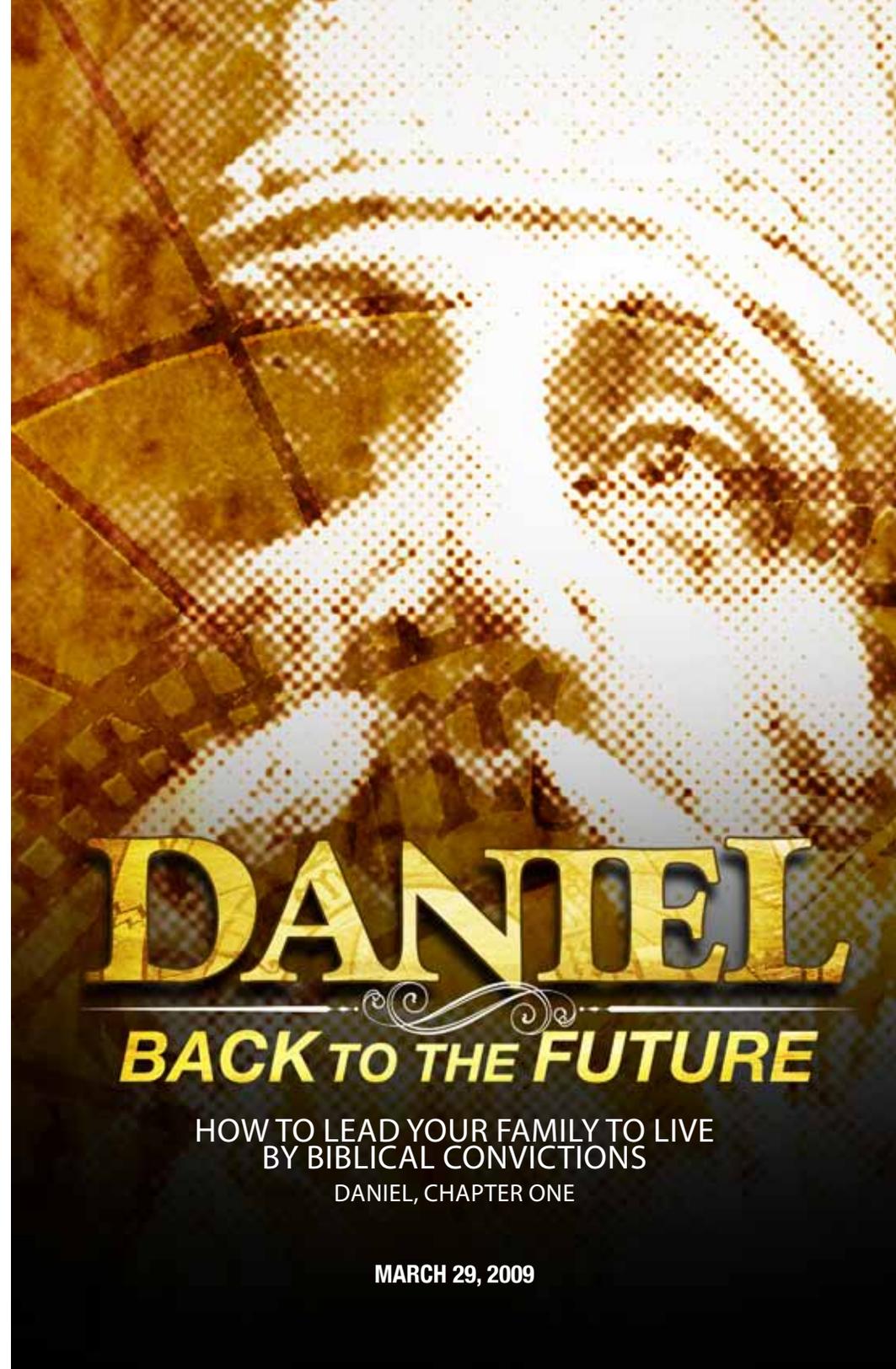
Deuteronomy 6:6-9 *“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.’ God said, ‘Part of being a godly parent is building God’s Word into the hearts of your children.’”*

Psalms 119:9 *“How can a young man keep his way **PURE**? By living according to your word.”*

B. Open your eyes to the activity of **GOD** in your situation.
(Daniel 1:2, 9, 17)

C. Learn how to appeal to authority in a way that honors God.

1. Daniel stopped to understand the king's goal. He helped develop an alternative plan. He approached the one in authority in a kind fashion and was willing to trust God with the outcome. Daniel demonstrated incredible maturity.



DANIEL

BACK TO THE FUTURE

HOW TO LEAD YOUR FAMILY TO LIVE
BY BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS

DANIEL, CHAPTER ONE

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