

Education Department

Christian Education Day Sermon

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Topic: “I am in Babylon, but Babylon is not in me”

Thesis: God’s education system is far superior to that of the world.

Scripture: Daniel 1:1-8

Introduction

- Most young people dream about having a lucrative career.
 - This is important.
 - It is important that each youth develop skill(s) or earn degree (s) that will allow them to earn more than minimum wage.
- G. Edward Reid said, there are three stages in life:
 - Learning years - from 0 - 30.
 - Earning years - from 30 – retirement.
 - Returning years – retirement - death.
 - The learning years determine your ability to earn.
- However, while competence is important; while earning a meaningful living is important, it is not as important as character development.
- This is what makes the difference between the education of the world and that of true education.
 - The world focuses on competence only.
 - God’s system focuses on both.
 - According to Ellen G. White, “Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader

scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.” Education, pg. 9

- This principle is clearly demonstrated in the story of Daniel and his friends in Babylon (Daniel 1:1-2).
- IN the Bible, Babylon represents a system of government that is opposite to God’s system.
- The nation of Israel represented a nation on earth whose God is the Lord:
 - A nation whose constitution is the same constitution in heaven (Exodus 20:3-17).
 - A nation whose God is the same God of heaven.
 - A nation who is sustained by God Himself.
 - A nation whose success is evidence that there is a God in heaven.
 - A nation whose presence is an affront to Satan’s claims.
 - That is why Satan worked so hard to lead this nation astray.
- As a result of their rebellion, God allowed Babylon to take them captive.
- This is where we find the story (Daniel 1:1-2).
- This story reveals the contrast between God’s education system and that of Babylon.
- I. Babylon’s education system is based on the worship of false gods.
 - a. Babylon represents the type of nation that Satan proposed; a nation whose gods are idols.
 - b. A nation that is in rebellion against the God of heaven.

- c. A nation whose gods are not the true God.
- d. Babylon's victory over Judah was celebrated as a victory by Murdoch over the God of Judah.
- e. Babylon became a symbol of rebellion against God.
- f. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesied of the fall of Babylon as the victory for God's people (Jeremiah 51:8; Isaiah 47).
- g. Though literal Babylon was eventually destroyed as prophesied, the name Babylon remained as a symbol of the final enemy of God's people, whose fall will bring great rejoicing in heaven (Revelation 18, 19).
- h. So, Daniel and his fellow Jews were taken to Babylon.
- i. Daniel was about 17-18 years old.
- j. These were young people, whose parents taught them to revere the God of heaven only.
- k. They were taught that the God of heaven is the only God they should worship.
- l. But, like Joseph in Egypt, they found themselves in a land whose people has no regard for the God of heaven.
- m. Matter of fact, the idea was that they were in captivity because their God could not help them.
- n. As customary, the conquering king was to make use of these captives by employing the best of them in his palace as wise men.
 - i. Daniel 1:3, 4 -
 - ii. 3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,
 - iii. 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

- o. The King implemented a training programme that:
 - i. Was not only to prepare them to stand in his palace as wise men, but to make them Babylonians.
 - ii. The goal of this training programme was to make them into Babylonians.
 - iii. Therefore,
 - 1. He changed their names to represent Babylonian gods.
 - 2. He taught them the languages of the Chaldeans.
 - 3. He taught them science and mathematics of Babylon.
 - a. Babylon established the decimal system.
 - b. They introduced algebra.
 - c. Astronomy
 - 4. He prescribed a special diet for them.
 - iv. **Application:**
 - 1. Please take note of the following:
 - a. Babylon has an education system.
 - b. The purpose of the education system is not just to give knowledge, but to change lives.
 - c. Their education system involved, not only to learn the science of Babylon, but diet and the worship of the gods of Babylon.
 - 2. If Babylon's education system can be so structured and purposeful, what about God's?
 - 3. Today, Babylon also have an education system.
 - a. One that is designed to undermine the Creator of heaven and earth.
 - i. Attributing the source of reality to evolution.
 - ii. Denying the seven-day creation story.

- iii. Denying the concepts of male and female whom God created in His image. Saying that gender is fluid.
 - b. Babylon has an education system.
 - i. Their purpose is to lead our young people to deny the God of heaven.
- v. Take note, that while Daniel didn't mind:
 - 1. Having his name changed.
 - 2. Learning the science of Babylon
 - 3. Learning the Language of Babylon
 - 4. We are not to shun the learning of science and mathematics. These are the study of the God of nature.
- vi. Daniel decided that he could not eat and drink like Babylonians.
- vii. Daniel 1:8 – READ
 - 1. There are several reasons Daniel and his friends did not eat the king's food.
 - 2. Whatever the reason, based on what they believed, eating this food would “**defile**” them to the extent that they would be unfaithful to their God.
 - 3. Reasons:
 - a. King's meat included unclean food (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14).
 - b. King's meat was first offered to Idols. Partaking of the meal would signify participation in idol worship. Acts 15:28
- viii. Daniel was saying, “I might be in Babylon, but Babylon is not in me.”
 - 1. I still belong to the God of heaven.
 - 2. I still believe that there is only one true God.

3. I still believe that only one God is all powerful
ix. From here onwards, Daniel and his three friends would bring Babylon to its knees to acknowledge that God ruleth in the kingdom of men and give power to whom He will.

1. Daniel 1 – God’s diet is the best.
2. Daniel 2 – God reveal secrets. Gods word/the Spirit of Prophecy is more powerful than the wise men of Babylon.
3. Daniel 3 – He has power over the elements of nature, including fire.
 - a. It took a lot of character to stand for God.
4. Daniel 4 – He can humble any king, even the greatest king on earth.
5. Daniel 5 – He is to be respected and His holiness must be revered
6. Daniel 6 – He can shut the lion’s mouth

p. Through the lives of these young men God demonstrated the power of character and the superiority of His education system over Babylon

II. God’s Education System

- a. Please take note, that the reason Daniel and his friends did not conform to Babylon, is that they were already schooled in God’s education system.
- b. Their parents taught them well.
- c. God’s system involved the transfer of the knowledge of God from one generation to the next.
- d. This was the responsibility of parents (Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 6:1-5).
- e. When the parents neglected this responsibility, God appointed the school of the prophets.

- f. The fundamental goal of a true education system is to lead our youth to know Jesus.
 - i. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:8).
- g. It makes no sense that we are well educated in the science of Babylon but possess no character.

III. Conclusion

- a. It is important to note that just as how the church has an education system, the world has one as well.
- b. Their system is not only about teaching science, but the values of the world.
- c. Therefore, our education system is not merely about making competent students, but establishing in them a godly character.
- d. This education begins at home and continues throughout their lives.