

# Study Notes: Building in Babylon – Ps Lee Eden

## Message Summary

The church is called to be known for who and what it is for, rather than what it stands against. United in Christ, believers exist to expand the kingdom of God, engaging in spiritual battles rather than fighting against the very people God calls them to love.

Historically, Babylon began as a unified civilisation building a monument to its own greatness, entirely forsaking devotion to God. Today, the spirit of Babylon operates similarly, seeking to draw culture away from God through attractive advancements and shifting ideologies that demand complete worship rather than mere compliance.

Believers must navigate this reality by being in the world but not of it. Like Daniel and his friends, Christians can participate in secular systems, learn the culture, and excel in their fields without defiling themselves or bowing to modern idols. God provides the wisdom and power to thrive without compromising our spiritual identity.

## Key Points

- **Our true fight is never against people.** The biblical battles we are called to are against our own flesh, for the faith, and against spiritual principalities, never against those God calls us to love.
- **The spirit of Babylon demands worship.** It is not satisfied with silence or mere compliance, but actively pressures every layer of society to bow to its shape-shifting ideologies and self-idolisation.
- **Excel in the culture without compromising.** We are encouraged to enter secular institutions, learn thoroughly, and be of service to the culture, whilst refusing to adopt practices that violate God's standards.
- **Live the standard instead of just talking about it.** Rather than engaging in angry social media rants or hostility, believers are called to maintain above-reproach behaviour that visibly demonstrates God's standard to the world.
- **Give God space for a miracle.** When we resolve not to defile ourselves and refuse to bow to the spirit of the age, we create room for God to step into the fire and move powerfully on our behalf.

## Discussion Questions

1. The spirit of Babylon attempts to re-identify people and demand their worship through the attractive advancements of culture. In what areas of everyday life do you sense this pressure to bow to the spirit of the age?
2. Daniel and his friends were educated in Babylon and served its king, excelling without adopting the culture's idolatry. How can we practically pursue excellence in our secular workplaces or schools while maintaining our devotion to God?
3. Rather than reacting to the culture with outrage, the Hebrew men chose to act with honour and a quiet resolve to obey God. How can our group support one another in living out God's standard instead of just talking about it?