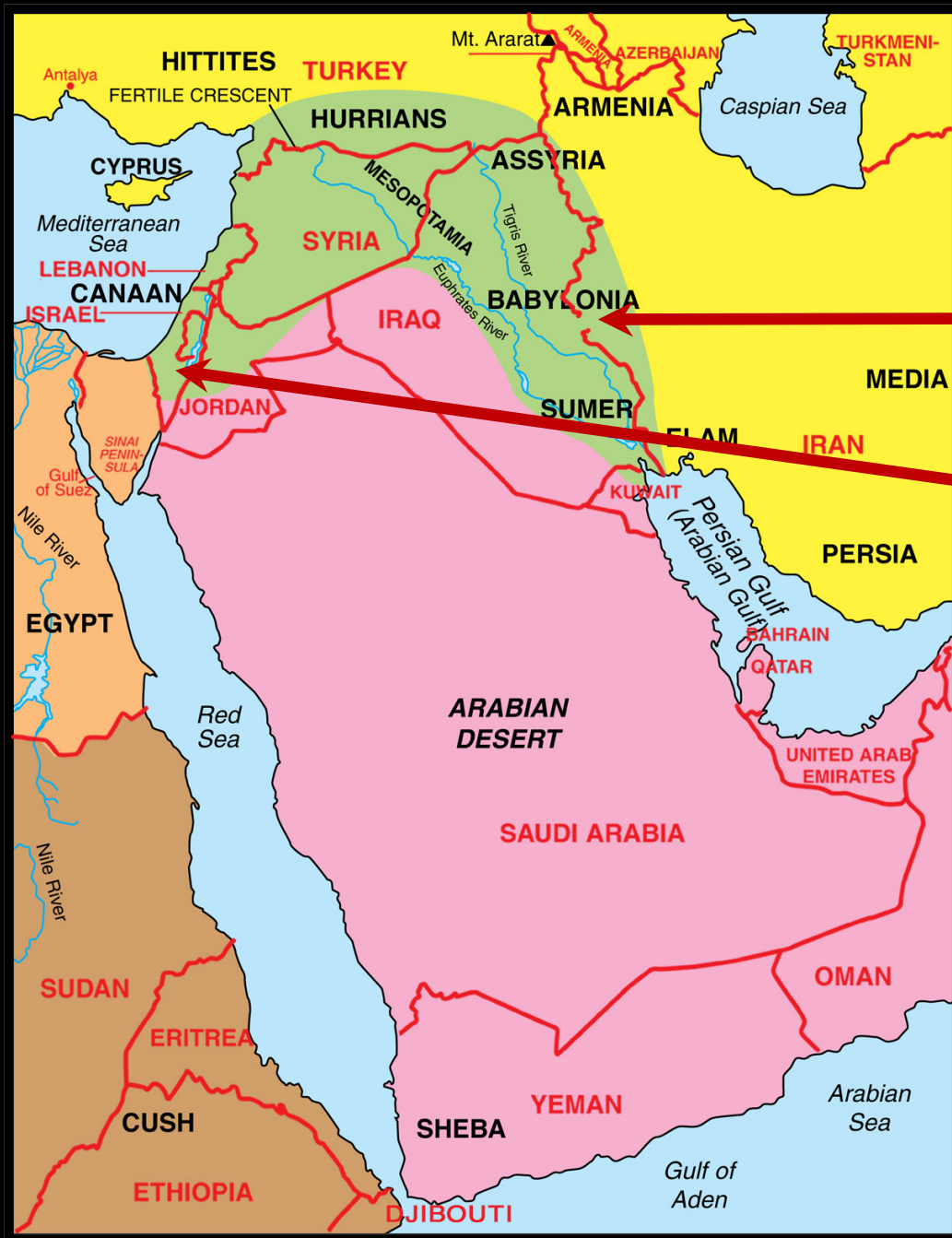


Belief Under Pressure

Daniel 1



Year is 605 – 603bc

Babylon

Israel

HOW DID DANIEL'S BELIEF HOLD-UP UNDER PRESSURE?

- 1. Daniel learned “about” Babylon without being conformed to Babylon.**
 - Language, history, culture
 - Replace religious views:
 - How one viewed meat offered to idols

CHANGED NAMES

1. Daniel - "God is my judge"
 - Belteshazzar or "Bel protect his life"
2. Hananiah - "Yahweh has been gracious"
 - Shadrach - "command of Aku" (moon-god)
3. Mishael – "Who is what God is?"
 - Meshach - "Who is as Aku is"
4. Azariah - "Yahweh has helped"
 - Abednego – "Servant of Nebo"

PURPOSE WAS TO CHANGE DANIELS'S WORLD VIEW

- What is your world view?
 - Based on the bible?
 - Based on culture?
- Society without God's word is society without a moral compass. Government is "protector."
 - California – "Yes-means-yes"; 8/28/14

DANIEL HAD THE COURAGE TO HOLD ON TO WHAT HE KNEW WAS RIGHT

- Babylon's definition of defilement, sin or God's?
- Are we learning "about" our "Babylon" without being shaped or conformed to it?
- Romans 12:2.

- **Romans 12:2 (NASB)** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

HOW DID DANIEL'S BELIEF HOLD-UP UNDER PRESSURE?

2. Daniel had the courage to not follow the crowd.

- 4 among 40, 60, 100?
- His friends.

WHY DO PEOPLE FOLLOW THE CROWD?

- Human need to belong:
 1. They knew what their eyes told them, and yet chose to ignore it, to belong to the group.
 2. Hearing other's views – even if wrong- can change what we see, distorting our own perceptions.
- Dr Gregory Berns, Emory University, 2006; Primetime TV.

HEARD ANY OF THESE CROWD-VIEWS LATELY?

1. Bible filled with outdated, irrelevant, old stories.
2. Do you really believe God created us?
3. There are many paths to God.
4. Everybody's doing it so it must be OK for me.
5. The reason Islam is violent is because America invaded Iraq under George Bush.

WHAT DID DANIEL DO?

Had the courage to not follow the crowd.

1. Decided ahead of time.

- Set his boundaries, his lines.

2. Gathered his like-minded friends to guard their courage.

WHAT DID GOD DO?

- **Blessed him and his four friends.**
 - 10x better than everyone.
 - 70 years later, Daniel is still standing.