



## THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

### Realize That God Loves You.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*  
(John 3:16).

### The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory to God.”* (Romans 3:23).

### God’s Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

### The Good News Is That Christ Paid for Our Sins.

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8).

### We Must Personally Pray and Receive Christ by Faith as Our Personal Saviour.

The Bible Says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13).

**COLLEGIANS FOR CHRIST**

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## Daniel Attends Babylon State University

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### Memory Verse- Psalm 141:4

*“Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works  
with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.”*

*Your  
Thoughts*

Daniel is taken from the comforts of his home and placed in Babylon. Daniel leaves behind his culture, friends, and place of worship. He finds himself living in a completely new place that is very secular and worldly. In this new city, Daniel is exposed to all types of people, entertainment, religions, philosophies, and teachings. Read Daniel 1:1-21. Located in this new city is Babylon State Univeristy. Daniel is enrolled and begins studying to complete his three year degree.

What is happening today as young American’s attend college? Research shows us that 60-70% of teenagers who regularly attend church stop attend during the ages of 18-22.

The fastest growing group in America today in the “Nones”. These are people who say they believe nothing about God, faith, or religion. It has increased to one in three for 18-29 year olds.

Many students’ faith will be put on a shelf becoming a much lower priority than before. Many young people will even walk away from their faith. What should a believer do to keep a strong faith in an increasing secular society and university?

### Think about it:

*What will happen to  
your faith while you are  
in college?*

Your  
Thoughts

### Babylon State's Three Year Degree Program

Babylon State took applications and then accepted the leaders. The school's requirements are listed in verses three through four. It was those that did well in school, had a good GPA, and tested well on the SAT or ACT. The students who were accepted had, *"no blemish, but were well favoured."* This means the students had no physical or moral stain. A good physical appearance and reputation were emphasized for acceptance in this school.

This university had a three year all encompassing degree in history, humanities, philosophy, mathematics, science, and business. The purpose of this degree was for its graduates to look, think, act, and talk like a Babylonian.

**Think about it:**  
**God was removed  
from their names and  
a reference to an idol  
took His place.**

Included in this three year degree was a meal plan. Daniel 1:5 says, *"And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king."* Nourishing means to feed to make large. This meal plan was intended to make these young men look more like Babylonians physically.

The school gave the students a new school I.D. It was not a simple email address but rather a complete name change. Their names were changed to show Babylon's authority over them and to make them into Babylonians. Each of their original names referenced something of God. Daniel- "God is my judge" changed to Belteshazzar- "keeper of the hidden treasures of Bel". Hananiah- "The grace of the Lord" to Shadrach- "the inspiration of the sun". Mishael- "He that is the strong God" to Meshach- "of the goddess Shack".

### Daniel's Three Year Plan

The Babylonian culture and university would try to change Daniel into a Babylonian but Daniel would not be changed. Notice the key to Daniel's strength in verse eight, *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself."* Purposed means he formed a designed resolution. This means he thought about the situation, weighed it out, compared it to scripture, and asked God what to do. He then established boundaries and convictions that he would not cross. The decision was already made in his heart!

Some people would bend to the flattery of being chosen and offered the king's meat. Not Daniel! He would rather break than bend.

What was wrong with Daniel eating of the kings' meat? Defile is the keyword. The meat could be sinful for Daniel to eat such as swine's flesh or it being offered to an idol. Israel was a peculiar people and were distinguished by their meats (Leviticus 11). He was also avoiding the temptation to indulge in pleasures. Read Psalm 141:4 and Proverbs 23:3.

There will be many temptations while in college to dabble or experiment with. Many of these can draw you away from God. Daniel established his convictions and based all his decisions of what he would do, where he would go, and who he would hang around. This governed every aspect of his life.

A believer should stand out as peculiar in a secular college. Daniel possessed a living faith. God was real to him and it was important to live according to God's Word. He knew what he believed, why he believed it, and where to find it at in the Bible. What have you purposed in your heart while at school?

Your  
Thoughts

**Think About it:**  
**Daniel would break  
before he bent and  
molded to the ways of  
Babylon.**