



# UNMIND IN PURPOSE

**Daniel 1**

**Making Up Our Minds  
On Who We Are**





- **Relevant timeline of Jewish history**

1. 970 BC. King David's death.
2. 931 BC. Split of Northern and Southern Kingdoms; after death Solomon.
3. 722 BC. Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria.
4. 605, 597, 586 BC. Three sieges of Jerusalem by Babylon.
5. 605 - 535BC. Daniel's captivity and death.
6. 535 BC. Jewish exiles return to Jerusalem.



1. Daniel was raised for such a time as this. Did Daniel's "culture" give him an identity sufficiently rooted in his God?

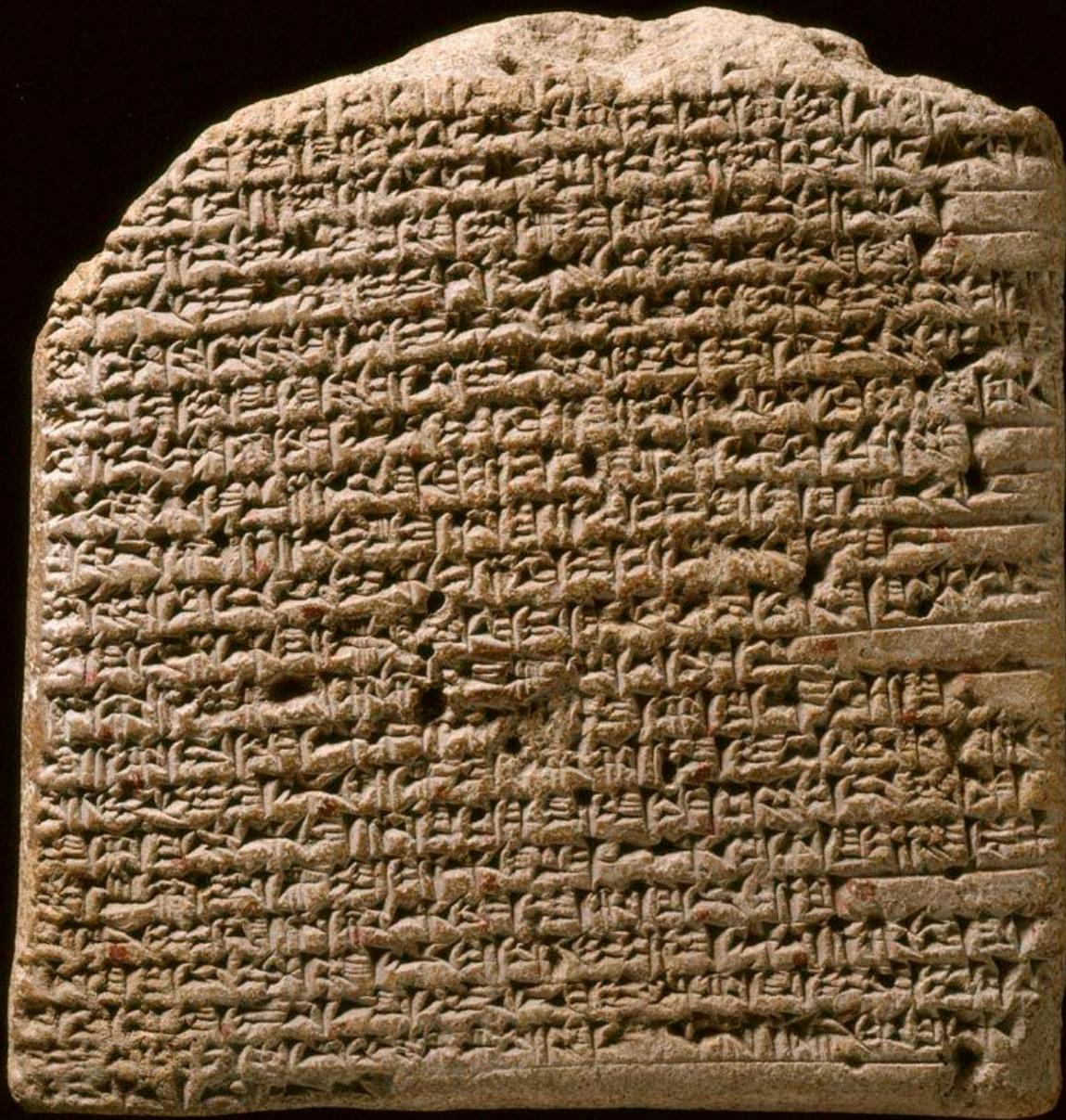
- *"Culture, in this context, refers to the beliefs, norms, behaviors, and values that a given group of people deem acceptable. Whereas identity is about knowing what is acceptable and true for yourself."*
- <https://www.exceptionalfutures.com/cultural-identity/>



2. Daniel endured the “deprogramming efforts” of his new culture, all attempting to change his personal identity.

1. They grouped him.
2. They educated him.
3. They named him.
4. They proposed a new “god.”
5. They rewarded him.







3. Daniel's "resolve" kept him in God's plan for His life, despite the presumed cost. His friends joined him. God was his reward.

- V8. "Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine he drank. Therefore, he asked .... that he be allowed not to defile himself. 9. And God gave Daniel favor and compassion ..."

# Our Purpose Statement

Bethany Church is a vibrant, diverse, **community of faith** *actively seeking Jesus Christ* and *sharing the love of God* with our community and beyond. We are *intentional about guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ*, while actively and creatively serving others through local and international missions.





## Next Steps:

1. Are you a part of a group that has an “anti-Jesus” belief system? Are you sure this is the group Jesus would have you belong to?
2. Are you a part of a group that has a pro-Jesus belief system? If not, why not? Your kids?
3. How can you join with other Christians to enhance your personal identity in Christ?