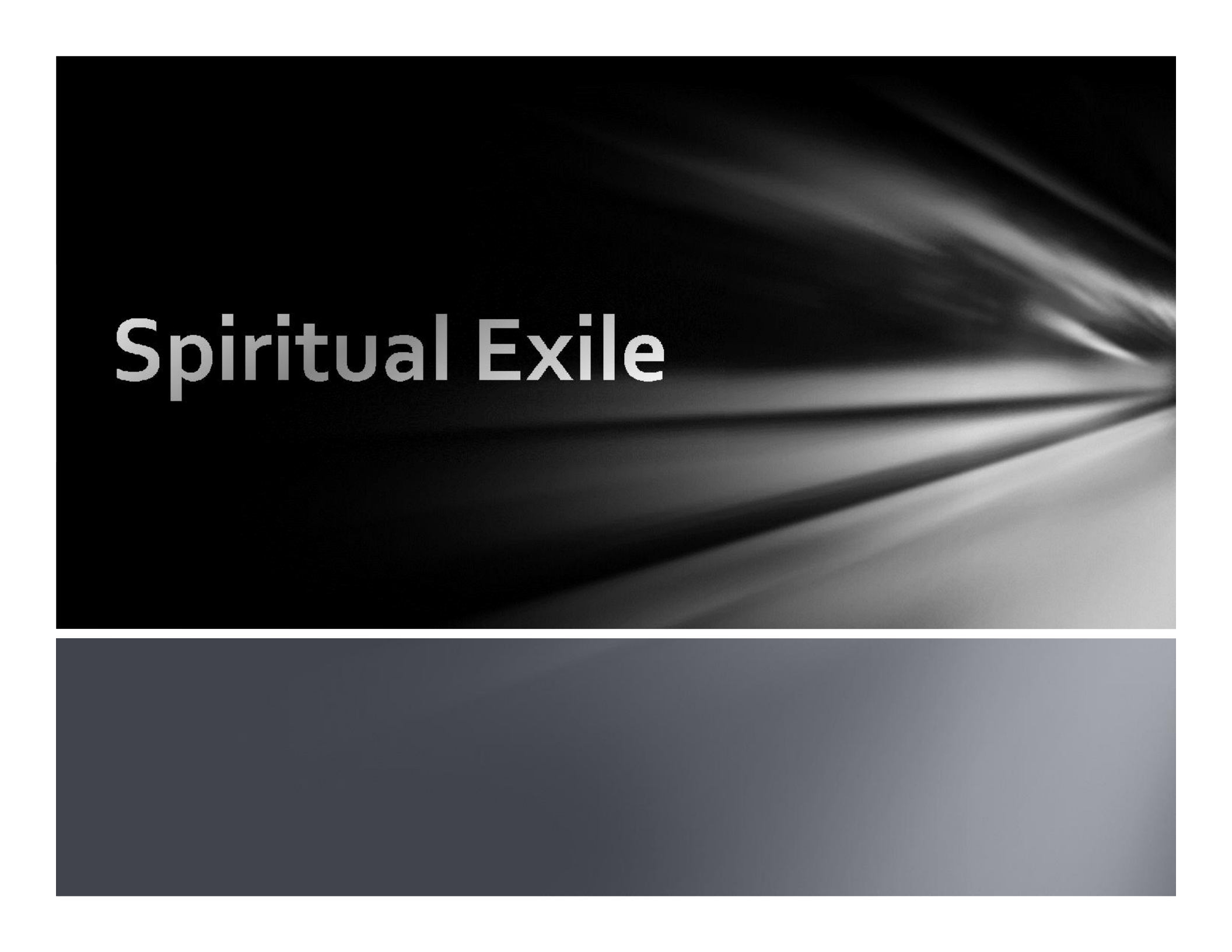


Spiritual Exile

The background of the slide is a dark, abstract image featuring several bright, diagonal light rays or streaks that originate from the right side and fan out towards the left. These rays create a sense of depth and movement. At the bottom of the slide, there is a solid, dark gray horizontal bar that spans the entire width of the image.

Exile

- The state of being barred from one's native country.



Examples

- Abram: Exiled from his home by the command of God.
- Joseph: Exiled from his family and imprisoned in Egypt.
- Moses:
 - Exiled from his people to live in Pharaoh's palace
 - Exiled again to the desert for 40 years as a shepherd of sheep
 - Exiled again to Egypt to free the people
 - Exiled again to the wilderness as a shepherd of people
- Daniel: Exiled from Jerusalem to live in pagan Babylon.
- St. John the Beloved: Exiled to the island of Patmos.

Abram

- **Genesis 15:1**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."



Joseph

- **Genesis 39:23**

The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.



Moses

- **Exodus 33:11**
So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.



Daniel

- **Daniel 1:17**

As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.



What is our native country?

- While these men were physically exiled from their homes, they were not exiled or separated from God.
- What then is our native country?

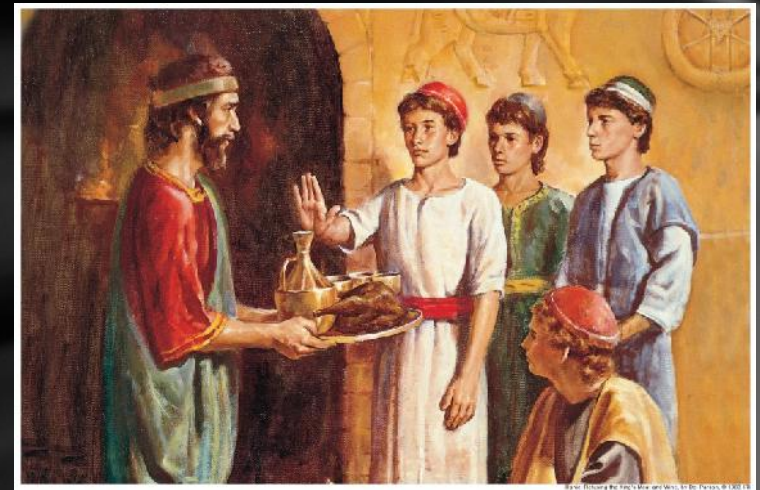


**How do we remain
connected to God even
in the land of exile?**

1. Sense of Purpose

- **Daniel 1:8**

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank



2. No Excuses

- **Daniel 6:10**
Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.



3. Study the Word of God

- **Daniel 9:2**

In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.



4. Sincere Prayers

- **Daniel 9:3**
Then I set my face
toward the Lord God to
make request by prayer
and supplications, with
fasting, sackcloth, and
ashes.



5. Acknowledge Sin

- **Daniel 9:7**

O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day--to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.

6. Take Responsibility for Others

- **Daniel 9:5-6**

We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.

7. Remember the Warnings of God

- **Daniel 9:11**

Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.

8. Remember God's Faithfulness

- **Daniel 9:15**

And now, O Lord our God,
who brought Your people
out of the land of Egypt
with a mighty hand, and
made Yourself a name, as
it is this day--we have
sinned, we have done
wickedly!



9. Believe in Redemption

- **Daniel 9:18-19**

O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

10. Realize the difference between spiritual and physical exile

- All the problems were based on spiritual exile (separation from God), not physical exile (separation from Jerusalem)
- God responded with the vision of the 70 weeks (a prophecy of the coming of the Messiah)

Conclusion

- We often focus too much on ending physical exile (our circumstances)
- We need to focus more on ending our spiritual exile (connecting with God)
- We can be physically exiled, but still connected to God