

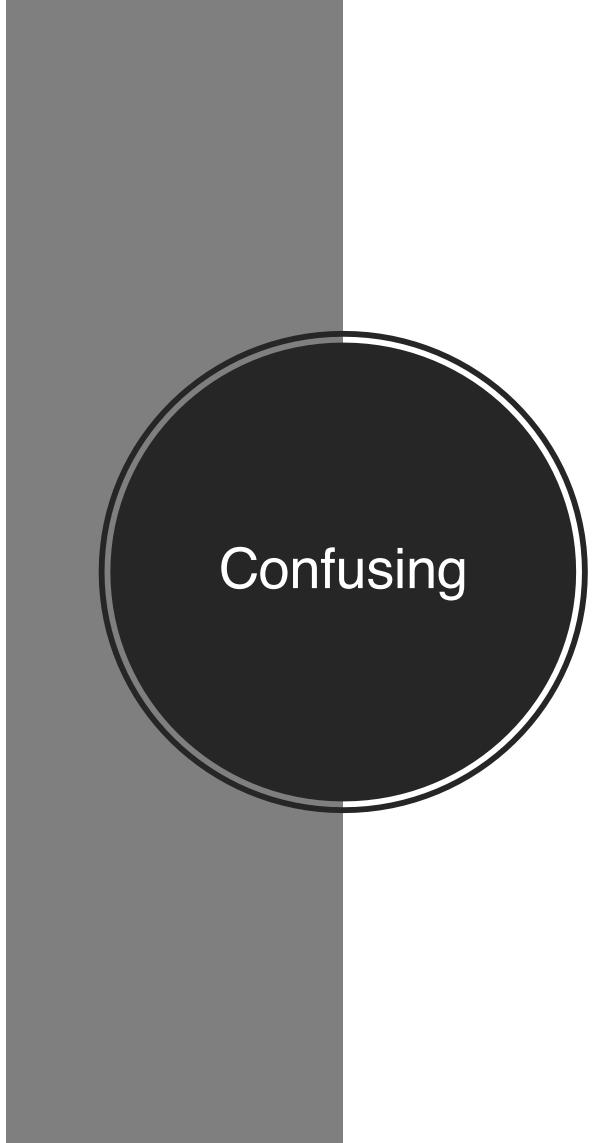


# Navigating a Confusing and Corrupt Culture

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Eddie Moody, Ph.D.  
[emoody@nafwb.org](mailto:emoody@nafwb.org)

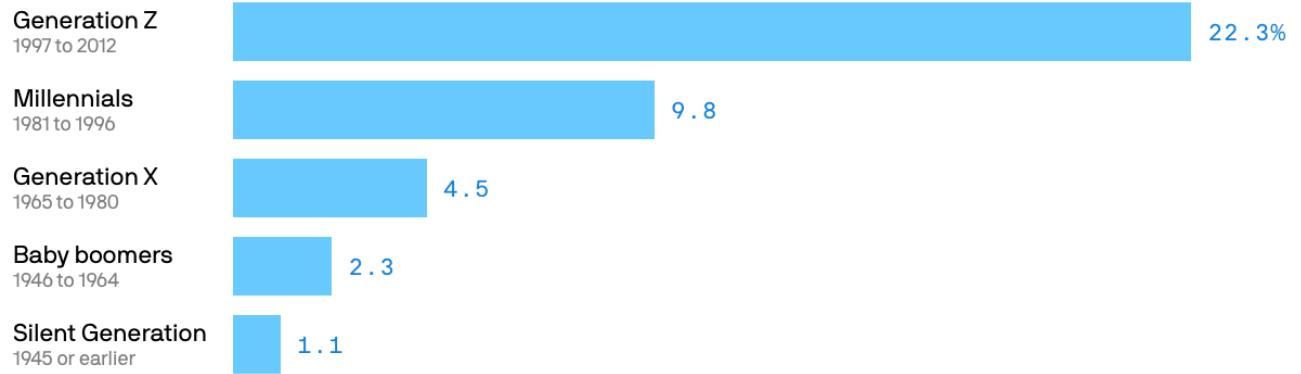




Confusing

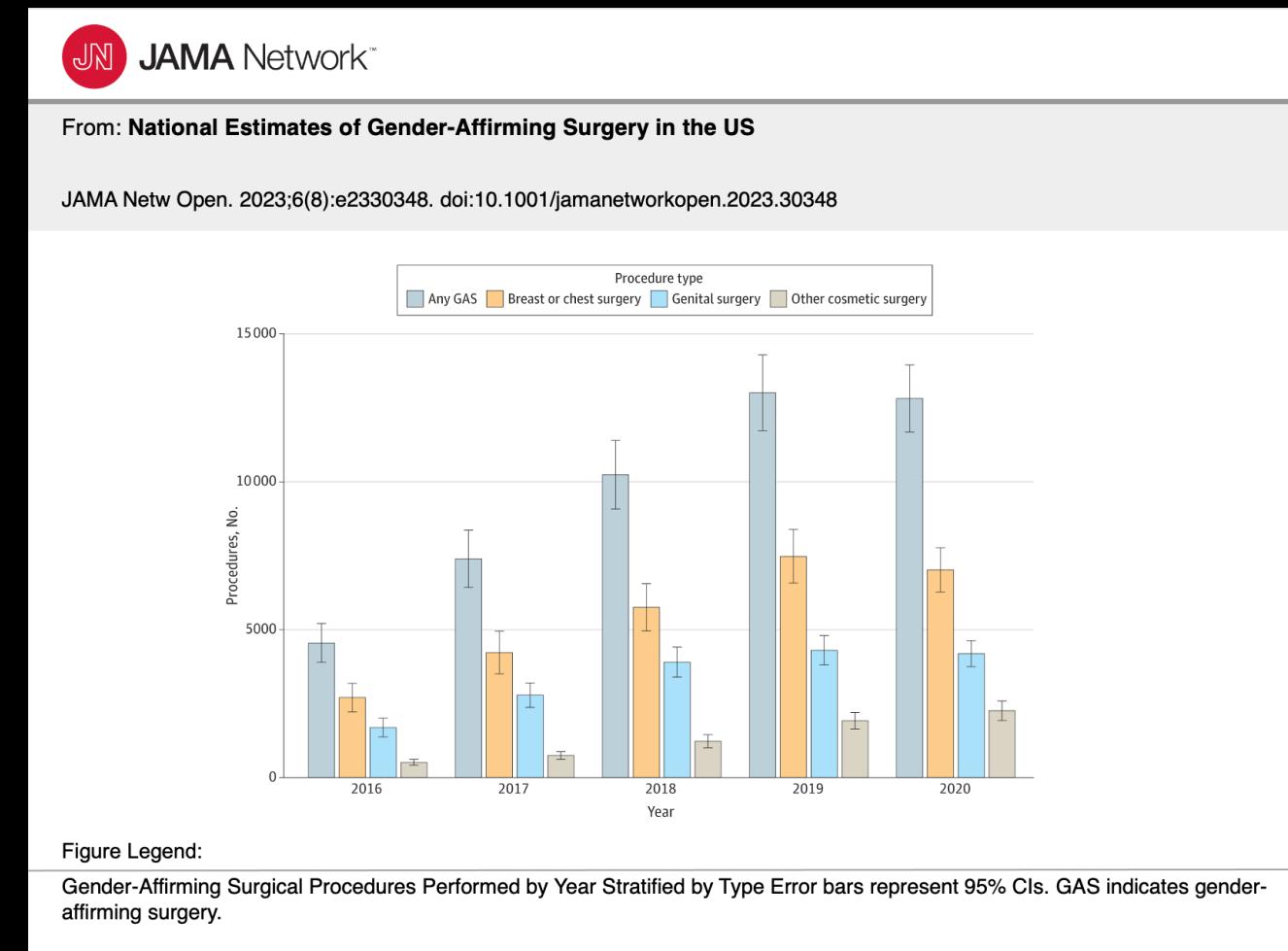
## Share who say they identify as LGBTQ+, by generation

Based on surveys of 12,145 U.S. adults, conducted in 2023



Data: [Gallup](#); Chart: Axios Visuals

Corrupt



## 1 big thing: Shoplifting reaches crisis proportions



Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

**Shoplifting has gotten so bad nationally** that chains like Rite Aid are closing hard-hit stores, sending terrified employees home in Ubers, and locking up aisles of seemingly mundane items like deodorant and toothpaste, *writes Jennifer A. Kingson*.

14 **Do** all things without murmurings and disputings:  
15 **That** ye may **be** blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; **that** I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16

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Do + Be = That

Nothing new

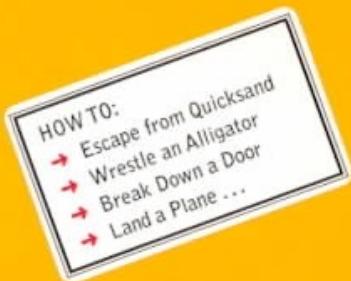
The thing that hath been, it is  
that which shall be; and that  
which is done is that which shall  
be done: and there is no new  
thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9



James Tissot "The Flight of the Prisoners"

The  
WORST-CASE SCENARIO  
Survival Handbook



By Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht

How did they  
navigate the  
culture?

Spiritual  
Competence



James Tissot "The Flight of the Prisoners"



“There are few  
things more  
dangerous than  
inbred religious  
certainty.”

— Bart D. Ehrman



God is my  
judge.



Judge me, O LORD; for I  
have walked in mine  
integrity: I have trusted  
also in the LORD;  
therefore I shall not slide.  
Psalm 26:1

Daniel (God is my judge)



God is  
gracious.



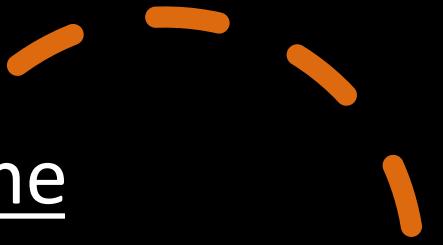
The LORD is merciful and  
gracious, slow to anger,  
and plenteous in mercy.  
Psalm 103:8

Hananiah  
(Yah has been gracious)



Who is what  
God is?

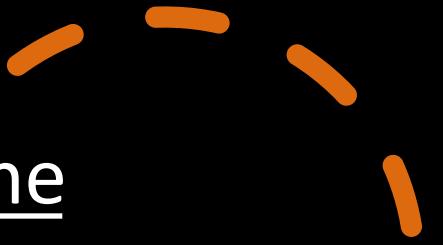
Who is like unto the  
LORD our God, who  
dwelleth on high.  
Psalm 113:5



Mishael  
(Who is what God is?)



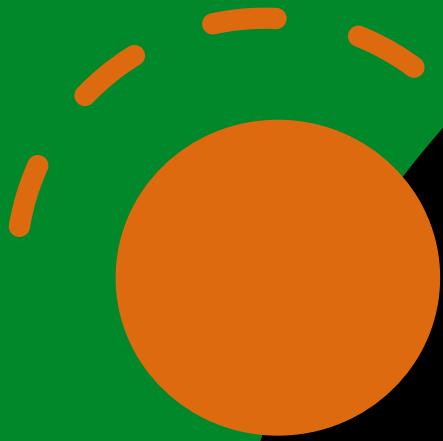
God helps  
me.



Behold, God is mine  
helper: the Lord is with  
them that uphold my  
soul.

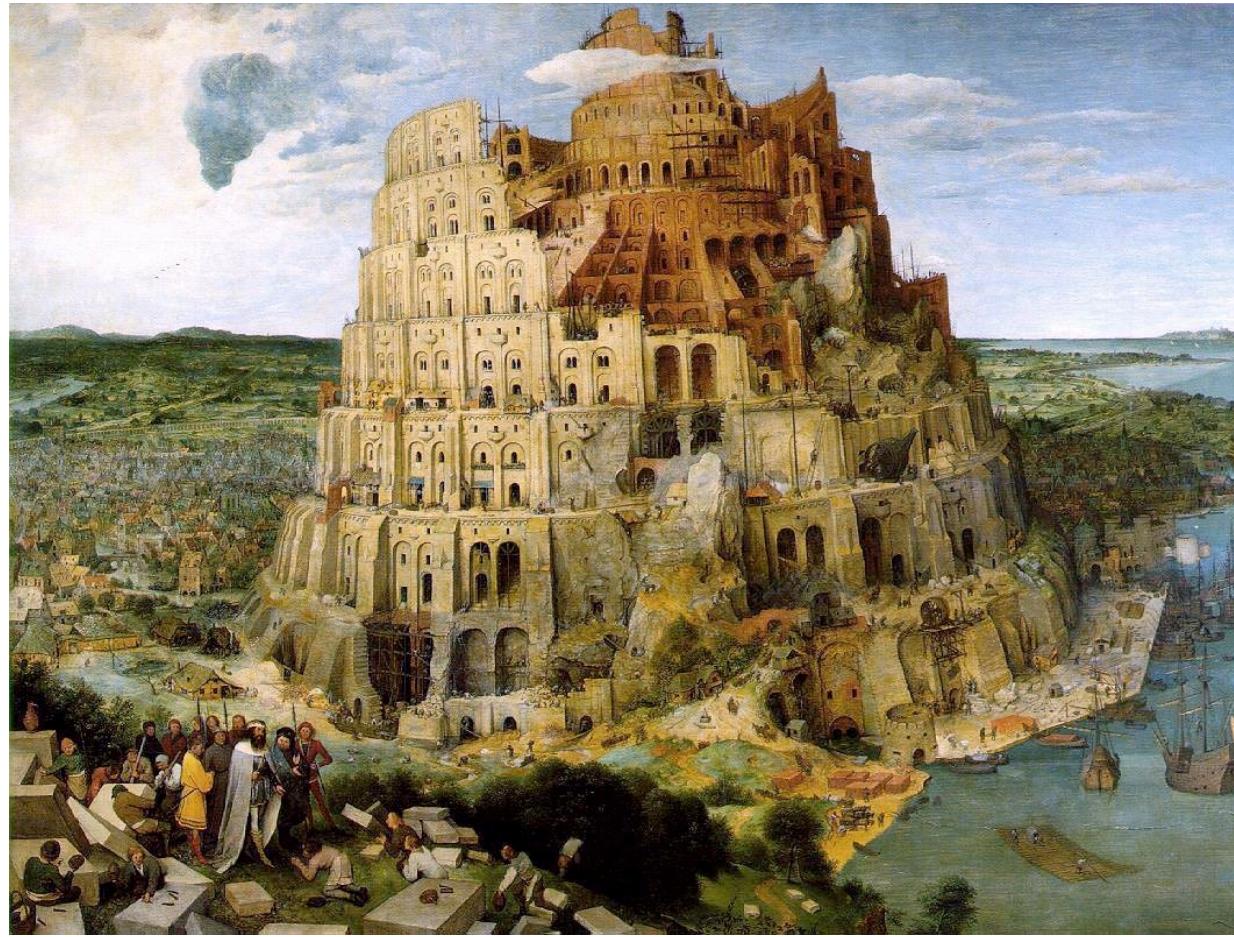
Psalm 54:4

Azariah (Yah is my help)

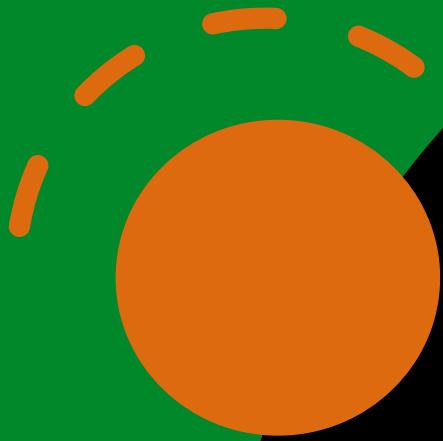


... Which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god;  
and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

Daniel 1:2b

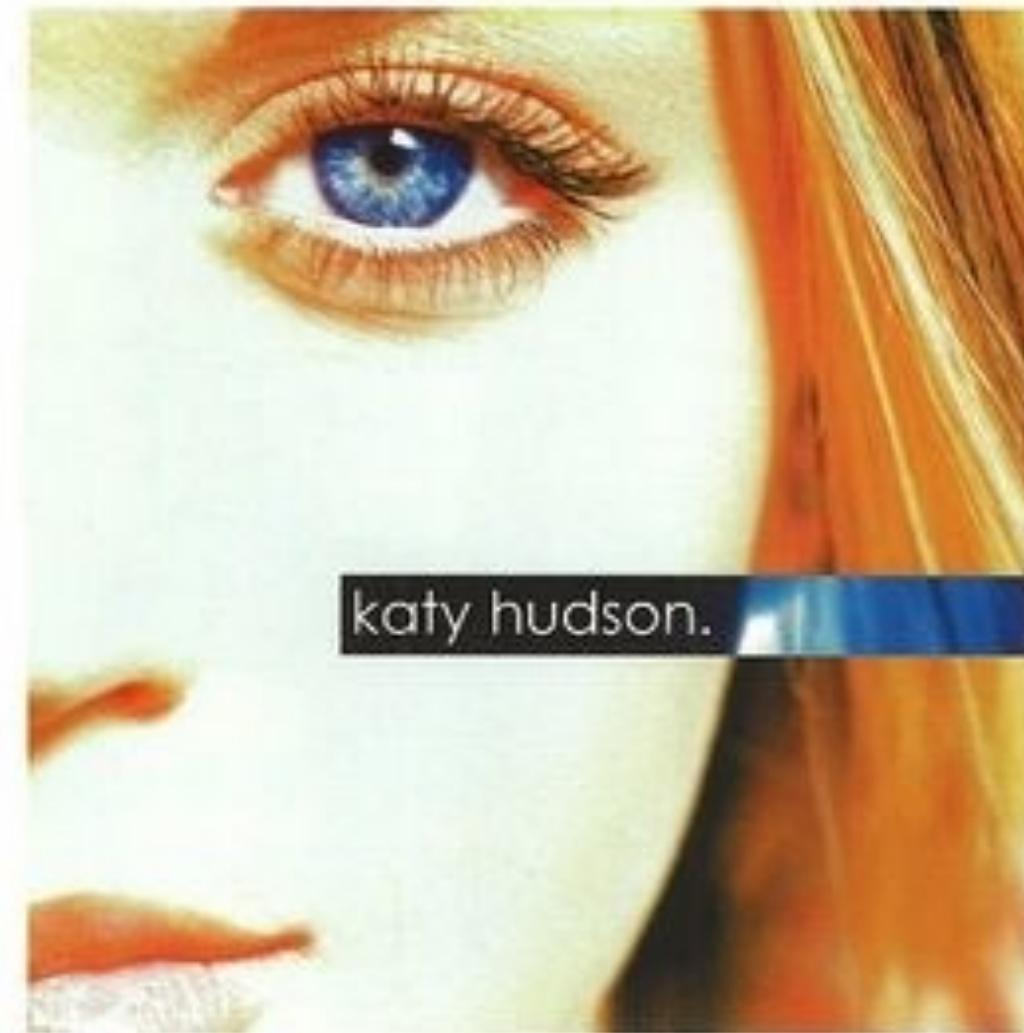


*Tower of Babel by Pieter Bruegel*



And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.

Revelation 17:5



# TodaysChristianMusic

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#### [Katy Hudson](#)

Katy Hudson

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I like reading fiction or fantasy, but right now I am getting into some books that will enlighten my brain a little, such as *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King (Broadman & Holman). To be honest, I have never finished a "Christian" book, probably because, growing up, Christian books were all over my house, and I wanted to stretch beyond what I could reach. But I hear this book changes lives, and I trust the people who recommended it. As I am reading *Experiencing God*, I feel like I am coming to know Christ more fully. I understand things that I never understood before.



Another book that I'm reading is called *All You Need to Know About the Music Business* by Donald S. Passman (Simon & Schuster). I'm reading this book in hopes of challenging someone who thinks I have no idea about the business I'm in. It's funny how us "kids" are viewed as not knowing about much more than pre-algebra or after-school craziness. I believe this book has allowed me to improve my conversations with others in the music business. If anyone is considering the music industry, strap this book to your back!

# ‘I’m Not Christian’: Pop Star Rejects Her Childhood Faith

Dec. 31, 2013 8:50am | **Billy Hallowell**

**10.1K**  
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Pop singer Katy Perry opened up about her views on God and theology in [a recent interview](#) with Marie Claire, telling the magazine that she's no longer Christian and that she doesn't believe in heaven, hell or "an old man sitting on a throne."

Perry did tell the outlet, though, that she believes in a higher power — a paradigm that holds her accountable.

"Accountability is rare to find, especially with people like myself, because nobody wants to tell you something you don't want to hear," [the singer said](#). "I actually don't trust people who start to turn on me because they get scared of telling me the truth."

ENTERTAINMENT • 2 MIN READ

# Justin Trudeau and Katy Perry go Instagram official

DEC 8, 2025 ▾

By Issy Ronald



Justin Trudeau and Katy Perry appeared to confirm their relationship in a series of snaps posted on Instagram. (*Instagram/katyperry*)

# When you read the Bible, consider:

What did this passage mean to the original hearers?

What is the timeless principle?

What does it teach me about God?

Based on this passage, how can I apply it?

Daniel (God is my judge)

Belteshazzar (Bel protects his life or  
Bel's prince)

Hananiah (Yah has been gracious)

Shadrach (command of Aku- a  
Babylonian moon god)

Mishael (Who is what God is?)

Meshach (Who is what Aku is?)

Azariah (Yah is my help)

Abednego (servant of Nego a  
Babylonian god)



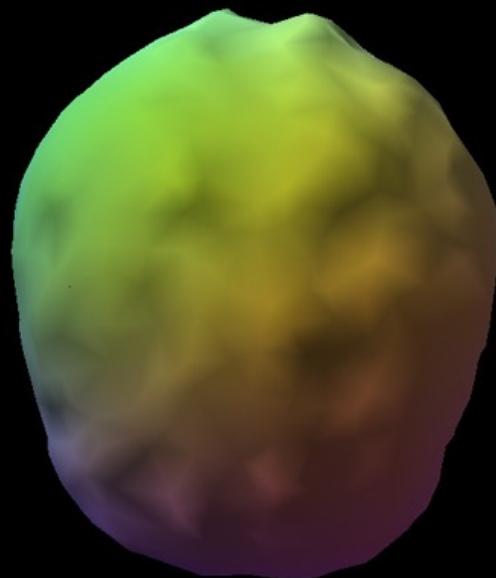
A Diet  
Change

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

---

Daniel 1:8

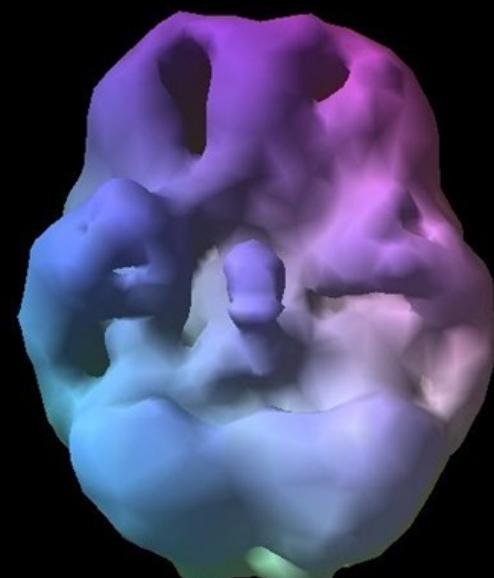
HERE'S YOUR BRAIN



HERE'S YOUR BRAIN  
ON HEROIN



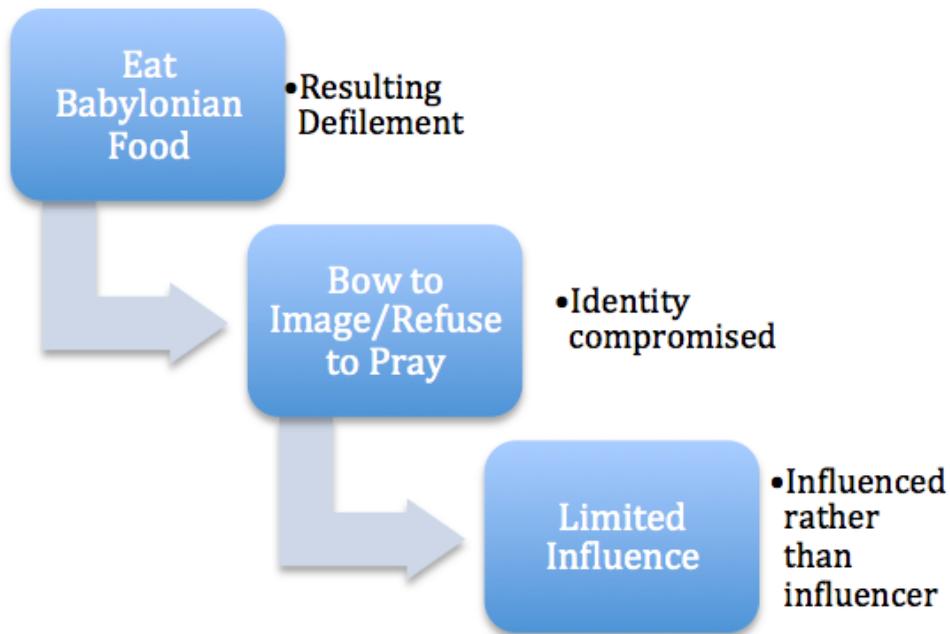
HERE'S YOUR BRAIN  
ON PORN



[www.ConquerSeries.com](http://www.ConquerSeries.com)

## **One Decision Leads to Another**

### **What Might Have Been**



Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

---

Daniel 3:7

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,  
answered and said to the king, O  
Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful  
to answer thee in this matter.

---

Daniel 3:16

If it be so, our God whom we serve  
is able to deliver us from the  
burning fiery furnace, and he will  
deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

---

Daniel 3:17

But if not, be it known unto  
thee, O king, that we will not  
serve thy gods, nor worship  
the golden image which thou  
hast set up.

---

Daniel 3:18

How did they  
navigate the culture?

Academic  
Competence



James Tissot "The Flight of the Prisoners"

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1:3-4

---

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:19-20

---

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:3

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WORKPLACE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

## Is Quiet Quitting Real?

BY JIM HARTER

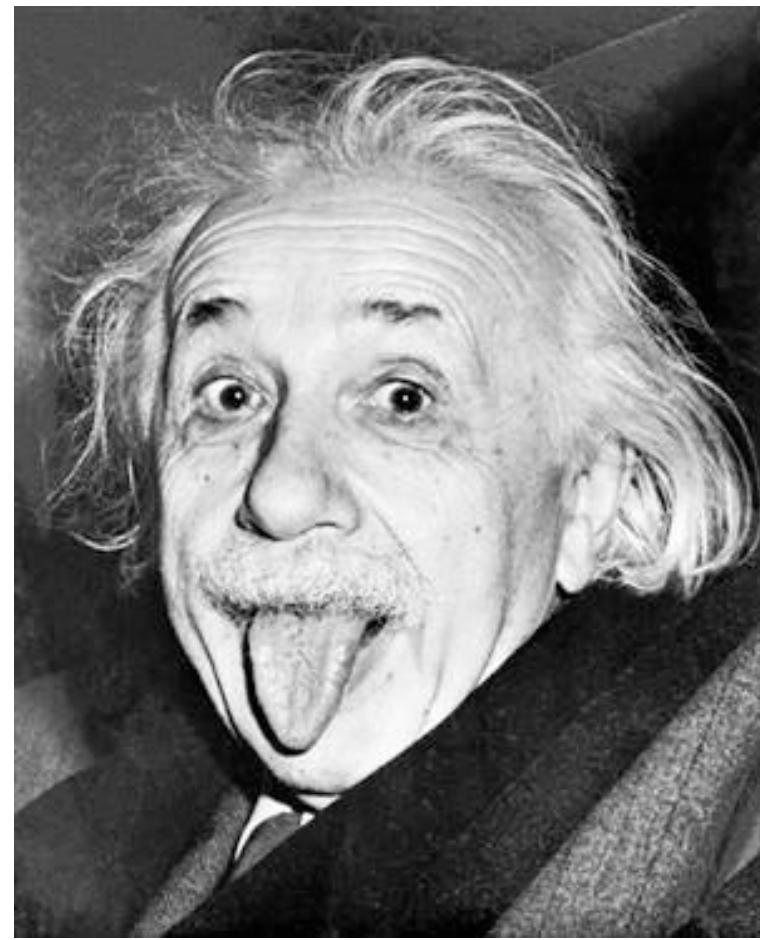
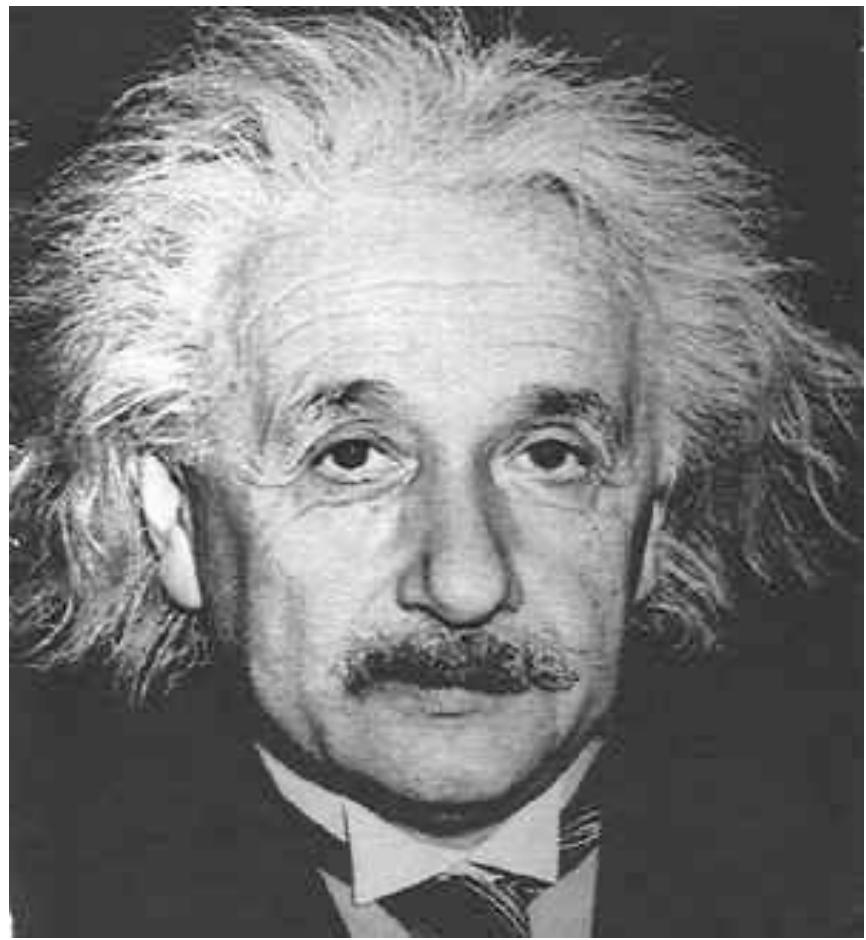


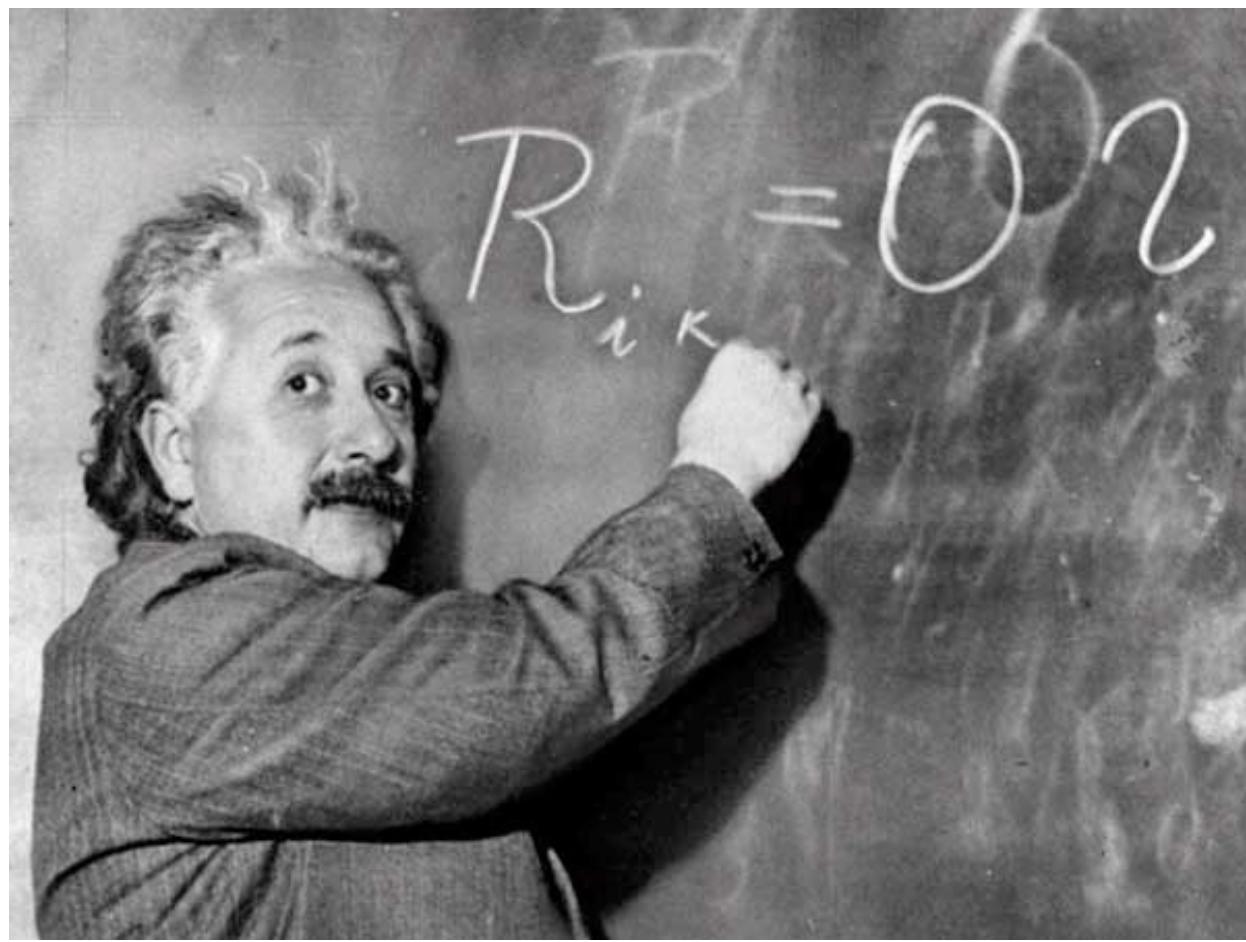
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### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- At least half of the U.S. workforce is quiet quitting
  - The workplace, amid the pandemic, got worse for younger workers
  - Managers are essential to combatting quiet quitting
- 

"Quiet quitters" make up at least 50% of the U.S. workforce -- probably more, Gallup finds.







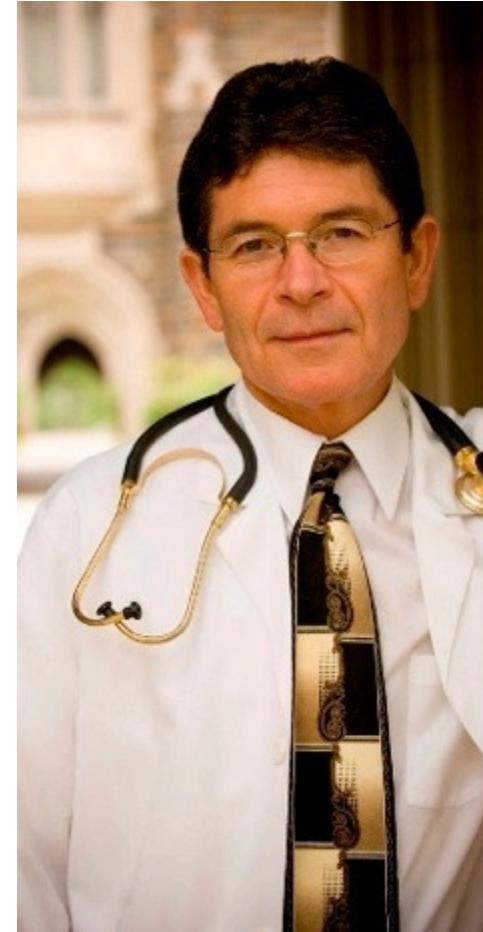
### **First Aid for Emotional Hurts**

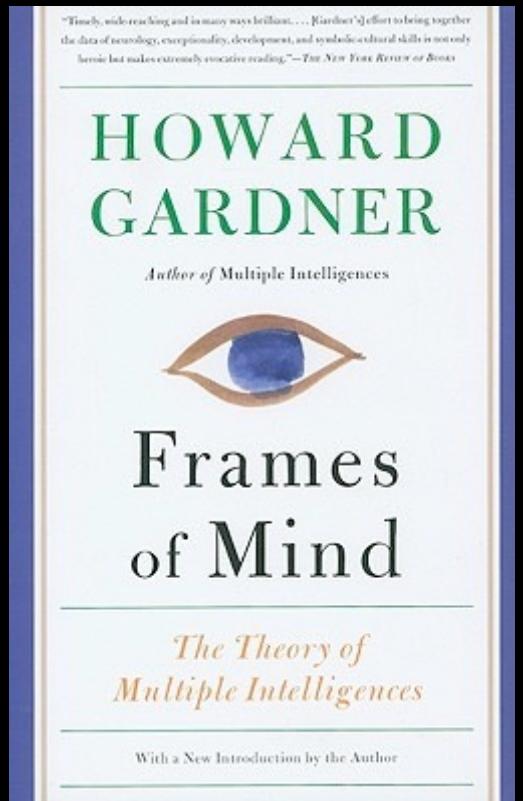
Dr. Harold G. Koenig discusses the health of pastors. Dr. Koenig is Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center.



[\*\*Dr. Harold Koenig talks about the Health of Pastors\*\*](#)

Length: 6:44





## How are you smart?

- **Logical-mathematical Intelligence**
- **Bodily-kinesthetic Intelligence**
- **Visual-spatial Intelligence**
- **Interpersonal Intelligence**
- **Intrapersonal Intelligence**
- **Naturalistic Intelligence**

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Angela Lee Duckworth:

# The key to success? Grit

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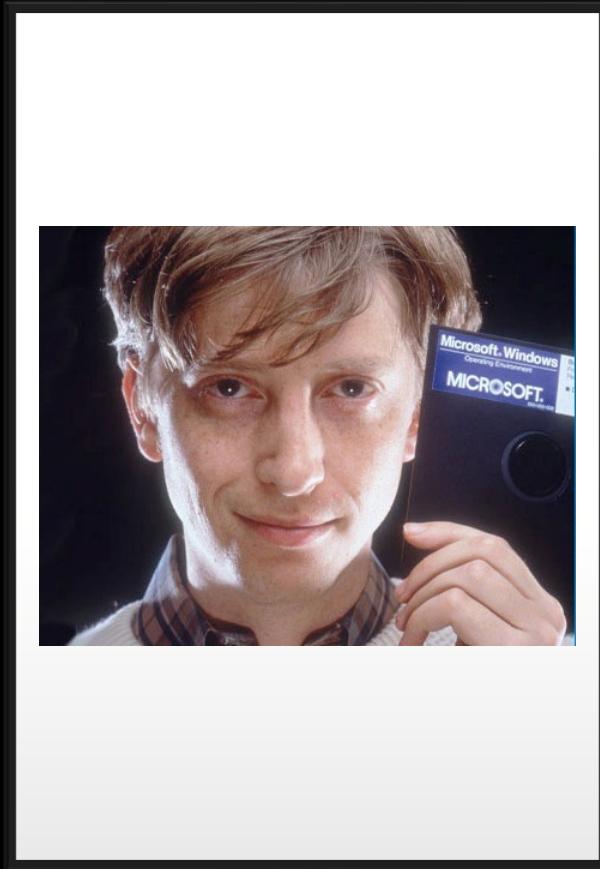
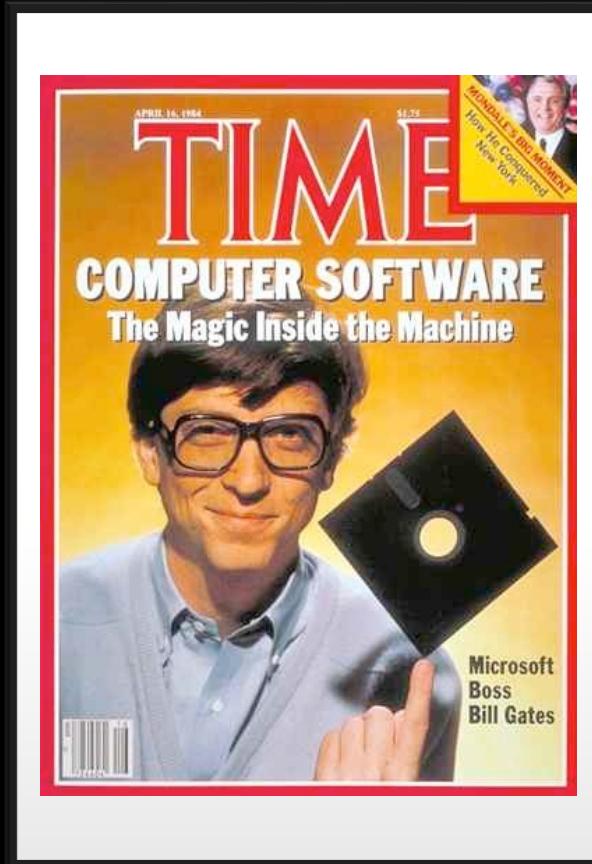
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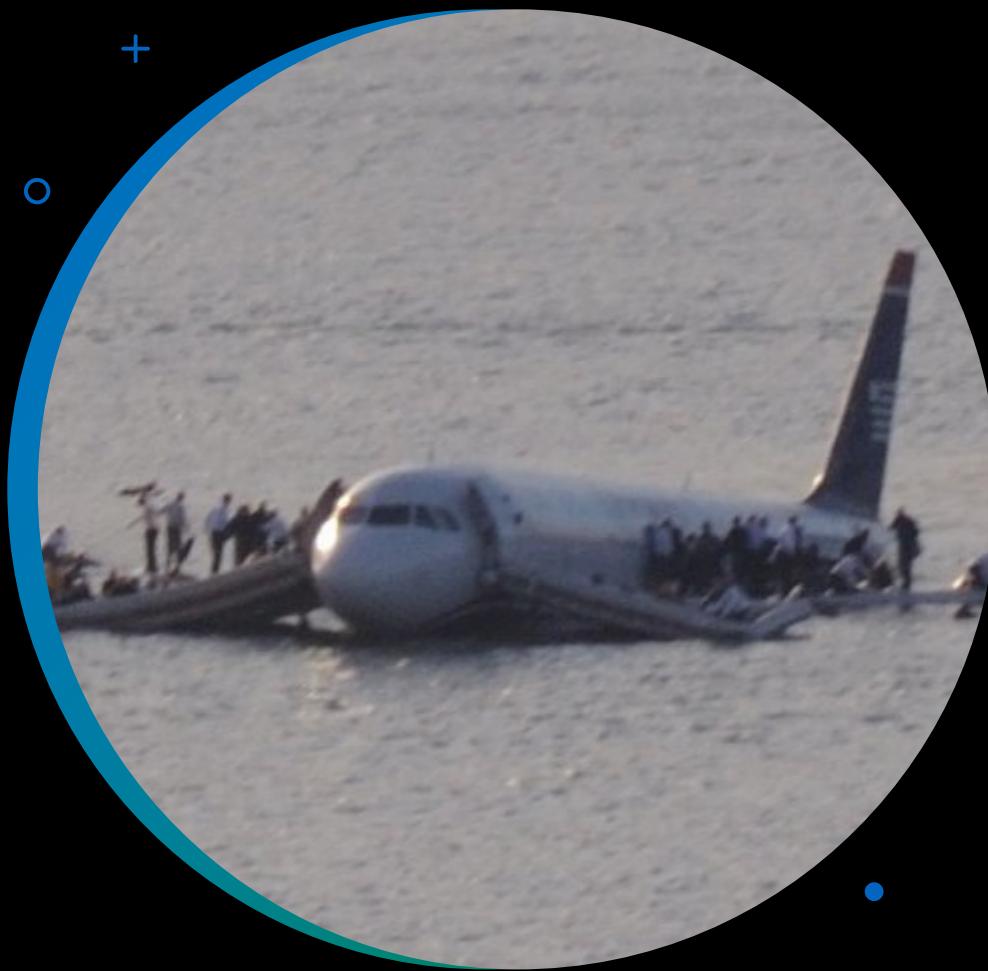
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Whether therefore  
ye eat, or drink, or  
whatsoever ye do,  
do all to the glory  
of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

national bestseller

# flow

mihaly  
csikszentmihalyi

the psychology of  
optimal experience  
“Important . . .  
illuminates the  
way to happiness.”

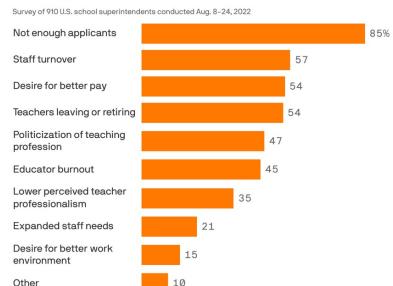
*—New York Times*  
*Book Review*

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## 1 big thing: The teacher shortage, by the numbers

What educators say contributes to the educator shortage



## 1 big thing: Police struggle with staffing



Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

Police departments across the country are facing severe staffing shortages as they struggle to recruit and retain officers, Axios' Ivana Saric reports.

- **Why it matters:** The shortages have coincided with a spike in crime across the nation.

In Denver, firearm homicides surged in 2021, more than double the 2015 total.

## The health worker shortage is starting to get real for Americans

The health worker shortage is starting to get real for Americans



Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

More than half of all Americans say they've directly felt the effects of health care worker shortages, from canceled appointments to delayed surgeries, according to results from a CVS Health-Harris Poll National Health project provided to Axios.

**Why it matters:** Americans are starting to feel the impacts of the medical workforce crunch as they rearrange their care in the wake of the pandemic, leading to an even bigger supply-demand mismatch and the access issues that come with it.

## 4. Nurse shortfall to hit 250K in 3 years: report

The U.S. may have a **shortfall** of between 250,000 and 450,000 nurses for direct patient care within three years, about 10% to 20% less than what it needs, according to a new report from McKinsey.

**What's happening:** The available labor force was already shrinking due to an aging population and shifting sites of care, but the pandemic accelerated shortages, McKinsey said.

- Meanwhile, demand for nursing services continues to rise due to the pandemic and its aftereffects, plus an aging population.

**What they're saying:** "To meet this demand, the United States would need to more than double the number of new graduates entering and staying in the nursing workforce every year for the next three years straight," the report says.

**AIRLINES**  
Effects of Pilot Shortage Are Far Reaching and Changing the Way We Travel

Passenger airlines are facing pilot and crew shortages in the U.S. travel system. Major airlines such as Fort Worth-based American Airlines are relying less on regional partners, cancellations are up and so are delays.

By Kyle Axios

Source: Dallas Morning News (TNS)

Sept. 21, 2022



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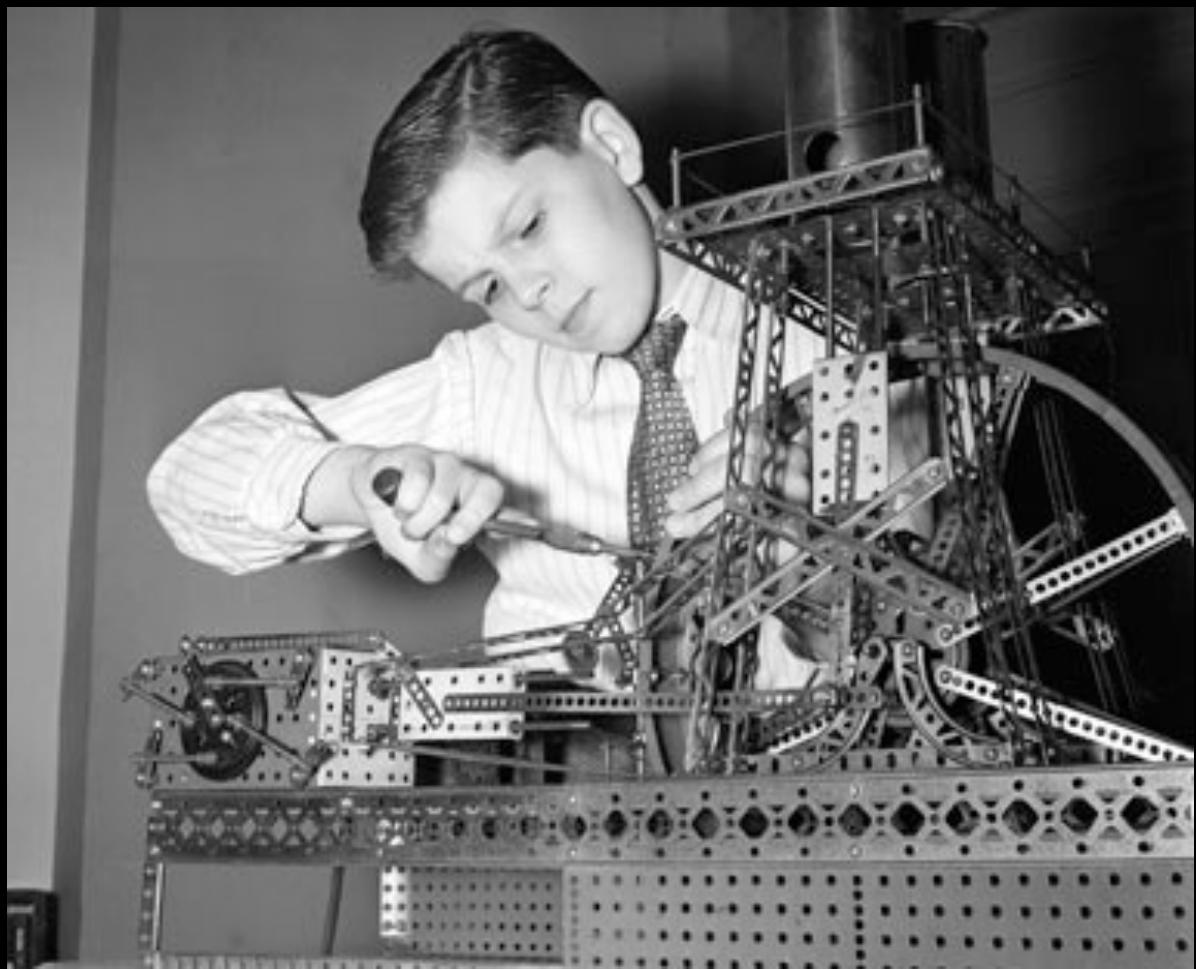
How did  
they  
navigate  
the  
culture?

**Social competence**

*Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had **ability in them to stand in the king's palace**, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

*Daniel 1:4*

---





*When thou sittest to eat with a ruler,  
consider diligently what is before thee:  
And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be  
a man given to appetite.*

*Proverbs 23:1-2*

---

*Now God had brought Daniel into  
favour and tender love with the prince  
of the eunuchs.*

*Daniel 1:9*



*Then an herald cried aloud, To  
you it is commanded, O people,  
nations, and languages,  
Daniel 3:4*

---



Who do  
they  
avoid?

- *The Simple*
- *Scorners*

# How do they know?

**Thin slicing**



# Thin slicing in Scripture— Rebekah



# Thin slicing in Scripture— Moses

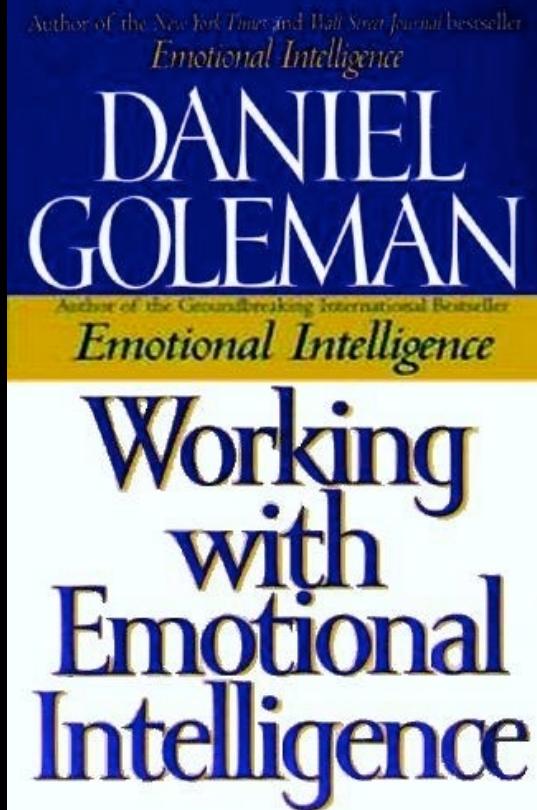


How did they  
navigate the culture?

Emotional  
Competence



James Tissot "The Flight of the Prisoners"



# Emotional Intelligence

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- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Motivation
- Empathy
- Social Skills

13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. 14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Daniel 2:13-14

---

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king?

Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:15-16

---

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:10



*Daniel Answers to the King by Briton Rivière*

# What happened to their culture?



James Tissot "The Flight of the Prisoners"

# Susa, Iran

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# Mala Amir, Iran

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# Samarkand, Uzbekistan

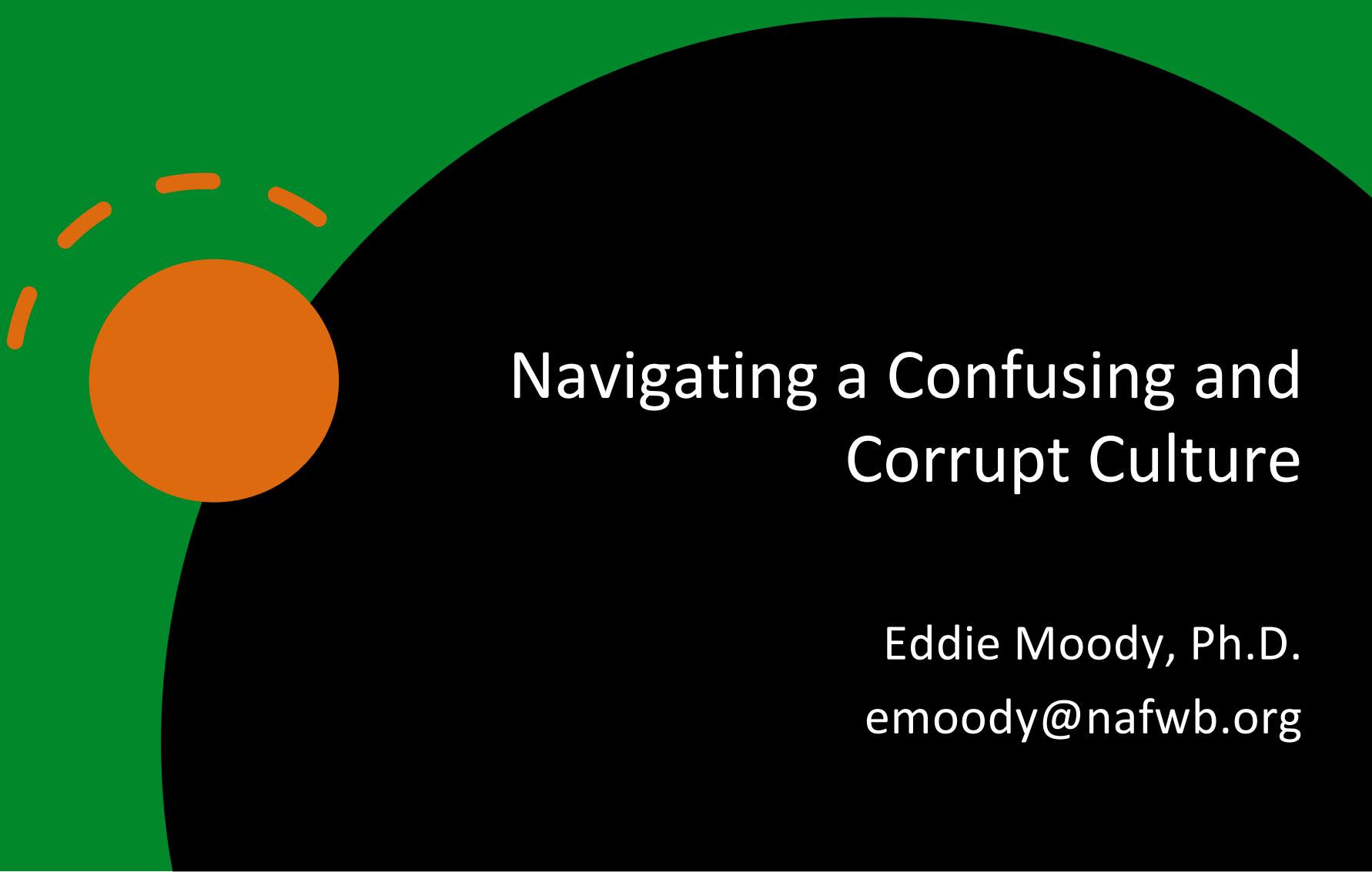
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14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of  
God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the  
world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may  
rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain,  
neither laboured in vain.

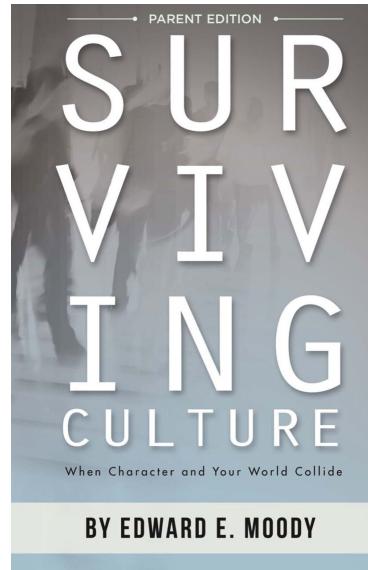
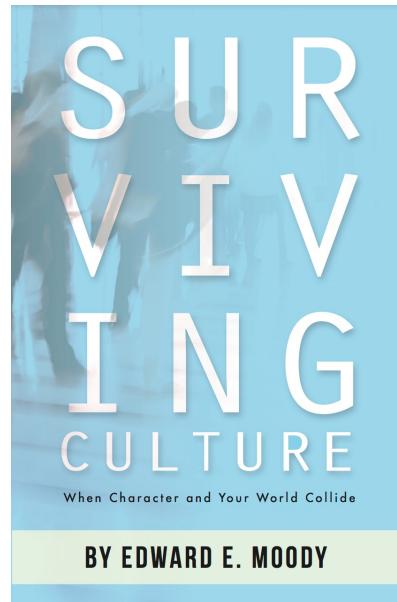
Philippians 2:14-16

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# Navigating a Confusing and Corrupt Culture

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