Calvary Chapel Grants Pass

God Is Still on the Throne

Monday through Friday Study Guide

This Week's Study

Primary passage Daniel 2:19–23

Central truth God rules history with perfect wisdom, fulfills His saving purposes in Christ, and calls His people to trust and obey Him while they wait.

Remembering Sunday

In Daniel's prayer, we meet a believer living under a ruler who threatened his life. Daniel and his friends seek God's mercy, and God reveals the king's dream. Before facing the king or receiving a promotion, Daniel worships. He praises God's wisdom and power, His authority over changing rulers, and His knowledge of what people cannot see. Gratitude then leads him to act for the good of others.

The sermon followed the roughly four centuries between the last Old Testament prophets and the New Testament era. Changing governments, shared Greek, translated Scriptures, and travel routes became part of the setting in which the gospel spread. God's people could trust His promises without understanding the whole story.

Galatians 4:1–7 brings that history to its center: the Father sent His Son to redeem sinners and bring them into His family. **Psalm 13** gives language for honest sorrow and renewed trust. We respond through prayer, obedience, truthful speech, care for neighbors, and gospel witness while awaiting Christ's return.

Read and Reflect

Read **Daniel 2:19–23** in your Bible, using the NKJV as our primary translation. Keep **Daniel 2:14–30** nearby for context. Daniel is a Jewish exile serving in Babylon. A royal decree threatens the wise men because they cannot reveal the king's dream. Daniel and his friends seek God's mercy; after God reveals the mystery, Daniel praises Him and then goes to serve.

Sovereignty means God's supreme authority. Providence means His sustaining and governing work through history. The prayer moves from God's character to His rule and knowledge, then to personal gratitude. We will follow that movement and consider how it leads to faithful action and hope in Christ.

As you read Daniel's prayer, what stands out about the way he describes God?

Use this common guide for personal or family study and for our men's and women's groups. Monday through Thursday each contain two discussion questions. Thursday's gathering considers all eight in order, with Friday's application and prayer available for the meeting. The optional readings are invitations to keep learning, not prerequisites for attending. Come even if you have not prepared or missed Sunday's sermon. Share personal experiences only as you choose.

Monday

Worship while the story is unfinished

Read Daniel 2:14–20

Enter Daniel's crisis before studying his praise. Notice the requests made to the king and to God, and the order in which events unfold.

Going Deeper Together

#1 Worship in an unfinished story

Daniel 2:17–19

Pastor Kevin drew attention to the moment Daniel worships: the revelation has come, but his conversation with the king and any change in his position are still ahead.

Look closely Trace the sequence in **Daniel 2:17–19**, then glance ahead to **Daniel 2:24–26**. Mark what has happened when Daniel blesses God and what remains ahead. Use that sequence as evidence.

What does the timing of Daniel's worship teach us about responding to God's mercy while a situation remains unfinished?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#2 Wisdom and power belong together

Daniel 2:20

The king possessed great power but could not explain his dream. The sermon used that contrast to help us consider where dependable wisdom and ability are found.

Look closely Identify the qualities Daniel names in **Daniel 2:20**. Compare them with the human limits described in **Daniel 2:10–11**. Explain your conclusion from both parts of the chapter.

Why does the combination of God's wisdom and power make Him worthy of Daniel's confidence?

Notes and evidence from the passage

Optional reading #1

Psalm 13:1–6

This psalm opens and closes the sermon's treatment of waiting. Follow David's movement from sorrow and questions into petition, trust, and praise.

What changes in David's prayer between the beginning and the end of the psalm?

Reflection

Tuesday

God rules and gives wisdom

Read Daniel 2:21; Hebrews 1:1–2

Consider both God's authority over rulers and His gift of wisdom to His people. Keep His revealed truth before you as you think about an uncertain future.

#3 Earthly authority under God's rule

Daniel 2:21

Daniel praises God's authority while Nebuchadnezzar still rules. The sermon considered successive governments without treating the latest ruler as the final authority over history.

Look closely List God's actions concerning times and kings in **Daniel 2:21**. Read them alongside the king's conduct in **Daniel 2:12–13**. Distinguish what the prayer affirms from what it does not say about that conduct.

What does Daniel's confession about rulers mean for the way we evaluate earthly power?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#4 Wisdom for the next faithful step

Daniel 2:21; Hebrews 1:1–2

The sermon noticed that the God who governs kingdoms also gives wisdom to His people. During the waiting centuries, the Word already given remained available to be taught and obeyed.

Look closely Notice the final statements about wisdom and understanding in **Daniel 2:21**. Read **Hebrews 1:1–2**, which identifies God's revelation in His Son. Consider what God has given His people even when an outcome remains unknown.

How can we seek the wisdom God gives without making obedience wait for an explanation of our circumstances?

Notes and evidence from the passage

Wednesday

Trust beyond what we can see

Read Daniel 2:22; Galatians 4:1–7

The sermon returned to generations who waited without seeing the whole story. Follow God's knowledge and timing toward the saving work of His Son.

#5 God knows more than we can see

Daniel 2:22

The four hundred years were a recurring reminder that people could know God's promises without seeing how history would unfold. Later believers can recognize opportunities earlier generations could not have seen.

Look closely Trace what God reveals, knows, and possesses in **Daniel 2:22**. Return to **Daniel 2:19** to identify the specific revelation Daniel received. Keep God's complete knowledge distinct from the understanding given to a particular person.

How does the difference between God's knowledge and ours shape the way we speak about His purposes in current events?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#6 The Father's appointed time and His Son

Daniel 2:22; Galatians 4:1–7

The sermon carried the waiting centuries toward the coming of Christ. Roads and a shared language helped carry the message, while Paul's concern in Galatians is God's saving work through His Son.

Look closely Read **Galatians 4:1–7** as an argument: notice the father's appointed time, the sending of the Son, redemption, adoption, and the Spirit. Relate this movement to the confidence about God's knowledge in **Daniel 2:22**.

According to Galatians 4:1–7, what does God accomplish through His Son at the Father's appointed time?

Notes and evidence from the passage

Optional reading #2

Genesis 50:15–21

Joseph's response to his brothers supplied the sermon's illustration of providence: God can accomplish His good purpose through events involving real human wrongdoing.

How does Joseph's response hold human responsibility together with confidence in God's good purpose?

Reflection

Thursday

Gratitude becomes faithful service

Read Daniel 2:23–30; 1 Timothy 2:1–4

Watch how Daniel's thanksgiving leads into action for others. At the gathering, discuss questions #1–#8 in passage order and use Friday's application and prayer together.

#7 Gratitude that remembers others

Daniel 2:23

Daniel credits God for the help he received and remembers the shared request of his friends. The sermon connected this humility with ordinary, often unnoticed faithfulness in the church.

Look closely In **Daniel 2:23**, identify who receives the thanks, what has been given, and the language of a shared request. Compare it with **Daniel 2:17–18** and use the connection as evidence.

What can our church learn from the way Daniel connects personal gratitude with shared dependence on God?

Notes and evidence from the passage

#8 Prayer and service in public life

Daniel 2:23–24; 1 Timothy 2:1–4

After thanking God, Daniel acts to protect others. The sermon applied that movement through prayer for officials, truthful speech, love for neighbors, and continued gospel witness.

Look closely Compare Daniel's first action in **Daniel 2:24** with his thanksgiving. Then trace who is included in prayer and the purposes Paul names in **1 Timothy 2:1–4**. Let those purposes guide your answer.

How should the prayer priorities in 1 Timothy 2:1–4 shape our church's response to public uncertainty?

Notes and evidence from the passage

Bringing it together In one or two sentences, connect what God knows and governs with what He has given His people to do.

Friday

Live faithfully with an eternal perspective

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

Living This Out

Paul's eternal perspective grows in the middle of real affliction. Return to a truth you found in Daniel's prayer and consider how it can shape one realistic response this week.

A truth I want to trust, with its Scripture reference

One specific step I can take in dependence on the Holy Spirit

Together as a church As a church, pray for one person in authority by name and make room for one neighbor to experience Christ's care through us. That may mean a thoughtful conversation, practical help, or an invitation to explore the gospel. Choose an appropriate response for your circumstances and share only what you wish at the gathering.

Our response grows from God's grace in Christ. An action does not earn His love or establish our spiritual worth. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help, receive support when you need it, and take a step suited to your strength and responsibilities.

Prayer and Encouragement

Thank the Father for His wisdom and the saving work of His Son; bring an unresolved concern to Him with honest trust.

Pray for someone in authority and someone who needs help, asking for wisdom, justice, mercy, and salvation through Christ.

Ask the Holy Spirit to grow our church in unity, truthful and gracious speech, mutual care, and faithful gospel witness.

All of us have sinned and need God's mercy. Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died for our sins and rose bodily from the grave. He calls us to repent, turning from sin and self-rule, and to trust Him as Savior and Lord. Through Him we receive forgiveness and belong to the Father's family. If you are exploring faith or would like to respond, speak with a pastor or study leader. We would be glad to open the Scriptures with you and pray with you.

You may still have questions when this week ends. The Lord who kept His promises across generations remains faithful. Bring your need to Him and keep following Christ in the part of the story you have been given.

Optional reading #3

2 Peter 3:8–15

The sermon ends by connecting Christ's promised return with patience, repentance, holy living, and gospel witness during the time of waiting.

How does Peter connect confidence in the Lord's promised future with the way believers live now?

Reflection