

September 19/20
DISTANCE LEARNING
(Choose to Flourish in Exile)
Firm Ground in a Falling World
Daniel 2:1-49
Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor

(Sermon fill-in notes and Scripture references)

¹⁰ The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. ¹¹ The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” (Daniel 2:10-11)

¹⁶ And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Daniel 2:16-17)

Crisis presents a fresh opportunity to trust.

2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. (James 1:2-4)

Turn to God for **daily wisdom** and **spiritual insight**.

³ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. (Matthew 16:3)

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:14)

Know that God's **hand is guiding**, and his **plan is going**.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Give God your **unwavering worship** during **uncertain times**.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

When crisis feels **insurmountable**, remember God's **kingdom is unshakable**.

Three affirmations:

God, I **need** you.

God, I **trust** you.

God, I **worship** you.