

Week 2

Sermon Series: Exiles: Daniel

Sermon Title: The God of Heaven is Here

Sermon Text: Daniel 2:1-49

Study Handout Week of: July 24, 2022

Group Week of: July 31, 2022

Sermon Date: August 7, 2022

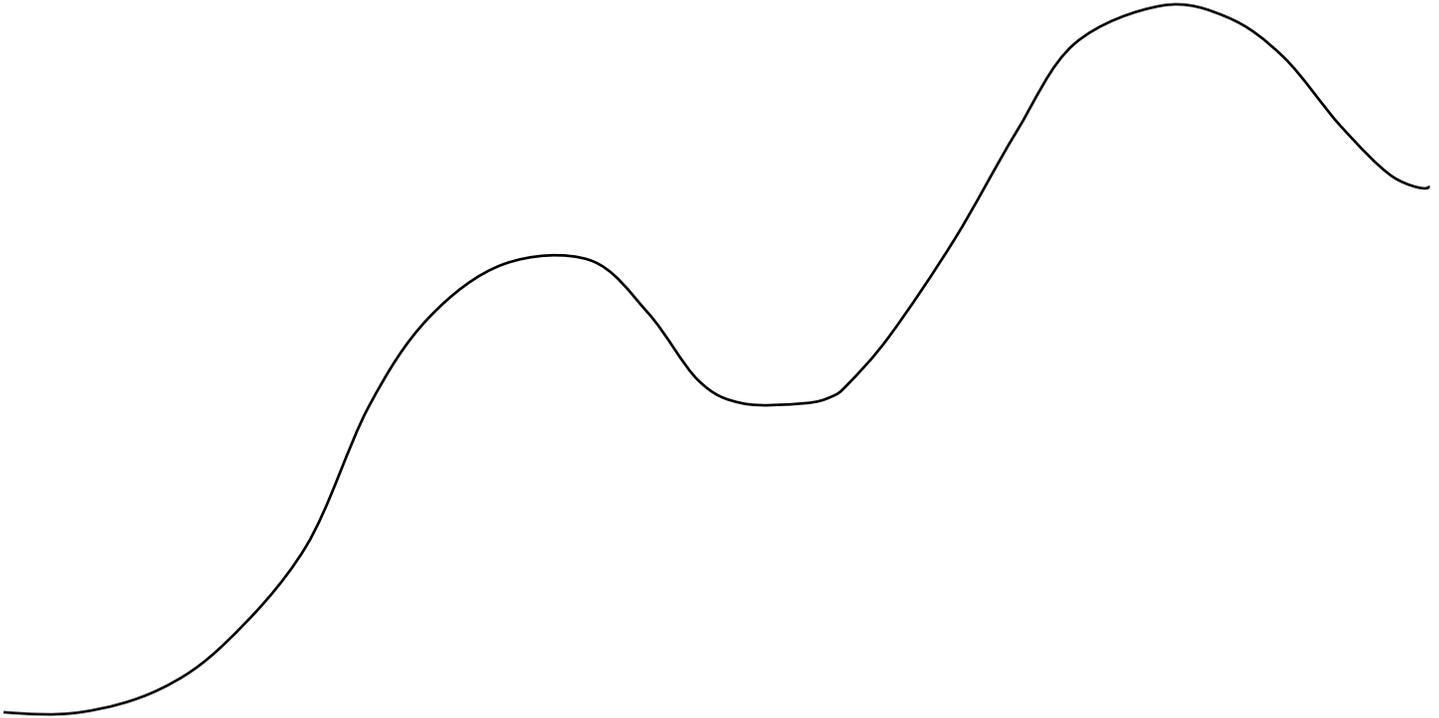
Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	The Wicked Fool – Psalm 14
Day 2	Trials – James 1:1-12
Day 3	Living Among the Pagans – 1 Pt 2:11-16
Day 4	God's Power – Ephesians 3:14-21
Day 5	God's Protection – Jude 17-25

The Text: Daniel 2:1-49

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) How long has Nebuchadnezzar been king? How does that factor into his decision to kill the wise men?
- 3) What do the astrologers say about God that is corrected by Daniel in this story?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) In your Life Group, talk about a time in your life when God felt far away - as if He were in heaven, and we are down here, and there is a great distance between Him and us.

- 2) What common themes do you guys discover in your stories that you shared as a group? How do people end up feeling like God is far away? How do people stop feeling that way (if they ever do)?

- 3) Today, many scientists, like the astrologers under Nebuchadnezzar, believe that God, if there is a God, He must be very far away. They do not believe that God “lives among humans” (v11). How would you personally respond to someone who claims to have an expert opinion on why God is not down here with us?

- 4) At the end of the story, Daniel proves that God does dwell in heaven, but that He also reveals His plans to man, and that He is also here with us on earth. The God of Heaven is here with us! Meditate for a while on this truth and then write out how you would counsel a fellow Christian who feels that God is far away.

- 5) Daniel and his friends do not respond with anger or outrage when they hear the order that they will be executed. Instead, Daniel gently asks “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” How do you think Daniel and his friends were able to stay cool and respond with “wisdom and tact” (v14) in this moment? What are some situations where you tend to respond by “blowing up” and how can you learn to respond with gentleness, wisdom, and tact in those moments?

- 6) What started as a death order actually was the moment that brought Daniel and his friends to the highest position of government. God frequently works this way among His people in Exile. Even Paul, when imprisoned in Rome, was able to evangelize the whole household of Caesar because of the praetorian guards who were chained to him. How should Exiles view trials? How should you view trials?

- 7) God not only knows the future, He is the one who brings it to pass. These truths shape the doctrine we call, “the Sovereignty of God.” Why does the Exile need to know God is sovereign? Where do you need to know God is Sovereign in your life (or in this world) today?