

## Saturday

Please read Matthew 3:13–17. This is the key passage for this weekend's sermon. We'll be talking about the truth that no matter what our experience of an earthly father is, God is ultimately the father of us all and He loves you!

*Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that the dads will feel honored and that all of us will be encouraged by the truth we bear.*



WEEK 2

## When Life Throws You Curves

JUNE 11 & 12, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

### Three Constants in a Curveball World

#### 1. There will always be \_\_\_\_\_

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; **his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.** *Daniel 2:1 NV*

The king replied to the astrologers, “This is what I have firmly decided: **If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces** and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. **So tell me the dream.**” *Daniel 2:5–6a*

So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and **men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends** to put them to death. *Daniel 2:13*

#### 2. There will always be \_\_\_\_\_

I can always control \_\_\_\_\_

- Be \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel spoke to him **with wisdom and tact.** He **asked** the king's officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. *Daniel 2:14b–15*

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_

At this, Daniel went in to the king and **asked for time**, so that he might interpret the dream for him. *Daniel 2:14–16*

- Do \_\_\_\_\_

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to **plead for mercy from the God of heaven** concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed. . . .” *Daniel 2:17–18*




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### 3. There will always be \_\_\_\_\_

[Daniel said,] “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. **He changes** times and seasons; **he deposes** kings and **raises up** others. **He gives** wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. **He reveals** deep and hidden things; **he knows** what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” *Daniel 2:20–22*

#### Historical Fulfillment of Daniel 2 Prophecy

<b>HEAD OF GOLD</b>		<b>BABYLON (612–539 BC)</b> Daniel 2:38
<b>CHEST OF SILVER</b>		<b>MEDO-PERSIA (539–331 BC)</b> Daniel 8:20
<b>BELLY OF BRONZE</b>		<b>GREECE (331–63 BC)</b> Daniel 8:21
<b>LEGS OF IRON</b>		<b>POSSIBLY ROME (63 BC–476 AD)</b>
<b>FEET OF CLAY/IRON</b>		<b>UNIDENTIFIED WORLD COALITION</b>

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom that will never be destroyed**, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. *Daniel 2:44*

Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel’s request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court. *Daniel 2:48–49*

#### The big idea:

God is always \_\_\_\_\_ in every curveball situation

### Acknowledgements

Material for this series was gleaned from these sermon series: The Daniel Project from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church by Nancy Ortberg, John Ortberg, and Scott Scroggs; Daniel: Courageous Living in Turbulent Times by Ray Pritchard; The Making of Wise Men by Hal Seed; and the book Daniel: God’s Word for the Biblically Inept by Daymond Duck.

### Monday

Please read Daniel 2:1–6a. In what way do you feel like life is throwing you a “curveball” lately? What did you learn in last weekend’s sermon that encouraged or challenged you?

*Thank God today for His on-going plan for your life. Thank Him that nothing can thwart His love for you. Pray that you’ll grow in faith and actions this week.*

### Tuesday

Please read Daniel 2:14–18 & 1 Peter 4:19. Though the circumstances of Daniel’s life were out of his control, what actions and attitudes did he demonstrate? How does the 1 Peter verse reinforce Daniel’s response?

How can you “commit yourself to your faithful Creator and continue to do good” in your actions and attitudes right now? How could that impact your heart and relationships?

*Thank God today that even in the dark, uncontrollable times He can empower you to “continue to do good”. Submit yourself to His control today and ask Him for the strength to live a godly life no matter what the day brings!*

### Wednesday

Please read Daniel 2:20–22 & Psalm 103:19. How do you struggle with thinking you are the one who is in control? If you think you are in control, how does that impact your response to life’s “curveballs”? If you think God is in control, how does that impact your response?

*Thank God today that, even if you think you’re the one in control, ultimately He is! Thank Him for His patience with you. Ask Him for the humility and faith to surrender to His control. Rejoice that He is control!*

### Thursday

Please read 2:48–49 & Proverbs 3:3–6. How should recognizing that all success is from God’s hand impact your handling of it?

*Thank God today for the successes He has granted you. Pray that no matter what your success looks like, you’ll give glory to Him and acknowledge Him in all you do.*

### Friday

Please read Romans 8:26–39. What do these verses teach you about God’s hand in the “curve ball” situations of life?

How does this encourage you today and how can living this truth change your actions and attitude?

*Thank God today that He is at work in every curveball situation of life. Talk to God about the struggles you’re facing right now and ask Him to empower you and your faith to live out the verses you read today.*



Memory Verse

Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. *Daniel 2:20–22 NIV*