**There Is a God in Heaven!**

**Daniel 2:19-30**

**Introduction**

We all tend to think about the future. You may find yourself distracted by thoughts about the future while drifting off to sleep, at a red light, in a conversation, or even during church! All kinds of thoughts about the future come to mind: What is going to happen tomorrow at work? Where will I be working in the next three to five years? Should we move? Should we refinance our mortgage? Should we buy a new car? Should I let this guy talk to my daughter? What is going to happen with the economy? What are we going to do with our aging parents? What happens after I die? These and other real-life questions demand real-life answers. Where can you find the answers you need?

Nebuchadnezzar had thoughts and questions about the future. Perhaps he had thoughts such as these: What will be the state of my kingdom in the next five to ten years? Where should I build the next addition to Babylon? What rising power will threaten my kingdom? What should I do about Egypt? What should I do with the land called “Israel”? When he drifted off to sleep, he had a dream about a multi-metallic man and a Rock that grew into a mountain! That was enough to wake him up in a panic! He needed real answers to real questions about the future. How will you get the answers you need? Hopefully, you have the same source as Daniel.

1. **Review: Daniel and his friends demonstrated that the only help for man’s problems on earth is found in heaven.**
   1. King Nebuchadnezzar was disappointed because the magicians and astrologers proved to be no help! They could not tell the king his dream and the interpretation.
   2. A young man named Daniel was of greater assistance to King Nebuchadnezzar than all his administration because he was confident in God’s ability to reveal the dream and the interpretation.
   3. Our only hope on earth comes from heaven.
2. Jesus came from heaven that we might be saved. (Romans 8:3)
3. The Scriptures are given by inspiration of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
4. Prayer ties us to heaven. (Matthew 6:9)
5. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer. (John 14:16-17)
6. All of this demonstrates that real help is from God.
   1. Since the only help we have comes from heaven, there are practical ways in which this truth should affect our choices on earth.
7. Our friendships need to be tied to heaven. (Philippians 3:17-21)
8. We need to rely on the wisdom from above rather than earthly wisdom. (James 3:15-17)
9. The music that motivates us should be connected to heaven. (Ephesians 5:19)
   1. Since God is sovereign over Heaven and Earth, He is able to handle every problem. This proved to be true in the life of Daniel and his friends.
10. **When God revealed the dream and the interpretation, Daniel responded with praise and appropriate action. (v. 19-30)**
    1. Instead of taking credit for being able to provide the dream and the interpretation, Daniel immediately gave praise to God. (v. 19-23)
11. He wanted God’s name, not his, to be praised. (v. 20a) God’s name represents His person. Consider how the names of God apply to the situation in this account.
12. He praised God for His wisdom. (v. 20b, 21b, 22) The word for “wisdom” appears four times in our passage. It is also used in Daniel 5:11 and 14 to describe the understanding God granted Daniel when he was brought before King Belshazzar. Man is in the dark, but God is always in the light. God reveals the deep and secret things. All things are clear to God even when they are not to man. There is no lack to God’s understanding.
13. He praised God for His power. (v. 20c-21a) It seemed on the surface that Nebuchadnezzar was in power. Yet, he would have no authority had God not placed him there. God changes the times and seasons. He removes one king to establish another.
14. He praised God for answered prayer. (v. 23) The God of wisdom and might granted wisdom and might to Daniel in his difficult situation. “Wisdom is not something you achieve. It is something you receive by being with God.” (Goldingay). In times of crisis, God invites us to ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5).
    1. Daniel acted on God’s revelation. (v. 24-25) There was no hesitancy here. He was completely confident that God’s revelation was 100% reliable. It still is!! You can base your life on it.
15. God’s revelation saved their lives! (v. 24) His revelation still saves lives when trusted and applied. As you think about the future, do so through the lens of Scripture.
16. Arioch quickly brought Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar. (v. 25)
    1. The king asked of his ability to make known the dream and the interpretation. (v. 26-30)
17. Daniel pointed out the inability of the king’s wise men. (v. 27)
18. He then made this declaration, “But there is a God in heaven…” (v. 28a) Not only did he want the king to know the revelation, he wanted the king to know the God who gave it.
19. “Here is a comforting message for believers today. There is a God in heaven and this God may be called upon to supply sustenance and wisdom far beyond what is available from human resources. Although circumstances sometimes may look impossible from an earthly standpoint, there is a God in heaven who can do all things….He is a God who is there and is able.” (Miller).
20. He explained that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar what would happen in the “latter days.” (v. 28b-29) The dream reveals what would happen from Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom to Christ’s kingdom. We will study the details of the dream in the next lesson.
21. Daniel refused to take any of God’s glory. (v. 30) We have no grounds for glory!
22. **Central Idea: Daniel was able to reveal the king’s dream and the interpretation because he had a personal relationship with the God of all wisdom and power.**
    1. The answer did not come from an earthly source.
23. It did not come from Daniel’s studies in Babylon.
24. It did not come from his friends.
25. It did not come from Daniel’s personal insights.
    1. The answer came because he had a personal relationship with the God of heaven.
    2. A relationship with God provided answers to others throughout Bible history. Joseph had insight because of his relationship with God (Genesis 41:39). People came to hear the wisdom of Solomon because of his relationship with God (1 Kings 10). Early church leaders provided guidance to the churches at critical times because of their relationship with God (Acts 15).
26. **Application: A relationship with God provides answers to the questions of life.** 
    1. You will have many questions on your journey of life.
27. You will have theological questions. What is the meaning of life? How did you get here? Why are you here? What happens to you after you die? How can sin be forgiven?
28. You will face questions of morality. What is marriage and why is it important? Is drinking wrong? Should drugs be legalized?
29. You will have many practical questions. How do I overcome fear? Should I accept this job offer? How can I be the right kind of parent?
    1. You will find the answer to these questions and others like them in a relationship with the Lord.
30. Worldly wisdom fails to produce answers to life’s questions.
31. God succeeds where human wisdom fails.
32. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and knowledge.” (Proverbs 1:7)
    1. Others will ask you questions because they know you are a Christian. You need to help them know that “there is a God in heaven.” Your relationship with God will have an impact on those around you.

**Conclusion**

For the problems of life, it is imperative that we turn to God. When earthly resources are depleted and proven insufficient, meditate on this wonderful truth: “There is a God in heaven.” (Daniel 2:28)