

## Daniel 2:1-28a

<sup>1</sup>In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. <sup>2</sup>Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. <sup>3</sup>And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." <sup>4</sup>Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live for ever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." <sup>5</sup>The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. <sup>6</sup>But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honour. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. <sup>13</sup>So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

<sup>16</sup>And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. <sup>17</sup>Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. <sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. <sup>21</sup>He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; <sup>22</sup>he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. <sup>23</sup>To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter." <sup>24</sup>Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." <sup>25</sup>Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." <sup>26</sup>The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" <sup>27</sup>Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, <sup>28</sup>but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

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## God's Survival Manual When the future's unknown Daniel 2:1-28a

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An uncertain world

### 1. The insecurity of life without God (v1-13)

When the world's "certainties" are exposed as empty

...life is bleak and brutal

### 2. The deep security of knowing the One who holds the future (v14-28a)<sup>1</sup>

Confidence (v14-18)

Praise (v19-23)<sup>2</sup>

Humility (v24-28a)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 16:33; 21:1; Ephesians 1:11

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:7