**There is No Help on Earth!**

**Daniel 2:1-18**

**Introduction**

Who do you turn to when you have problems? With the advance of technology, you have access to doctors, lawyers, mechanics, financial experts, counselors, and countless others. Despite the increase in resources, you will have problems that keep you up at night. Nebuchadnezzar had a team of advisors and sorcerers he could call when there was a threat to national security. In this lesson, we will see that he found them to be insufficient. Both the king and his advisors concluded that there was no help on earth! Is there any hope when you feel the same?

1. **Even kings like Nebuchadnezzar have problems on earth!** 
   1. Running a vast kingdom comes with its own set of burdens and stress. Nebuchadnezzar was in a place of prominence and power. As the rising world power, Babylon had defeated the Assyrians, Egypt, and had recently subdued the nation of Israel. He was in the second official year of his reign. Like other kings, he wondered how long his power would last. Two out of three Babylonian kings were assassinated! William Shakespeare wrote, “Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.”
   2. King Nebuchadnezzar had a bad night’s sleep because of a dream that seemed to threaten his administration. (v. 1) It wasn’t just that Nebuchadnezzar had a scary dream. It was that he believed it meant that his administration was in real trouble. The text says that he “dreamed dreams.” The noun is plural and may indicate that he dreamed it repeatedly. Those are the worst kind of dreams! No wonder he was troubled. His heart had to be racing when he awoke.
      1. The fear became so intense that his sleep “brake from him.” This means that he couldn’t get back to sleep anymore. Insomnia made things worse! Do you ever have problems that keep you awake at night?
      2. He dreamed about a multi-metallic man who was smashed to small pieces by a stone cut out of a mountain without hands and that mysteriously grew into a great mountain! If you were king, who would you naturally consider to be the multi-metallic man? He clearly didn’t wake up feeling like his part in the dream was the stone. He feared that the dream meant something was going to happen to his kingdom.
   3. He called the people who were supposed to know how to help. (v. 2-3) He hoped that his cabinet of spiritual advisors could explain what his dream meant. They were supposed to have connections outside of this world with the gods.
      1. They were very advanced in many realms. Their study of astrology, though for superstitious and religious purposes, paved the way for scientific study of the stars and planets. One of their astronomers, Naburimannu, was able to calculate the length of a year to 365 days, 6 hours and 15 minutes and 41 seconds – just 26:55 too long!
      2. They had developed dream manuals that they used to interpret dreams.
      3. Daniel and his friends were not included most likely because they were inexperienced. The king needed his most experienced wise men for this situation.
   4. The Chaldeans, the elite class of priests, answered him in Syriac (Aramaic). (v. 4a) This denotes a shift in language in the book of Daniel. From Daniel 2:4b to Daniel 7:28 the text is written in Aramaic. Aramaic was the language spoken in business and political settings. It is possibly written in this language because it deals with the coming world powers while the remaining chapters focus on Israel.
   5. The Chaldeans requested the king to disclose the dream and they promised to tell the interpretation. (v. 4b) They were confident in their abilities. They were also sure they could tell the king whatever interpretation they wanted. Their confidence is about to be knocked out!
   6. The king had made up his mind that he wanted them to provide not just the interpretation, but the dream itself. (v. 5a) He said, “The thing is gone from me.” This does not mean that he had forgotten but that his decision was final. Consider the following reasons why he had not forgotten the dream:
      1. He would not be troubled by a dream he forgot!
      2. The wise men knew that he remembered the dream and urged him to reveal it. (v. 7)
      3. The rest of the chapter demonstrates that he remembered the dream.
      4. He was testing them. The king would know that they had the interpretation if they could also give the dream.
   7. It is now their turn to come up with some answers fast! (v. 5b-13)
      1. If they failed, they would be dismembered, and their houses made a refuse heap. (v. 5-6) Whoever succeeds in telling the dream will receive gifts, rewards, and great honor.
      2. They tried to persuade the king to change his mind, but he knew they were stalling. (v. 7-9)
      3. The Chaldeans objected to the difficult demands of their king. (v. 10-11) They said there was no one on earth who could do what the king was asking. They whined that no king has made such a demand due to the level of difficulty. They concluded that there was no one on earth who could help. The only help could come from the gods, but they are inaccessible!
      4. Nebuchadnezzar lost it. (v. 12-13) He was furiously angry, and their time was up. The king’s decision brought Daniel’s life, as well as his friend’s lives, into danger.
   8. When faced with a difficult situation, the king and his administration came to the conclusion that there was no help on earth. They were out of solutions. They came to a true and right conclusion on one hand. There is no help on earth. On the other hand, there is help on earth…if you know where to turn.
2. **Under the same life situation, Daniel believed that there was help! (v. 14-18)**
   1. He spoke to the chief executioner who was on a mission to carry out the king’s orders. (v. 14)
   2. Daniel answered with wisdom and counsel in a time of confusion and anxiety. (v. 15)
   3. He requested time to give the king the dream and its interpretation. (v. 16) The king gave Daniel a rare opportunity. His life and the lives of others were on the line. They had to get it right!
   4. He asked his friends to pray. (v. 17-18). There is a time to act and a time to pray. This was a time to pray. As a group of young men, they gathered together in the most significant prayer meeting of their lives!
   5. “Daniel understood that a humanly impossible situation can only be solved with divine intervention. So he sought God’s help and waited for God’s response….God’s work is best seen in humanly impossible predicaments.” (Swindoll 21, 22).
3. **Central Idea: Daniel and his friends demonstrate that the only help for man’s problems on earth is found in heaven.**
4. **Relevance: The only help for your problems on earth is found in heaven.**
   1. You will have problems on earth. There will be things that may tend to keep you awake at night. Personal fears, financial struggles, family strife, unending demands, problems at work and pressures from an ungodly society threaten your future.
   2. We tend to turn to the wrong sources for help. You turn to people who are supposed to know. Your quest for help may lead to various religious leaders, banks, books, magazines, blogs, doctors, experts, videos, counselors, seminars, friends, and websites.
   3. After turning to so many sources, you may conclude that there is no help for your situation. This leads to fear, anxiety, anger, poor choices and additional problems.
   4. When there is none to help on earth, there is a God in heaven! You can turn to Him!