Daniel: God's survival manual "behind the scenes of history"

Daniel 2:1-28a

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  $(v19-23)^{2}$ 

Humility  $(v24-28a)^3$ 

Daniel: God's survival manual "behind the scenes of history"

Daniel 2:1-28a

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  $(v19-23)^{2}$ 

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:7; Luke 17:10.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:7; Luke 17:10.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What kinds of defence-mechanisms or even superstitions are we and those around us tempted to rely on to protect against an uncertain future?
- 2. Naomi Campbell notes the connection in her life between anger and feelings of insecurity. Are you aware of behaviours in yourself which stem from feeling insecure about life?
- 3. What situations make us anxious or fretful? How does it help to know that although we don't know the future we know the One who does?
- 4. Theology (knowledge of God) should always lead to doxology (praise of God): how can we make sure we practise the habit of returning praise to God?
- 5. When are we inclined to look down on those who know less than us, or subtly to take credit for things where the praise should go to God? What have we forgotten in those situations?
- 6. Joseph Parker wrote: "God holds the key of all unknown, And I am glad; If other hands should hold the key, Or if He trusted it to me, I might be sad." In which situations do we need to remember this?

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What kinds of defence-mechanisms or even superstitions are we and those around us tempted to rely on to protect against an uncertain future?
- 2. Naomi Campbell notes the connection in her life between anger and feelings of insecurity. Are you aware of behaviours in yourself which stem from feeling insecure about life?
- 3. What situations make us anxious or fretful? How does it help to know that although we don't know the future we know the One who does?
- 4. Theology (knowledge of God) should always lead to doxology (praise of God): how can we make sure we practise the habit of returning praise to God?
- 5. When are we inclined to look down on those who know less than us, or subtly to take credit for things where the praise should go to God? What have we forgotten in those situations?
- 6. Joseph Parker wrote: "God holds the key of all unknown, And I am glad; If other hands should hold the key, Or if He trusted it to me, I might be sad." In which situations do we need to remember this?