

Discussion Questions

July 24, 2022



..BUT GOD

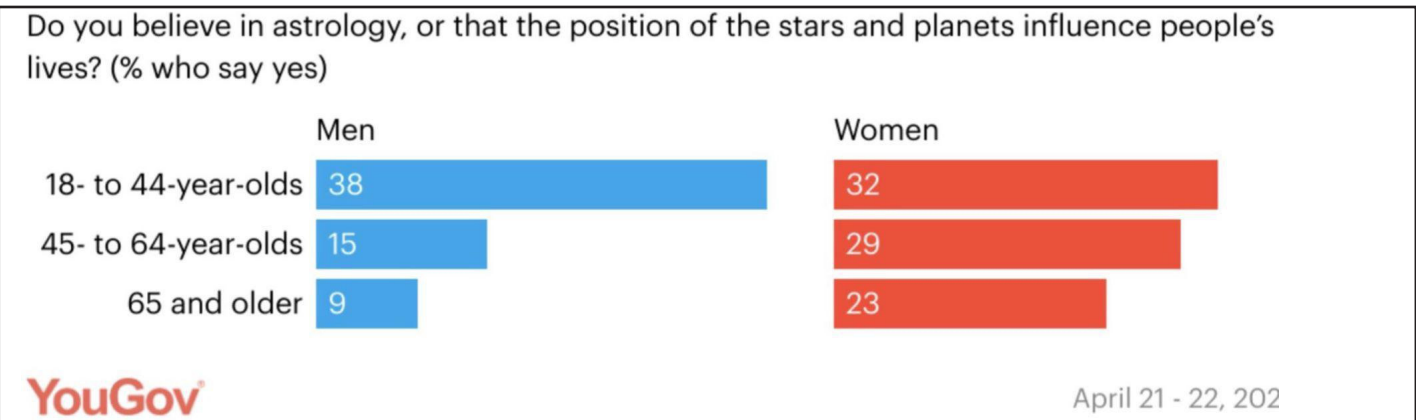
The Future Looks Uncertain ... but GOD Holds the Future

1. Read Psalm 139:1-6. What are the implications for us as Christians of what David says in this passage? Why does it cause David to rejoice?
2. Read Isaiah 46:3-10.
 - In what ways does God compare himself to other gods?
 - How does God describe himself?
 - What confidence does this passage give us who follow God?
3. Discuss as a group, what impact has uncertainty had on your life in the last couple years?
4. How can a confidence in God's sovereignty and knowledge of the future help us to walk through the midst of so much uncertainty today?
5. Share with one another, if appropriate, what are you most anxious about right now? Then take time to pray for one another.



David Ropei - Risk Management Psychologist

"One of the most powerful influences on fear is uncertainty. The less we know, the more threatened we feel, because lack of knowledge means we don't know what we need to know to protect ourselves, which equates to a lack control over health and safety, life and death."

**Daniel 2:1-13**

1 One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means." 4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means." 5 But the king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! 6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!" 7 They said again, "Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means."

8 The king replied, "I know what you are doing! You're stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9 'If you don't tell me the dream, you are doomed.' So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I'll know that you can tell me what it means." 10 The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11 The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people." 12 The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. 13 And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 2:17-28

17 Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. 19 That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

20 "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. 21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, "Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream." 25 Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, "I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!" 26 The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?" 27 Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

Daniel 2:46–47

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. 47 The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret."

- Born of A virgin - Isaiah 7:14
- Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
- Of the tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:10
- Begin in Galilee - Isaiah 9:1
- Enter Jerusalem on a donkey - Zechariah 9:9
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12
- Hands & feet would be pierced - Psalm 22:16
- Crucified with rebels/thieves - Isaiah 53:12
- They would gamble for his torn clothing - Psalm 22:18
- No bones would be broken - Psalm 34:20
- Buried in a rich man's tomb - Isaiah 53:9
- Side would be pierced - Zechariah 12:10

Psalms 139:1–6

1 O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

Isaiah 46:9–10

9 Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

Revelation 21:3–4

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Corrie Ten Boom

"Never be afraid to entrust an unknown future into the hands of a known God."