

"Daniel's Prayer"

Part 2

Daniel 9:1-19

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we started to look at the prayer of Daniel in Daniel 9. Here are the points we considered last week.

✓ The Discovery

Notice Daniel 9:1-2

As Daniel was reading the Word of God, he read in the book of Jeremiah that the captivity would last 70 years. At this time in Daniel's life the Jews had been in the captivity for 67 years, so they were approaching the end. It was this discovery by Daniel that motivated him to pray. He did not sit back and just wait for God to bring about the end of the captivity, but he went into this beautiful prayer that is recorded for us here in Daniel 9. Last week I reminded you that this is what the study of prophecy should do in our lives. Prayer is often misunderstood. It is not a time when I tell God what He should do but it is a time in the presence of God that I align myself with His will. As we considered last week that we can see with our own eyes the hand of God as He moves the pieces into place for the Tribulation. We know that before the Tribulation that we will be raptured into His presence. Therefore, as we pray, we should be praying that we are aligned with His will as the Rapture approaches. We should desire to be found living in the will of the Lord when He comes back.

✓ The Prayer

✓ The Basis of Daniel's Supplications

Notice Daniel 9:3-4

Here in verse 4, we considered 2 points which were the basis for Daniel's prayer.

1. The lovingkindness of God.

This is seen in the word "mercy", and it speaks of God's love unfailing love for His unfaithful people.

2. His faithfulness.

This is seen in Daniel statement that God is covenant keeping. The verse tells us that Daniel was referring to one specific covenant. This was the Mosaic Covenant because in that covenant there were promises of blessings and curses and the promise of restoration.

Leviticus 26:40-45

⁴⁰ If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

⁴¹ And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

⁴² Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

⁴³ The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes.

⁴⁴ And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.

⁴⁵ But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

This now brings us to where we are this evening.

✓ The Confession

Daniel 9:5-10

Notice Daniel 9:5

We see in this verse that Daniel includes himself in those who sinned against God. Daniel uses the word "we" and not "they" because "they prayers" seldom reach the throne of God. I see something here that is a **MUST** for our lives. When times of trouble come upon us or our families it does us good to look at ourselves. Too many times, we look to find the faults in other people and when I stop and think things through, I realize that I cannot change others. But I can change me. Daniel does not sit back and call out the sins of those around him but instead he has used the captivity to look into his own heart, and he understands that he also is guilty of sin. When the problems come upon us let's be careful not to fall into complaining but let us instead fall into confessing.

Notice Daniel 9:5 again.

I want you to notice that Daniel does not soften the sin that has been committed. He is straight forward and admits that they had done wickedly and rebelled. You just do not hear this kind of language much today. You might hear people say they messed up, or they made a mistake, or maybe they made a boo boo, but you seldom hear someone admit that they behaved wickedly or that they straight up rebelled. Let us not soften sin. Let us call it what it is. Let us be quick to confess as Daniel was.

Psalms 66:18

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Notice Daniel 9:6

Here Daniel confesses that they had not listened to the prophets that God had sent.

2 Chronicles 36:14-17

¹⁴ Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

God had warned the Jews through the prophets that judgment was coming if they continued on the path of disobedience. They had been warned in the Law of what would happen.

Deuteronomy 28:45, 48-52

45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

51 And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

⁵² And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

God always gives warnings before judgment falls. He warned the people of Noah's day.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

He is giving many warnings in our world today of the coming Tribulation. He is warning through pastors and through events that are unfolding.

Notice Daniel 9:7-8

Here we see that two times Daniel says that to Judah belongs "confusion of face." This is a reference to shame. The Jews were certainly put to shame when they fell captive to the Babylonians. They were ashamed before man because they were to be the example to the rest of the world.

Exodus 19:5-8

⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

⁷ And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

They were also ashamed before God.

Ezra 9:5-7

⁵ And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

⁶ And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

⁷ Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

Jeremiah 2:26-27

²⁶ As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets.

²⁷ Saying to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

Notice Daniel 9:9-10

Daniel here appeals to the mercies and the forgiveness of God. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Daniel knew that the Jews did not deserve to even exist after the way they had forsaken God, but he also knew that God was a God of mercy and forgiveness.

Conclusion/application:

As we close, we are reminded that no matter how far a person has drifted away from God, He is waiting to show mercy and forgiveness.