

Dan12 – **A Prayer of Restoration - Dan 9:1-19**

We've got a **TON of scripture** to read today
& I'm **GLAD** I'm using the **NLT** – We'll order you one - **\$15**

We're in the **HEART** of the **Prophecy Section** of Daniel - & we're all **interested** in what **God** has to **say** - about **things** to come

& **Daniel** was **interested** in that **too**

But **AT THIS POINT** in Daniel – a **GREAT NEED** for God's People **Hits Daniel** like a **TRUCK**

& **Daniel Stops** Down – to **DEAL WITH**
WHY God's people are **in the Situation** they're in

& **he** gets **REALLY CLEAR** on Israel's **ONLY HOPE**
to **get OUT** of their Current **DIRE Situation**

& it is **Critical** that **WE** do the **SAME thing**

We've GOT to be able to say:

*“Lord, **WHY** are **WE** in the place we are **IN** today,
and what is our **ONLY HOPE** to get **OUT**”*

God REVEALS this Critically **Important Truth** to **Daniel** Today

& We **MUST LOOK** for God to **REVEAL**
This **SAME Critical** Truth – in our **OWN LIVES**

& then we **must be willing** to **RESPOND ACCORDINGLY**
Which is just **what** we'll see **Daniel DO**

This section of Daniel - APPLIES to EACH of our LIVES

& the Subject today will TRANSFORM us FAR MORE
than Understanding every Prophecy in this book

Let's Pray

Back in Dan Ch 5 – We read about the Medo-Persian Empire
ACTUALLY Conquering the Babylonian Empire

That was the famous “Hand-Writing on the Wall” message

& THAT NIGHT– Darius the Mede took over Babylon
Which gives us our “Time Frame” for this Prayer of Daniel

Daniel 9:1 (nlt)

1 It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians.

The year – was 538 bc – APX 68 yrs After the Israelites had
been EXILED (taken captive) to Babylon – 68 yrs (*important*)

Daniel would've been about 80 yrs old at this time
having been taken as a young teenager

& this prayer would have been written – in the SAME Year
as the “LION'S DEN” event of Dan Ch 6

& it kinda seems this TRANSFER of POWER
from Babylon to the Medo-Persia (*or maybe the Lion's Den*)

started Daniel thinking about HOW LONG
the Israelites had been in captivity in Babylon

Daniel 9:2 (nlt)

2 During the first year of his reign (Darius the Mede), I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.

Jeremiah Prophesied this in the SAME YEAR Jerusalem FELL to Babylon & Daniel & the Israelites were taken as Captives

So, we **don't know** for sure if **Daniel** had read **Jeremiah's** prophecy **before** this **time** or not

Most think he **had** - & that the **transfer of Power**

From **Babylon** to **Medo-Persia** **Triggered a Memory** for Daniel

There was something **Jeremiah** had **Prophesied** about this & so **Daniel** Began **Searching** the **Scroll of Jeremiah**

Let's TURN Over to **Jeremiah Ch 25**

To **see** what **Daniel** eventually **came** upon

GOD'S WORD was a **REVELATION** to **Daniel**

It **ROCKED him** on his Heels

& it **Brought** a very **Intense** & **Determined RESPONSE** from him

Jeremiah 25:4–11 (nlt)

Jeremiah is **speaking** to all the people in **Judah** & **Jerusalem**, in the **SAME** year **Babylon** conquered **Jerusalem**

4 "Again and again the Lord has sent you his servants, the prophets, but you have not listened or even paid attention.

5 Each time the message was this: 'Turn from the evil road you are traveling and from the evil things you are doing. Only then will

I let you live in this land that the Lord gave to you and your ancestors forever.

6 Do not provoke my anger by worshiping idols you made with your own hands. Then I will not harm you.'

7 "But you would not listen to me," says the Lord. "You made me furious by worshiping idols you made with your own hands, bringing on yourselves all the disasters you now suffer.

8 And now the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Because you have not listened to me,

9 I will gather together all the armies of the north under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, whom I have appointed as my deputy. I will bring them all against this land and its people and against the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy you and make you an object of horror and contempt and a ruin forever.

10 I will take away your happy singing and laughter. The joyful voices of bridegrooms and brides will no longer be heard. Your millstones will fall silent, and the lights in your homes will go out.

11 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

Daniel **SAW** the **REALITY** of the **Truths** here -

Daniel was **LIVING** in the **REALITY** of the **Truths** here

Israel had REJECTED God

They had become **CONSUMED** with **WORSHIPPING IDOLS**

They had become **CONSUMED** with **SERVING THEMSELVES**

& **Serving** the things that brought them **PLEASURE**

& **so** God **DID** - **Exactly WHAT** He **Promised** He **would Do** !!

The **Consequences** of our **UNREPENTANT SIN** (*mark that*)
... The **Consequences** of our **UNREPENTANT SIN**

Are **JUST AS Guaranteed** by God – **As His Forgiveness is** when we
DO Repent & **Turn** from our **Sin** & Begin to **Follow Him**

God Promises to **FORGIVE** us
IF we **TURN** from our **Sin** & Put our **TRUST in Him**

God also **Promises Consequences** of our **Sin** –
If we **REFUSE to Turn** From it - & **Continue to REJECT** Him

EITHER Way – God’s Promises are Guaranteed

& **Daniel** was **LIVING** Exactly What **God said** thru **Jeremiah**

As he had **been living** the past **68 yrs** – in **Captivity in Babylon** –
Because of the **SIN** of the **Nation** of Israel

The **Good News** is - **Daniel KEPT Reading** (*Always keep reading*) –
& He **kept Reading until** he got to **JER CH 29**

& Now – **Listen very closely** –
because I’m gonna **BLOW** some **your MINDS**

I’m **going** to **Read you a Scripture**
that is **one** of the **most famous scrips** in the O.T.

But **unfortunately** – **like Most Famous** Scriptures
it’s **sometimes** used **a bit Out-Of-Context**

But **I’m going** to put it **IN CONTEXT** for you today

Daniel **KEEPS Reading** – Until he gets to

Jeremiah 29:10–14 (nlt)

10 This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.

(here’s the famous scripture)

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

12 In those days WHEN you pray, I will listen.

13 IF you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

14 I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”

This is a **Wonderful, Incredible PROMISE** from **God**
& **ABSOLUTELY 100% TRUE**

BUT – It was **originally written** as a **PROPHECY** to a People
Who had **TURNED FROM** God - & **Rejected Him**
& ***now were going to be TURNING BACK to Him***

It’s a **Prophecy** to a **people** who have **been under** the
CONSEQUENCES of their **SIN** - For **ALMOST 70 years**

& it’s a **promise** from God that **WHEN** they **TURN BACK** to him

He **WILL Hear** them - & He will **EMBRACE** them
& He will **RESTORE** to them **ALL** of His **Promises**

THAT – is what **Jer 29:11** is about – **IN CONTEXT**

It's God's Promise that WHEN we TURN from our SIN –
& RETURN to Him WHOLEHEARTEDLY

He will RESTORE US completely to Himself !!

So – DANIEL is Reading (or re-reading) this Prophecy of Jeremiah
JUST TWO YEARS before the 70 yrs of Captivity in Babylon
comes to an end

& Daniel Realizes TWO THINGS

#1) God has PROMISED that the Consequences of Israel's Sin
Would End in the Next 2 YEARS

#2) There are Still CONDITIONS to that Promise Coming to PASS

Even tho God had Promised it as Prophecy . . .

The RESTORATION of Israel was Still ONLY going to happen
if the People of ISRAEL would DO what God says is Required

Which is REPENT of the SIN that EARNED them
these Consequences in the FIRST PLACE

& Turn from their Rebellion -
& begin to Follow God WHOLEHEARTEDLY

& THEN - - God's Promise to RESTORE them
would Absolutely COME to Pass

Do you see that it is BOTH - God's PROMISE – AND
Our CHOICE to Return to God ??

So **Daniel** – at **80 years Old** (after Serving God his entire life)
Realizes God's **people** are at a **Critical Point in their Lives**

They have a **ROLE**

They have a **RESPONSIBILITY**

They have a **PART to Play**

in **obtaining** God's **PROMISE of Restoration**

& the **Time is SHORT** - & the **Need is URGENT**

& so **Daniel goes to PRAYER** – **On Behalf** of God's **People**
in **Confession** & **Repentance**

& He **Pleads** for **God's Mercy** – to Bring His **Promise to PASS**

AND – Daniel **fully includes HIMSELF** in this prayer
AS Guilty – Along with the people

& **Pls Hear Me** – This is a Prayer that's **ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED**
for **US** to Pray - in our **OWN LIVES**

If **WE** Ever Desire - to be **RESTORED**
to a **RIGHT RELATIONSHIP** with **God**

This is One of the BEST Prayers in the Bible for us to Pray:

For **OURSELVES**

For **Our CHURCH**

For **Our NATION**

So - **MARK** this prayer – **Remember** it – **Go BACK** to it

Because it is **THRU This Attitude** of Prayer

That **God's Promises** are **Brought to PASS** in our **LIVES**

So PLEASE – Pay Attention

& JOIN IN this Prayer with Daniel – for **YOUR Life, Personally**

Daniel 9:3-4 (nlt)

3 So I turned to the Lord God (Lit – Set My Face to God) and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes.

4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.”

Daniel starts with WHO GOD IS (who He **EXISTS As) –**

You are a great and awesome God!

You always fulfill your covenant

You keep your promises of unfailing love

TO THOSE who love you and obey your commands

THAT is WHO God IS

& THAT is WHO He CAN BE In Your Life too

& then - THIS is Who WE are

Daniel 9:5-6 (nlt)

5 But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations.

6 We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

God YOU are the Great & Awesome God of UNFAILING LOVE

BUT - We Have Sinned & Done Wrong - We have rebelled against You - and Scorned Your Commands and Regulations

& We have REFUSED to Listen to Your WORD

Now - It doesn't Really seem **NECESSARY** – To **CLARIFY**
WHO is **RIGHT** - & **WHO** is **Covered with SHAME**

But **Daniel Does** it anyway – *just in case you're weren't sure*

Daniel 9:7-8 (nlt)

7 ***“Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you.***

8 ***O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.***

Daniel is **CRYING OUT** (Interceding)

On Behalf of the **People of ISRAEL**

He's **Confessing** & **Repenting**, **ON their behalf**

& he's **including himself** – in the **Guilt** of their **SIN**

ALL 12 Tribes of Israel had **ultimately turned** from the Lord

& **Daniel Lists** them **ALL** here – As **COVERED in SHAME**

Because of their **DISLOYALTY** - in **Turning FROM God**

& **Chasing after** the things of the **World**

& then **AGAIN** - Daniel goes **back & forth** between

Confessing God's **GREATNESS** - & **Confessing** Our **SIN**

Daniel 9:9 (nlt)

9 ***But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.***

That is WHO God IS – *He is merciful and forgiving,
even though we have rebelled against him*

& HOW have We Rebelled against Him – Daniel explains in

Daniel 9:10 (nlt)

10 We have not obeyed the Lord our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets.

We just CHOOSE to NOT OBEY God

I KNOW that's what God says – But it's NOT what I want

So I'm just going to DO what I WANT

& God is just going to Have to DEAL WITH IT

And - - God PROMISES that He WILL DEAL With it

Daniel 9:11 (nlt)

11 All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice. “So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured down on us because of our sin.”

Whoa, Whoa, Whoa – Wait a Minute – I thought we weren't supposed to TALK about that judgment stuff

I thought the God WE created in OUR Culture

Doesn't come with any of that Judgment (Consequence) Stuff

I thought HE was supposed to Do what WE WANT Him to Do –

& He's supposed to LET US Do whatever We want to do

& He's supposed to just forgive us & make everything better so we can continue to live in whatever sin we want

Let me just throw out a comparison for you

How would your **MARRIAGE BE**

If you **approached** your **relationship** w/ your **spouse** that **way**

Honey, there **can't** be any **consequences** for **my sin** in our Marriage

You **just have** to **be there** for me, **do whatever** I want,

& just **keep forgiving** me so I can **keep on living in sin**

Some of you **actually ARE** approaching Your **Marriage** like that –

& all **I can say** is - **Get ready** for an **Ugly DIVORCE**

Because there are **Consequences** of you **CHOOSING SIN**

in your **Marriage Relationship**

& **there** are **consequences** of you **CHOOSING SIN**

in your **Relationship with God**

God's Law Promised BOTH

BLESSING for walking **WITH God** in **Obedience**

CONSEQUENCES for **TURNING FROM God** in **Disobedience**

God **Has Made BOTH Promises** Perfectly **CLEAR**

& **you** can **count** on **ONE THING**

God WILL Keep His Word!

Daniel 9:12 (nlt)

12 [God] *You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem.*

13 *Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth.*

14 Therefore, the Lord has brought upon us the disaster he prepared. The Lord our God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him.

Guys - God **WILL** Keep **His Word**
& He **WILL DO** Exactly **What he has promised**

Both in **PROMISES** - & in **CONSEQUENCES**

V.13 uses the word "**CURSE**" – But it's **NOT a CURSE**
like we would **Use** the **Word** Today

In the **Law of Moses** – A **CURSE** is the **OPPOSITE** of a **BLESSING**
The **ESV** uses – **CALAMITY**

The DOUBLE TRUTH IS This:

GOOD & POSITIVE things come from **Walking WITH God**
BAD & NEGATIVE things come from **REJECTING God**

& **BOTH** are **Equally Guaranteed**

But **NOTICE Carefully** – the **END** of **DAN 9:13**

[Even in the Face of the Consequences] **Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth**

Guys - **God IS a Great & Merciful God** – **ALWAYS** Willing
to **FORGIVE & RESTORE** because of **His Mercy**

But that **Forgiveness & Restoration WILL NOT Come**
Without our **Repentance** from Sin – & **TURNING BACK** to God

& Without that Repentance - The CONSEQUENCES
That God Promises - - WILL FOLLOW our Sin

ONE More time – in V.15 – Daniel again contrasts the
GREATNESS of GOD – with the WICKEDNESS of our SIN

Daniel 9:15 (nlt)

15 “O Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by rescuing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. But we have sinned and are full of wickedness.

God is GREAT & MERCIFUL – WE are LOST in our SIN
The CONTRAST Could NOT be any Clearer

& BECAUSE Daniel is SO CLEAR
on WHO God IS , & WHO WE Are . . .

His PLEA to God – is NOT Based on ANYTHING WE COULD DO

Daniel’s Prayer to God is Based Completely on WHO GOD IS
On His Character – His Nature – & His Faithfulness

& we need to see (In Daniels Final Prayer)
The GREAT FAITH Displayed in HOW He approaches God

ALL Daniel CAN DO Is:

CONFESS & REPENT of His People’s SIN
& Commit to TURN BACK to GOD – In Complete FAITH

& Today – THAT is ALL we can do
& Fortunately - THAT is ALL God Asks us to do !!

TO RECOGNIZE – the **Great Unfailing Love** & **Mercy** of God
TO REPENT of our **Sin** (Turn From It)
TO TURN BACK to **GOD** – In Complete **FAITH**
Trusting Him Completely - & **Committing** to Follow Him

That's What **Daniel** Does – ***On Behalf of God's People***
& **THAT'S** what **God** Requires of **US**

As we close - Watch Closely

Daniel doesn't ask God **TO DO** anything **specific**
He **KNOWS** God has **GOOD plans** for His people

& So **Daniel's Prayer** is Based Solely – on **WHO GOD IS**
& **NOT in ANY Way** – On **WHAT** the people **DESERVE**

Daniel 9:16 (nlt)

16 In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors.

17 "O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.

18 "O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.

19 "O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name."

We have GOT to **Learn** to **Communicate** with God
At **THIS LEVEL** of **HUMILITY**

Understanding WHO are GOD IS
& WHO we ARE NOT

We have NOTHING to OFFER GOD
Except that we BELONG TO HIM
Except that we BEAR HIS NAME

& on THAT Truth Alone:

we come to God – to Receive MERCY
we come to God – to Receive FORGIVENESS
we come to God - to Receive HIS GREAT PLAN for our lives

FIRST – You HAVE to BELONG to Him
THEN you can learn to come to Him - in this HUMILITY

I want to give you a chance to DO BOTH:
BELONG to Him – by IMMEDIATE ADOPTION
& COME To HIM – IN this Great HUMILITY

Let's Pray