

Doing hard things well

Daniel 9:13-23

- Daniel is in the midst of explaining the vision that God gave to him once The Medes and Persians took over Babylon and began to rule the known world at this time. Daniel didn't quite understand all that he was seeing but God told Gabriel the Angel to make him know the meaning of the vision so Gabriel came near to Daniel who falls on his face and goes into a deep sleep and touches him lifting him up wow!
- Once Daniel is given the meaning of the vision he faints and becomes ill, being astonished at what he saw concerning the future of Israel and the world. Afterward Daniel doesn't question why God is allowing things to transpire this way but instead he prays a prayer of repentance for himself and Israel, understanding through the scriptures that much of what is going to happen is from the disobedience of Israel.

V13-23

- **V13-14** now up to this point the seventy years of captivity are up, and yet Israel has not had a national prayer of thanks to God for keeping them, and fulfilling His promise to them of allowing them to go back to Jerusalem. Instead most of them don't want to go back, choosing instead to remain in Babylon or go to other areas of the Medes and Persians Kingdom to open businesses and prosper their lives.
- Daniel has seen the future, how Israel will suffer mightily in the coming ages, he sees the dark ages, the holocaust, the persecution of the Jews by Joseph Stalin the Russian dictator in the forties and fifties after the holocaust that sent many of them running to Europe and eventually the United States for shelter and protection. Now currently in Babylon they are going about their business as if nothing has happened these seventy years of captivity, this is an example of the heart of man people.
- **V15-19** an amazing prayer goes up by Daniel this man who is now in his eighties, for although he is a Godly man living in an ungodly place, who has lived faithfully among an unfaithful people, who unlike his countrymen has trusted and obeyed God from his youth, notice he still chooses to identify with sinners as he says > “**we have sinned, we have done wickedly**” instead of **they** or **you** **V15**, this is amazing.

- **V3** we read that “**he set his face toward The Lord God**” this speaks of determination, for he was determined to draw near toward The Lord, and he did this by approaching The not in pride by humility coming in fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. This is how he could identify with those around him as he never saw himself above them, understanding that the same mercy and grace that they needed so did he.
- **V18** when he asks for mercy he does so not because Israel or he are righteous, or deserving, but because of The Lord’s Great Mercy. **V19** he wants the nation to be restored nor for their sake or benefit, but for God’s glory, fulfilling His promise. As they are His people, and are called by His Name, notice in Daniel’ prayer we see nothing in there that glorifies man, or lifts himself up, its all for the sake of God!
- **V20-21** while he is praying and confessing his and Isreal’s sin, that’s when Gabriel reappears, and what’s interesting is that it happened according to Daniel around the evening offering. Why is that so important? It shows that although Israel has been in captivity for seventy years and unable to have evening offerings given at the temple because it had been destroyed, this old man had not forgotten his upbringing and was still keeping the evening prayer even after Judah’s been overthrown.
- So Daniel may have been living in Babylon since they took him as a youth but his mind and heart was still in Jerusalem. This shows that no matter where we are or what circumstance we find ourselves in that we can still bloom where God has placed us. I don’t need the most ideal place in order for me to do what God has called me, I simply need a mind and heart that is determined to follow His Word.
- **V22-23** this is an amazing statement that Gabriel makes to Daniel that all of us should take to heart while living in this corrupt world. **1st** Gabriel tells Daniel that he has come to give him understanding, The Lord wants Daniel to know what He is doing, so that he doesn’t become too discouraged. **Jn 15:15** “because He calls us friends all things that He has heard from the Father He makes known to us”
- As good of news as that is that God wants us His children to know His will, there is even better news that Gabriel shares with Daniel. **2nd** “**you are greatly beloved**” oh by the way Daniel we love you in heaven, Wow! God not only tells us His will but also everyone who is in heaven with him loves us, why?

- **1Jn 3:1** God loves us and calls us His children, we love our kids, and if your going to be friends or around us you also must have our kids best interest at heart or we won't be spending a lot of time together, that good parenting right! You don't bring people who mean your kids harm around them, you bring people who want only the best for your kids, all that is in heaven around God loves us and want the best for us. **Lk 15:10**- its joy in heaven, who celebrate when someone turns to God amazing!