

I) V1-2 INTRO: In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus of the lineage of the Medes

Ch 9 reveals the third vision Daniel receives

The first vision was recorded in Ch 7, the second in Ch 8: He now receives a third

II) Ch 9 begins by referring to a prophecy that was recorded by Jeremiah (627-580 BC)

Jeremiah revealed a judgment of 70 years that God would bring on Israel by Babylon

Jer 25:10-11 I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years

III) The Lord had brought this judgment upon Israel because they had disregarded His law

IV) God had warned them that He would judge them if they rejected His commands

2 Chron 7:19-21 (When Solomon dedicated the Temple God said) If you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, Because they have forsaken the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why He brought all this disaster upon them

**V) They had broken His Law, and God was true to His word and brought judgment
They disregarded His Land Sabbaths (Sabbatical Year) and practiced idolatry**

**VI) The Land Sabbath was to allow the land to rejuvenate itself, regaining fertility
It taught Israel to rely on the Lord and on what the land naturally produced (Lev 25:6-7)**

Lev 25:3-5 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes

of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.

IX) God had warned Israel to observe this year of land rest, but they did not

Lev 26:33-35 I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.

I) The result was that they were in Babylon for 70 years

2 Chron 36:20-21 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah

II) They also entered into idolatry

Jer 2:11 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all). But My people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols

III) This resulted in judgment, but also in God showing the nation His mercy

Jer 29:10-14 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

IV) Daniel had been taken captive in 605 BC: It is now 538 BC, approximately 67 years later

The time promised by the Lord through Jeremiah is finally approaching

V) Daniel's trust in God and His word through Jeremiah brought him peace and hope

VI) V3-4 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications

As he read God's word, he was moved to prayer and fasting

**VII) NOTICE: As he begins his prayer, he made confession of sin before Him
Prayer in its basic form speaks of communicating with God**

**VIII) Believers have been given access to God and come to Him in faith
Jer 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great**

and [mighty things, which you do not know.

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

IX) PRAYER: In scripture, there are various types of prayer

In prayer, we worship God for Who He is:

V14 speaks of His righteous works, V15 speaks of His mighty hand, V16 speaks of His righteousness, V18 speaks of His mercies

I) We pray prayers of thanksgiving to Him

Ps 110:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and enter His courts with Praise Give thanks to him and bless His Name

II) We make our supplications to Him (V18)

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication (to humbly plead), with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God

III) In this situation, Daniel offers a prayer of confession and repentance

He does so on behalf of the nation because they had been judged because of rebellion

IV) V3-4 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications

This is a model prayer of confession and repentance

V) V5 We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by

VI) CONFESSION: As a man of God, he identifies with his people in the sin of the nation:

SINNED: To miss the goal or path of what is right and our proper duty

INIQUITY: To be bent, or twisted, be perverted; to be unjust

WICKEDLY: Morally evil

REBELLED: They have voluntarily rejected God's laws and commandments

VII) V6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets who spoke in Your name

We have disobeyed Your spokesmen: The prophets

We refused to listen to You through Your word and Your spokesmen

VIII) Incidentally, this kind of attitude remains present even to this day

IX) When God's word is rightfully divided and presented, by God's Spirit, God is speaking

Mt 10:20 For it is not you who are speaking, but it is the Spirit of your Father who is speaking in you.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

X) God spoke clearly to them, but they rejected the message and rebelled against God

XI) V7-9 O Lord righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face as it is this day

You are righteous: we deserve everything that has happened to us and can't blame You

XII) V9 To You belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have sinned against You He is appealing to God's mercy and forgiveness on behalf of the people

I) V10-12 We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God to walk in His laws which He

Because we have rebelled against Him, He has brought judgment:

II) God is true to His word and has done what He said He would do

III) V12 And He has confirmed His words which He spoke against us and against our judges

Josh 24:20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good

IV) Incidentally, though we are under His grace God still chastens us when we sin

Heb 12:6-7 the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

V) V13-14 As it is written in the Law of Moses all this disaster has come upon us yet we have

God has been true to His word and brought this upon us, but we have not repented

VI) God had no options: He had to bring His judgment upon us because He keeps His word

It is our fault: we have brought this upon ourselves and are reaping the consequences

Job 4:8 As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.

Jonah 2:8 Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs

VII) V15 And now O Lord our God who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt

Daniel has made confession of sin and has recognized God's righteousness

Israel has deserved what has happened to the nation

VIII) Now, his prayer moves towards asking God to be merciful

In the past, You have been merciful to Israel: please be merciful once again

You delivered us from Egypt, please deliver us once again even though we have sinned

IX) V16-19 O Lord according to all Your righteousness I pray let Your anger and Your fury be

To Solomon, God said people would be appalled when seeing the temple (2 Chron 7)

X) Daniel is saying that when God restores them, it will reveal how great God actually is

This will result in glory to God, and once again Israel will make sacrifice to Him

In taking away Israel's reproach (V16), God will be seen as merciful

XI) V18 We are not righteous, but You are merciful!

XII) V19 O Lord hear O Lord forgive O Lord listen and act Do not delay for Your own sake

This is the kind of prayer that God delights in answering:

**I) Daniel lived a holy life, humbly confessed and had knowledge of God's mercy
These things must have moved the Lord to answer**