

“FAITH UNDER PRESSURE”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL
Daniel 9:1-27
“ PRAYER: THE KEY TO REVELATION”

INTRODUCTION: Did you know there are some prayers that are guaranteed to be answered? Have you learned the formula for those prayers? What do people mean when they say you should “put God in remembrance of His Word” since it is impossible for God to forget anything? Do you really believe the promised answer to prayer recorded in 1st John 5:14-15?

BACKGROUND: Daniel had lived in captivity long enough (over 70 years) to see the first transfer of power that was revealed in the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar and his own vision of the wild beasts. Being a man of the Word and prayer, he knew, in spite of his personal captivity, that God had promised to bring His people back home *if* certain conditions were met.

I. KNOWING SCRIPTURE WILL TEACH US WHAT TO PRAY FOR AND DELIVER US FROM SELFISH PRAYERS. (Daniel 9:1-2) IF IT IS NOT FOR GOD’S GLORY OR IN ALIGNMENT WITH HIS WORD, DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME.

- A. Daniel had studied Jeremiah’s prophecies and knew it was time for God to release the Jews from captivity (Jeremiah 25:1-14) (1st Kings 8:33-34) They had been told to settle down and make the best use of their time in captivity. (Jeremiah 29) Eventually, many did not want to leave Babylon!
- B. The seventy years of exile were calculated based upon how many times the Jews had ignored the Sabbath year over a 490 year period. (Lev. 26:34-35, 43) (Jeremiah 34: 12-22) (Exodus 31) They had been repeatedly warned about the consequences of disobeying God’s commands. (Deuteronomy 28)

II. GODLY PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO PRAY FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS. WE IDENTIFY WITH OTHER SINNERS EVEN THOUGH WE DID NOT COMMIT THE SAME SINS. (Daniel 9:3-19)

- A. Some people struggle to say “we” have sinned when discussing the sins of our nation. God sees us as having participated in Adam’s sin just as He sees us in the death of Jesus. (Romans 5:6-17)
Daniel prayed for his nation as though he had committed the violations. (Ezra 8) (Nehemiah 9)
 - 1. He prayed based upon God’s character and confessed the rebellious sins of his people. We cannot repent for others, but we can confess their actions were wrong and affect all of us (Dan.9:3-8)
 - 2. We should agree that the punishment for our sins is less than we deserve because God is gracious. Just like Israel, America has done things no other nation has done! (Dan. 9:9-12)
 - 3. We are often surprised that people will recognize they are under God’s deserved judgment and still refuse to confess and repent. (Revelation 16) It is evidence that sinful human nature is incorrigible, and people quickly forget the goodness of God that has often been received. The Jews desperately needed Daniel’s prayers, and our fellow Americans need ours. (Daniel 9:13-15)
 - 4. Remember to pray for God’s glory and for the sake (cause) of the work of Jesus Christ. We have no merit of our own on which to demand an answer to prayer. We need grace and mercy while admitting we deserve judgment. (Daniel 9:16-19)

III. GOD HAS REVEALED WHAT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE ISRAEL’S JUDGMENT, THEIR REPENTANCE IS COMPLETED, AND CHRIST SETS UP HIS KINGDOM. THE WORK OF THE CHURCH COMES BEFORE ISRAEL’S SALVATION. (Daniel 9:20-27) (Romans 11:26-27)

A. As Gabriel did with Daniel, there may be times in your life when you experience the joy of having the Lord answer your prayers while you are still praying! Do you know, theologically and experientially, how much God loves you? (Daniel 9:20-23) (Isaiah 65:24) (Isaiah 58:9)

B. Daniel learned there was a predetermined amount of time that would start and end with specific events. The result would be the restoration of his people (Jews) and their beloved country. There is significant disagreement about whether or not this entire period is already in the past. We are convinced the “70th week” is yet future. It also known as the “Great Tribulation,” or “the time of Jacob’s Trouble.” (Jeremiah 30:7) (Matthew 24)

C. Gabriel told Daniel a period of seventy weeks (seventy sevens) were determined by God. He then listed six things that would occur. Seven days equal one week, and seven years was said to be “a week of years” in the Hebrew language. The events described in the passage make it clear the groups of seven mentioned were a week of years, for a total of 490 years. (Since the creation week, “seven” has been symbolically used as a divine measure of God’s work) ***How long is a minute?***

D. The events mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27 break down into 7 “weeks” (49 years), 62 “weeks” (434 years) and one “week” (the 7 year Tribulation Period)

E. Specific events will be accomplished during this predetermined time period, three relating to God’s dealing with sin, and three are related to end times events.

1. FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION, MAKE AN END OF SINS, MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY. Transgression basically means deliberate, intentional sin. Sins are anything and everything that do not meet God’s standards for righteous living. Iniquity is used to describe something twisted, bent, and perverse, as in human nature that is crooked from birth due to sin. **THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST COVERS AND REMOVES ALL ASPECTS OF SIN FOR BELIEVERS, BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.**

2. BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, SEAL UP (COMPLETE) THE VISION AND PROPHECY, AND ANOINT THE MOST HOLY. Believers have been made righteous eternally, and after the Millennial Kingdom there will be no more unrighteousness in God’s Creation. All prophecies will have been fulfilled. There will be a Millennial Temple anointed and used to worship the Risen Christ during that period. And sacrifices will be symbolically offered. (Jeremiah 23:5-6) (Ezekiel 40-48)

F. The decree of Artaxerxes to restore and build Jerusalem (city walls, housing, etc.) was given to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:1-8) around 445-444 BC. Cyrus let the Jews go back home many years before. (Ezra 1:1-3) (2nd Chronicles 36:22-23) The workers faced hostile opposition (troubling times.)

G. 62 weeks later, (434 years) Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) and was acknowledged as the Messiah. However, he was cut off (crucified) , not for himself, but for our sins and the sins of the nation of Israel. (Zechariah 9:9) (Psalm 118:26) (Luke 19:38) (John 12:13)

H. Many scholars believe *the Roman destruction of Jerusalem* that took place in 70 A.D, (after years of battle, countless thousands of lives lost on both sides, and the burning down of the temple) *was the fulfillment of Daniel “last week.”* However, many prophetic details remain unfulfilled. Scripture affirms the prince who is to come (antichrist) will make a peace covenant with Israel to protect them, then break the covenant in the “middle of the week”, resulting in 3 1/2 years of murderous persecution against those who refuse his mark and oppose him. This satanic leader will himself be made desolate when our Lord Returns to end the rebellion. (Dan. 9:26-27) (Rev. 11:45; 19:20) (2nd Thess. 2:4)

OUR LORD ANSWERS EVERY PRAYER THAT ALIGNS WITH HIS PLANS FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD. PRAYER IS COMMUNION WITH THE LORD, NOT US DOING ALL THE TALKING! IF HE IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE, HE WILL REVEAL WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE.

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