

## Daniel 9:1-19

### “Steps to Effective Prayer and Revival”

1. A lot of people are talking about the potential revival that has been taking place in Asbury Kentucky.
  - **And** just let me say I pray to God it truly is a real revival and not just a moment of emotion.
  - **Only** time will tell.
2. But it speaks perfectly to where we are today in Daniel chapter 9 because this was exactly what was happening with Daniel and the nation of Israel.
  - **That is** Daniel realizes that the judgement upon Israel was coming to an end and the prophecy of Jeremiah of returning to the land was at hand.
3. And hence, we will see he sets his face to seek the Lord in prayer and repentance.
  - **Which** should always be the result of us seeing a move of God and His Word coming to pass.
4. But we will see today his prayer will not only be a powerful example of how WE are to pray in general...

- **But** also, how we will see personal revival in our lives, and if it spreads, national revival as well.
5. What is it that sparks this prayer of repentance and revival in Daniel?
- **As** already noted, he sees the end of the national chastisement from God for their disobedience and the promised end of the 70 years of captivity in Babylon.
6. And why was it 70 years?
- **Because** this is how long the prophet Jeremiah said they would be chastised by God for their sin against Him before being allowed to return and restored nationally.
7. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 25:11, “And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”
- **Daniel**, reading this passage, realized the 70 years were almost up.
8. Daniel is very old by this time and knew **he** didn't really have any hope of going back himself, but he knew how significant this was for God's people.
- **Upon** realizing the prophecy, he set his face to seek the Lord concerning God's people.

9. And as we examine this prayer, we will not only see a very broken and heartfelt prayer...

- **But** we will see a pattern of prayer that follows the same pattern that Jesus taught.
- **So** clearly the Spirit of God.

v.2 1. We have to first see the need for prayer.

- **If** we don't understand our need to pray, we are not going to pray.

2. And how did that happen?

- **While** Daniel was reading the Word of God.

3. So, if we are not spending time in the Word of God, we will not have our eyes opened by God to see the need for prayer.

- **Notice** it says he understood what was going on by reading the "books" which means the books of the Bible.
- **Definitely** Jeremiah but probably also Ezekiel as well as he was there with them in Babylon.

4. Daniel was a man who spent a lot of time in God's Word and because of that, not only recognized the times in which he lived but also the need for prayer and God's intervention.

- **So** first we must be a person of the Word.

5. And here is the question for each of us this morning.

- **Are** we men and women of the Word?
  - **If** not, we will not be men and women of prayer.
6. Second, we have to be people who believe the Word.
- **It** says that he understood by the years specified that the 70 years judgment was almost over.
  - He clearly not only understood the Word but believed it.
7. And here is what I don't want you to miss:
- **Daniel** didn't just believe God's Word but he believed it "literally."
8. He didn't start calculating what God "really" meant by 70 years but simply took it for what it was, a literal 70 years.
- **A** day was a day and a year was a year when it came to understanding God's Word.
  - **There** were no calculations to take it "symbolically" in any way.
9. And the problem when you start doing this is you can make the Bible say whatever you want it to say.
- **Which** has led many astray over the years when it comes to prophecy.

10. It is important to note that you will find that every single prophet including Jesus Himself always took the Bible literally.

- **Why** is this important?

11. Because if all of the prophets, including the Lord Himself, took the Bible literally, then we should do the same.

- **The** question then arises, “What about all the symbolism in the visions?”

12. You will find that even with the symbols and visions that each one has a literal, specific meaning behind it.

- **And** the Bible explains the literal meaning behind each vision or symbol.

13. Next, notice that He took the writings of the prophets to be God’s very Word, not man’s.

- **There** are many today that say that we shouldn’t believe the Bible because man wrote it, but not according to Daniel.

14. He knew God used men to write it.

- **He** understood it was GOD writing it “through” them.

15. There is something else I find very intriguing here and that is this:

- **Even** though God already clearly said He would bring them back after 70 years, Daniel prayed about it anyway.

16. And this makes a very important point.
- **That is** even though God is sovereign and His will will be done, we are still expected to do our part to be about our Father's business.
17. For example, even though we know the Bible says things will get worse and worse as we approach the last days, it doesn't mean we just sit back and watch it happen.
- **We** are to take action to fight against evil and promote righteousness until the very end.

**v.3** 1. Next notice he set his face toward God and did 3 things.

- **Supplications** – Crying out to God.
- **Fasting** – Denying his flesh in order to be more in tune with the Spirit.
- **Sackcloth and ashes** – Humbling himself.

**v.4** 1. Next notice he “made confession” to God.

- **And** this is where many miss it when comes to personal repentance and revival.
- **Without** admitting and confessing our sins before God, there can be no forgiveness OR revival.

2. Next he reminded God of His promises.

- **Not** that God needed to be reminded, but Daniel did.
- **And** this is a powerful way to encourage ourselves in prayer as it causes us to remember God's promises which gives us hope.

**v.5** 1. Next notice his humility in his prayer before God.

- **"WE"** have sinned and done wickedly, not "they" have sinned and done wickedly.
- **Yet** Daniel was the most righteous of them all!

2. But Daniel understood, like Isaiah, that even the best efforts of man were only filthy rags compared to God's holiness.

- **Hence** no matter how good our walk with God is, the bottom line is we are ALL still guilty and sinners before God.
- **Paul** said I am the chief of sinners!

**v.10** 1. Next, notice Daniel doesn't blame God for all their problems.

- **He** recognizes it is due to their sin and that God was completely innocent.

2. Do we recognize that this morning?

- **The** righteous will always recognize that God is always in the right and if there is a problem it is in US, not Him.

**v.11** 1. Notice “as it is written in the Law of Moses.”

- **Daniel** now refers to Deuteronomy 28 where it speaks of God’s promises to bless if they obey or curse them if they disobey.
- **And** in their case, they had disobeyed.

**v.15.** 1. Daniel now states that the reason God’s wrath has stayed upon them is because they have not repented.

- **And** herein lies another reason that many are never saved OR forgiven even though they say a prayer week after week.

- **They** never truly repent.

2. You see, it doesn’t matter how much we pray or go to church if we don’t repent and turn from our sin.

- **Salvation** and forgiveness are **impossible** without repentance.

**v.17** 1. After seeing the need, setting his face, confessing his sin, acknowledging God’s greatness, repenting of sin, he now makes his request known.



- **It** is important to note that Daniel did not even begin His request of God **UNTIL** he had fully confessed.

- **And** it should be no different for us.

2. That is we ARE to come boldly before the throne of grace with our requests.

- **But** only after we have confessed and repented.

3. Jesus said if you get to the altar and remember sin that needs to be taken care of, LEAVE your gift and first go get it right!

- **That is**, I will not hear until you make it right.

4. Notice also Daniel asks God to answer his prayer for HIS Name's sake, not Daniel's.

- **As** you know, this is one of my favorite prayers because the answer is contingent upon Who God is and not who I am.

3. Notice he says because of "Your" great mercy and not "our" righteousness.

- **Once** again noting it is God Who is righteous and good, and WE who are sinful and evil.

**v.19** 1. Next week we will see God's answer.

- **But** this week I want us to do the same thing as a congregation that Daniel did by himself.
2. And that is end in prayer confessing our sin and asking God to forgive us and send revival.
- **Personally** and nationally.