

# Daniel

## Chapter Nine

### Daniel 9:1-3

**In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.**

- Chapter 9 is more prophetic revelation than symbolic vision (Pr 29:18, Obad 1, Nah 1:1, Hab 2:2)
- Chapter 9 contains Daniel's prayer on behalf of Israel and God's response
- The name 'Yahweh' appears in this chapter 7 times—no other occurrence in Daniel
- Chapter 9 takes place when Daniel is approximately 80 years old
- 538 BC—12 years after vision in Chapter 8
- Daniel evidently had access to the scrolls of Jeremiah
- Darius the Mede—alternative title to Cyrus
- Ahasuerus—name in Hebrew—Xerxes is name in Greek (Like Darius—Ahasuerus is a title more than a name)
- Searched the scriptures—Hebrew sacred writings—including Jeremiah
- Word of the Lord to Jeremiah—strong affirmation of verbal inspiration
- Daniel prays fervently—to the Lord God (Adonai=owner, ruler, sovereign)
- Fasting/ashes—expression of humility
- Jerusalem would lie in ruins until the full measure of Yahweh's discipline
- Desolation would continue for 70 years (Jer 25:11-12, 29:10)
- Jeremiah first prophesied this in 605 BC—the year the first captives were taken to Babylon (Daniel believes in predictive prophecy)

### Daniel 9:4-6

**And I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly, and rebelled, even turning aside from Thy commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Thy servants the prophets, who spoke in Thy name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land."**

- Prayed to the Lord-MY-God—reason why he is able to approach in prayer

- Begins prayer with adoration
- Daniel is filled with the word of God—uses Deuteronomy, Solomon’s prayer, I Kings 8 and Jeremiah for inspiration
- Vs 5-14—confession of personal and national sin
- Vs 15-19—prophets petition
- Vs 4—fervency of supplication to Yahweh—the covenant keeping God of Israel
- Emphasis is on Yahweh’s sovereignty
- Awesome=to fear—one who inspires fear
- Keeps covenant—one made to Abraham—based on love
- On behalf of the faithful—Daniel appeals to God for mercy and restoration

### **Six different aspects to Israel’s sin:**

**Sinned**=miss the mark—Israel fell short of God’s design for His people

**Done wrong**= to bend or twist—sin is something twisted or perverted—to make path crooked—righteousness=straightness

**Be wicked**=one who is guilty of crimes against God and humanity

**Turned away**=describes the nature of Israel’s rebellion—turning from God and His laws

**Commands and laws**=authoritative declarations concerning behavior that is acceptable and that which is not

### **Refusal to listen to God’s messengers**

## **Daniel 9:7-10**

**“Righteousness belongs to Thee, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which Thou hast driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against Thee. Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against Thee. To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets.**

- Daniel contrasts the righteousness of the Lord with the unfaithfulness of Israel
- Israel’s shame was due to her sins
- Israel in ‘present state’ of disgrace (this day)—all remains desolate
- Even those in Jerusalem suffered from the same fate

- Emphasis on God's great capacity for mercy and forgiveness
- Because Israel had forsaken God's law—experienced curses and judgments (Deut 28:15)

### **Daniel 9:11-12**

**Indeed all Israel has transgressed Thy law and turned aside, not obeying Thy voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him. Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what was done to Jerusalem.**

- Yahweh had promised judgment on all Israel if they broke covenant
- Other nations had been exiled/temples destroyed—but never the people of God

### **Daniel 9:13-14**

**As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Thy truth. Therefore, the Lord has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the Lord our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.**

- Law of Moses—explains the disaster they are experiencing
- Though this great disaster had come upon Israel—as predicted—none had repented
- Give attention=listen and obey
- Your truth=Yahweh's true teachings
- Turning from sin—obeying the Lord=true repentance
- Kept calamity in store=waited and watched for Israel to repent
- God knew the evil that threatened—due to sin
- Exile was deserved—after God's long suffering

### **Daniel 9:15-17**

**And now, O Lord our God, who hast brought Thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and hast made a name for Thyself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O Lord, in accordance with all Thy righteous acts, let now Thine anger and Thy wrath turn away from Thy city Jerusalem, Thy holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Thy people have become a reproach to all those around us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Thy servant and to his supplications, and for Thy sake, O Lord, let Thy face shine on Thy desolate sanctuary.**

- Petition—called on God as Lord of Exodus from Egypt (Josh 24:17)—pleads with God to reestablish the nation of Israel

- Basis of Daniel's plea—the righteousness of God—justice had been served—Israel was punished for all of her sins—time to restore (Is 40:2, Lev 26:41)
- Pleads for God to act for His own glory/honor
- Zion and Jerusalem are synonymous
- Request that Yahweh's sanctuary be rebuilt
- Your servant=expression of humility and submission
- Look with favor=cause Your face to shine

### **Daniel 9:18-19**

**O my God, incline Thine ear and hear! Open Thine eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Thy name; for we are not presenting our supplications before Thee on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Thy great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy name."**

- Incline ear=give ear/bend to hear
- Plead for the Lord to see—observe the plight of Jewish people and condition of Jerusalem
- Cry to God to look upon all that is being suffered and requests mercy
- Passionate crescendo—O Lord hear—O Lord Forgive—O Lord listen and act

### **Daniel 9:20-23**

**Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. And he gave me instruction and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.**

- Before Daniel finishes his prayer—God sent an answer
- Gabriel—angel—appears in human form (same angel that visited Daniel in earlier vision—8:15-16)—came (to touch)
- Daniel—exhausted from fasting and prayer
- Gabriel arrives at time of evening sacrifice (not being given while in exile)
- Gabriel came to bring insight/understanding
- Daniel is heard by God—God answers—considers Daniel as 'highly esteemed'/greatly beloved (someone desired or counted precious (word used to describe gold/costly garments)

## Daniel 9:24-27

**Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."**

- This section is one of the most controversial in scripture
- 70 weeks decreed—for Israel and Jerusalem—weeks are weeks of years—70 weeks = 490 years—seventy weeks are divided into 7 weeks + 62 weeks, then—after a time gap—one final week
- **At the end of 70 weeks:**
  - 1) To finish the transgression/to make an end of sins—this has special reference to Israel's rejection of Messiah (at time of 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming—Jews will recognize their Messiah—turn in faith—transgressions and sins forgiven)
  - 2) Make reconciliation for iniquity—what began at Calvary will be received by Israel
  - 3) Bring in everlasting righteousness—King fully enthroned—reigning
  - 4) To seal up vision and prophecy—main portion of OT prophecy points to return of Christ to rule and reign on earth—prophecies fulfilled at end of 70 weeks
  - 5) To anoint the Most Holy Place—at the beginning of the 1000 year reign—Temple described in Ezekiel 40-44—glory of Christ will be present
- Know and understand—issuing of command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem: decree of Artaxerxes in 445 BC (Neh 2:1-8)
- There shall be 7 weeks and 62 weeks—69 weeks are divided into 2 periods
- City shall be built again—even in troublesome times—Jerusalem would be rebuilt during first 7 weeks—in midst of opposition and turmoil

- After 62 weeks (69 weeks total at this point)—Messiah shall be cut off—death of Messiah on cross
- In the book—The Coming Prince (By Sir Robert Anderson)—he gives detailed calculations of the 69 weeks—using prophetic years—allowing for leap years—errors in the calendar—the change from BC to AD—figured that the 69 weeks ended on the very day of Jesus’s triumphal entry—5 days prior to His death
- People of the prince who is to come—head of the revived Roman Empire—will come to power during Tribulation—shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (Romans/under Titus destroyed both in 70 AD)
- Even to the end there will be war—end of the time of the Gentiles
- Time gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> week—Church Age—time of Gentiles
- Gap week—hidden—seen as Jesus reads from Isaiah 61
- Then he (Roman prince)—make a covenant with many—7 year time period—a treaty is made with Israel
- He will turn on Israel with hostility
- Abominations/makes desolate—what was prefigured in Antiochus IV will be replayed again in fulness of antichrist
- Terrible persecution during final 3 ½ years
- When Israel was restored as a nation—after great Diaspora—1948—the final week can take place.....

# Daniel Chapter Nine-----Workbook

## **Project:**

Timeline of altars and wells. Worship the Lord for His Presence and Promises through your years of faith.

## **Harmonize:**

Read Ezra 9:5-15 and Nehemiah Chapter 9.

## **Dig:**

- 1) When did chapter nine take place?
- 2) What instigated the call to prayer for Daniel in chapter nine?
- 3) How had Israel sinned against the Lord?
- 4) What attributes of God are expressed within Daniel's prayer?
- 5) How do the attributes of God influence the way Daniel prays?
- 6) Who is Daniel speaking for as he prays?
- 7) Who does Daniel repent on behalf of?
- 8) What consequences of sin did Israel suffer during those 70 years?
- 9) What do we learn about the work of the prophets in chapter nine?

10)When did Gabriel approach Daniel?

11)What gifts did Gabriel impart to Daniel?

12)What did the Lord decree should take place during the 70 weeks?

**Discuss:**

- 1) What aspects of prayer does Daniel include in chapter nine?
- 2) What is the difference between conviction and repentance?
- 3) What are the greatest obstacles you face in your prayer life?

**Point of Prayer:**

Select one area where the United States has sinned against the Lord. Use chapter 9 as a template for intercessory prayer for our nation.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Daniel humbled himself to approach God in Prayer—How do you prepare your heart?
  
- 2) How do you include scripture in your times of prayer?
  
- 3) If someone observed your prayer life, what would they conclude was your greatest concern?
  
- 4) Do you conclude your prayer has been answered when you hear Him speak to the issue or once the circumstances have changed?
  
- 5) Have you willingly taken the blame for something that wasn't your fault? How did this effect the situation?
  
- 6) When are you most likely to sustain ongoing prayer?