

Daniel 9:1-10 - Praying for a Nation (Part 1)

Intro - Daniel 9 is a power-packed chapter with great practical application. This chapter will increase your confidence in the Word of God as well as show that all events are planned by God. Chapter 9 shows that *time* is in the hand of God and that all things happen right on *time*, including the timing of the Coming of the Son of God. This chapter will motivate you to pray more to God, plus demonstrates a way to pray that guarantees an answer from God. It shows that God hears & answers prayer in ways that are exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ask or image ^(70 < 70 x 7). This chapter shows how to pray for a nation that has rebelled against God and gives hope that there is mercy & forgiveness with God... ^{even for rebellious nations.} Daniel 9 will build your faith in God who is: awesome, faithful, righteous, forgiving, & loving. *This chapter is about a prophecy that spurs a prayer, and that prayer is dramatically answered with more amazing prophecies.* Buckle up for some practical faith building truth in Daniel 9.

- 9:1 this verse sets the timing of the events
 - Time of great political upheaval --- Babylon's fall to Medes/Persians in 539 BC
 - Daniel had been in exile for 66 years (???) (Daniel is 80 years old)
 - Dan. 9 probably happens before Dan. 6 ^(lion's den) 1-6 mainly historic. 7-12 mainly prophetic
- What is an 80-year-old exile to do during a tumultuous regime change?
 - 9:2
 - Daniel is reading his Bible.
 - Great events were happening, so Daniel searched God's Word for wisdom.
 - When things are wooly ^(wonderful) in the world....go to the Word
- Daniel was reading the Book of Jeremiah
 - He noticed some pertinent time-stamps Jer. 25:11-12 Jer. 29:10-11
 - God promised 70 years of discipline for the people of God.
 - The nation would be punished...but the punishment would come to an end
 - God declares the end from the beginning. Is. 46:9-10 Is. 14:24
 - People/nations called by name & certain timeframes set. (70 years)
 - Prophecy = pre-written history. HIS story
- What does Daniel do with this prophetic information about his situation?
 - 9:3
 - Daniel prays for what God has promised. Jer. 29:12
 - Here is a key to answered prayer - *If you pray for what God has promised then you are guaranteed to get what you prayed for*
 - Pray according to God's will - 1 John 5:14 Pray in Jesus' Name - John 14:13-14
 - God promised 70 years...so, Daniel prayed about those 70 years.
- Daniel wasn't passive with God's promise/prophecies.
 - "O, what will happen will happen....it will happen anyway...its predetermined why pray..."
 - We believe in predestination, but we don't believe in being passive.
 - Active: Reading / Praying / Evangelizing / Discipling / Declaring...

- Daniels prayer was accompanied by other things. 9:3
 - *Bible Reading* Bible reading & prayer go together (Sinatra – “Love & Marriage”)
 - Reading the Bible spurred Daniel to pray about that which he read.
 - *Fasting* His praying became more important than eating.
 - Mark 9:29 ^{NKJV}
 - *Sackcloth & Ashes* He wore burlap
 - Some events in life make you so uncomfortable that you can give up creature comforts. God takes notice of those serious prayers
 - This is not a flippant prayer. (intense prayer) Jer. 29:12-13
 - *Repeated Prayer* - Daniel was thrown into a lion’s den for praying 3 times a day
 - This prayer happened in same timeframe (after regime change)
- Daniels prayer was focused on God’s righteousness & man’s wickedness.
 - 9:4
 - Prayer is a time for confession of God’s goodness. (first things first)
 - 1st petition - “*Hallowed be Your Name...*”
 - Daniels prayer begins with praise and is sprinkled throughout with praise.
 - 9:4 9:7a 9:9
 - Mention God’s perfections when you pray...meditate on them...pray...
- Daniel confesses God’s goodness AND man’s sinfulness.
 - He did not pull any punches in the self-flagellation / condemnation.
 - 9:5 He uses five different descriptors of sin
 - Daniel didn’t gloss over their “mistakes” or white-wash SIN
 - Daniel acknowledged the link between sin & their bad situation 9:7-9
 - 9:6 He mentions the nations stubborn rebellion
 - Rejection of prophets 9:10
 - Daniel was reading the Book of Jeremiah... who was given a very hard ministry
 - Jer. 7:25-27 Jer. 25:3
 - He warned them... they didn’t heed him... beat, shackled, thrown in pit, burned his book
 - Daniel was reading about God’s goodness to the nation in the past and His merciful patience in sending the prophets...nations sin/rebellion/rejection...
 - Promised discipline of 70 years
 - Daniels prays and confesses....and say’s “*times up*”
 - Daniel was praying about the release of the captives when he was thrown into a greater captivity in the lion’s den
- How can we pray for our nation?
 - What has God promised? We should pray for what God has promised.
 - America is not chosen like Israel was....but general promises
 - Prov. 14:34 “*Righteousness exalts a nation and sin is reproach to any people.*”
 - obedience brings blessing but rebellion brings destruction
 - The church is to be a prophet to the nation.
 - The church should pray for the nation 1 Tim. 2:1-2
 - The church should include itself in the call for repentance
 - 2 Chron. 7:14