

Daniel 9:8-19 - Praying for a Nation (Part 2)

Intro - Daniel 9 is a power-packed and very practical chapter in the Bible. It contains some mind-blowing prophecies as well as a model prayer that we would do well to emulate. This prayer was spurred on by a prophecy and the prayer was answered with an even more amazing prophecy. Daniel was reading the Book of Jeremiah and there found that God said that Israel's captivity would last 70 years. Daniel had been a captive for almost 70 years, so he knew that the nation was about to be paroled. But Daniel was not passive with this information (fatalism), instead he began to actively pray for God had promised. If you pray for God has promised, then you are guaranteed to get your prayer answered. We are to pray according to God's will

The prayer that he prayed was a prayer of repentance and prayer of dependence. This week we celebrate our nation's founding in 1776. I am thankful for the Declaration of Independence - "*...the Laws of Nature and Nature's God... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness... appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world... firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence...*" I think that what this nation needs the most is a new Declaration... we need a Declaration of Repentance and a Declaration of Dependence. Daniel 9 is just the ticket for a nation in need of mercy from the God they have deserted.

A DECLARATION OF REPENTANCE

1. This is a prayer of repentance and confession...corporate confession
 - a. God judges the sin of individuals, but He also judges the sin of nations.
 - i. Many examples in scripture of a corporate punishment for people group
 1. Egypt, Ethiopia, Moab, Assyria, Babylon, Tyre.....Israel
 - b. Daniel confesses the sin of his nation.
 - i. We should be sensitive to national sins because when God punishes them then the whole community is taken to the woodshed.
 - ii. Daniel suffered his whole life as a captive because of communal sins.
 1. Cultural sins affect the whole community. (ripple effect)
 - c. Daniel included himself in the confession.
 - i. He didn't just say, "*they sinned*"but he prayed, "*we sinned*"
 - ii. 20 different times in this prayer Daniel included himself in the confession.
 1. Every verse from 9:5-16 (except one) mentions this.
 - iii. Jesus taught us to pray in a plural form.
 1. Our Father...forgive us ... lead us not... Matt. 6:12
2. Daniel acknowledged that they had sinned against the light.
 - a. Israel's sin was greater than other nations because of their great privilege.
 - b. All people/nations have been given the *light of nature*... (laws of nature and Nature's God)
 - i. ...but Israel was given the *light of scripture*.
 - ii. Psalm 147:19-20 Rom. 3:1-2 Rom. 9:4 (Deut. 4:7-8)

- c. Daniel mentions the prophets 9:6, 10
 - i. 2 Chron. 36:15-16
- d. Daniel mentions the law of Moses 9:11, 13
 - i. God warned them of the consequences of sinning against the light.
 - ii. Blessings and curses of Deut. 28
 - 1. Deut. 28:1-3,6,9,12-13.....15-16,20,25,28-29,33, 43-44, 47-48, 63-64
 - iii. A national anthem that would testify against them.
 - 1. Deut. 31:19-22
 - 2. (Deut. 32 - *The Song of Moses*)
- 3. Is there any parallel to our nation? (by way of application)
 - a. America is not a chosen nation (like Israel), but we are very privileged nation.
 - b. A founding heavily influenced by Christian principles
 - i. We called upon - *Nature's God / Creator/Supreme Judge.../Divine Providence*
 - c. Reaped the benefits of the Protestant Reformation.....a gospel blessed land
 - i. This is the secret sauce to our success
 - d. Even some of our national songs testify against us
 - i. "*America! America! God shed His grace on thee...God mend thy every flaw...*"
 - ii. "*Mine eye have seen the glory...*" #510 -red / #633- blue (stanza's 1,3,4)
 - e. What is our national motto? "*In God we Trust*"
 - i. Matt. 15:8 Titus 1:16
 - f. We have sinned against the light. 2 Peter 2:21
 - i. Luke 12:48b - to whom much is given, much is required

A DECLARATION OF DEPENDANCE

- Daniel didn't plead the nations worthiness but God graciousness.
 - 9:17 - *For YOUR SAKE, O Lord*
 - 9:18 - *...not on account of any merits of our own*
 - 9:19 - *For YOUR SAKE, O Lord*
 - God acts on our behalf for Christ's sake (because of Him, not because of us)
- God is not moved to be merciful by anything in us....we are not attractive
 - Deut. 7:7-8 Deut. 9:5 Ex. 33:19
 - We are totally dependent upon God to show mercy.
- Guess what, God is merciful God!
 - Ex. 34:6-7
 - Ps. 86:5
 - Micah 7:18-20
- Daniel is depending upon God in his prayer.
 - 9:17-19
- We need a *Declaration of Repentance* and a *Declaration of Dependance*
 - We have sinned against the light and we should repent as a community
 - We need God to hear and forgive
 - God will act for His own sake and for the sake of His Son
 - God will hear for Christ's sake....act for Christ's sake....forgive for Christ's sake