

CALL to PRAYER -

Thank God for hearing and answering our prayers.

Daniel 9:20-24 - What an A.N.S.W.E.R. to Prayer!

Intro - Communication is an amazing thing, and it is a blessing that we can communicate with our Creator. God is not silent...pleased to speak to us and invites us to engage in this reciprocal process of communication. God has spoken to us in nature & scripture; and we speak to Him in prayer...then He responds by answering our prayers. Our text today is about a remarkable answer to prayer. Daniel was reading the Bible...^{prophecy of 70 years of captivity}...Daniel prays for what was promised... God answers that prayer in a greater way than what he prayed about. Daniel prayed about the "70 yrs." - God answered with 70 x 7. ^(Eph. 3:20). A prophecy spurred a prayer, and that prayer was answered with an even greater prophecy. What an A.N.S.W.E.R. it was!

A. - ANSWER

1. God answered Daniel's prayer before he even finished praying. 9:20-21
 - a. God is not ignorant of our needs or reluctant to address them. Matt. 6:8 Is. 65:24
2. God answered by way of angel 9:21
 - a. Gabriel was dispatched to deliver the answer personally. 9:23
 - b. God had the answer just waiting for the asking James 4:2c
3. Daniel was special, so don't expect an angel.
 - a. Daniel was a friend. 9:23 - "*highly esteemed/greatly beloved*"
Ezek. 14:14
 - i. Conversation/prayer works best between friends. John 15:14-16
 - b. Prov. 28:9 - Conversation is a two way street - I talk you listen, then you talk & I listen. If we won't listen to God's words, then He may not listen to our prayers.
 - c. With prayer it helps to be a friend - "*What a friend we have in Jesus...*"
 - i. Are you a friend or an enemy of God?

N. - NUMBER

- God answers Daniel's prayer about a certain number of years ^(9:2-3) with another specific number of years. God answered 70 with 70x7.
 - 9:24-25 70 weeks of years = 490 years until the Messiah. pinpoints the place on timeline
- There is only one period of history when The Christ was to come.
 - Gal. 4:4-5 "*fullness of time/just the right time*"
 - The Magi were watching.....Simon was waiting Luke 2:25 (some people were paying attention)
- Jesus is not just a good option...Jesus is the only option.
 - Look in any other place or timeframe and will only find false christs - John 10:8
- God told Daniel the exact number of years until THE ANSWER would arrive. Wow!

S. - SIN

- ❖ Daniel's prayer was focused on a sin problem- 9:20
 - What's my problem?...your problem?...church/state/world?.....SIN
 - "*Sin*" is the only 4 letter word in our society.... but is our biggest & only problem

- ❖ God has the answer to our sin problem.
 - 9:24 (3 of the 6 things promised have to do with sin)
 - When God sent His Son to be the Messiah...Christ came to address our problem
 - He healed the sick/raised the dead to demonstrate ability to deal with sin
 - Luke 5:24
 - Jesus is the Answer to our sin problem.
 - Matt. 1:21 Gal. 1:4 1 Cor. 15:3 1 Peter 2:24 1 John 2:2
- ❖ Friend or foe...God will answer a prayer regarding a sin problem.
 - 1 John 1:9 Ps. 32:5-6

W. - WORD

- Part of God's answer has to do with His word.
 - 9:24 *"...seal up vision and prophesy..."*
 - God will keep His word and bring His word to it proper conclusion.
 - God's conversation with mankind has a culmination and a crescendo
- Christ is God's final word and ultimate word
 - Heb. 1:1-2 Jesus is the final word. He is the WORD - John 1:1,14
 - God has nothing else to say outside of the Son.
 - Jesus fulfilled it all - Matt. 5:17
 - The Savior is the subject matter of scripture. It is all sealed up in the Son.
 - John 5:39 Luke 24:27
- Beware of supposed communication with God that goes beyond or is outside of the Son.
 - God's conversation with us centers around His Son
 - Talk to the Father about His Son and He will respond.

E. - ENTRANCE

1. Jesus is the Anointed One - He was to *"anoint the most holy place"* 9:24
 - a. prepared the way so we could go in - Heb. 4:16 Veil of the Temple torn open
 - b. Christ's church is the temple....the holy place that He anointed
2. *"Anoint the most holy place"* (?????????- but I had to come up with an E for the acrostic)

R. - RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 9:24 *"...to bring in everlasting righteousness..."*
 - A sinner's greatest need is righteousness. Self righteousness is the worst wickedness.
 - *"O my goodness"* Who is your goodness?
 - We need a righteousness outside of ourselves.
- Christ is our righteousness The LORD our righteousness -
 - 2 Cor. 5:21
 - Christ not only died for His people; He lived for His people earned a righteousness
- Jesus was The Answer to Daniel's prayer.
 - A.N.S.W.E.R.
 - I don't always pray I should.... (and Jesus fixes my messed up prayers)...
 - ...but Jesus is the answer to the prayers I should pray.