

Daniel 9 — "A Prayer of Anguish to a Covenant-Keeping God in a Time of Divine Judgment"

- How do you pray in a time of intense anguish?

Hermeneutical Clarification:

- We as the Church are not Israel. We are not the *new* Israel. We are not spiritual Israel. We have not replaced or superseded the nation of Israel.
- There's *not* a straight continuity between covenant Israel of old and the Church today. There are parallels.
- **Nevertheless**, there are still lessons we can learn as the New Testament Church as we gaze upon God's dealings with Israel of the Old Testament. What is God doing? How is Daniel responding? What can we learn? How does he pray in hardship?

Background to Daniel

Daniel was exiled to Babylon in 605BC by King Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel 9 is one of the most important chapters in the whole Bible!
- Overview of the chapter in 3 movements:
 1. Daniel's **reading** of Jeremiah (1-2) // *reading Scripture
 2. Daniel's **Prayer** of Repentance (3-19) *confessing sin
 3. God's Response with **Prophecy** (20-27)// *God's response
- **As we look at vv.3-19 — Daniel's prayer I want you to notice:**
 1. Godward prayer - to God, for His glory
 2. Repentant prayer - repentance for sin
 3. Theological prayer - centered on God, His Word, His Truth
 4. Historical prayer - God's acts in history/Scripture
 5. Urgent prayer - we need God to act "Now" (v.17a) (intolerable burden)

THESIS — From this wonderful chapter, I want to draw out 3 pastoral & practical lessons for us **so that you will pray to the Covenant-Keeping God in Distressing Times.**

I. STUDY THE SCRIPTURES! (1-3)**Jeremiah 25**

- v.3-4 - God sent his prophets, but they have not listened
- v.5-11 - God will bring them into Babylonian control for 70 years

Jeremiah 29

- v.10-14 - after 70 years God will restore them
- v.15-23 - the reasons FOR the exile (disobedience/evil)

Though Daniel was a prophet, he felt the need of perusing what other prophets before him had said. He was a man of the Word. And this in turn made him a man of prayer.

—Arno Gaebelein

II. RESPOND IN PRAYER! (4-19)

This prayer is only a summary — because Daniel prayed LONG and HARD (v.21 — earnestly)

How Does Daniel Pray? What does his prayer include?

A. Recalls the Character of God (4)

B. Repent of sin (5-6)

C. Reflection on Current State (7-14)

D. Remembering God's past deeds (15-16)

E. Requesting God's deliverance (17-19)

III. ANTICIPATE GOD'S ANSWER! (20-27)

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Verses 20-23 — God sends Gabriel to Daniel

Verses 24-27 — God gives the 70 “Weeks” prophecy

“The answer is more than just an answer to prayer. It was an answer to his requests concerning the people, the holy city, and the sanctuary, but at the same time it is a great “apocalypsis” of the entire future of Israel from the end of the Babylonian captivity to the time of the end, when the Roman Prince (AntiChrist) will make a covenant with many of the Jews... It may be the most important prophecy in the whole Bible” (Arno Gaebelein).

“This [Daniel 9] is one of the most impotent chapters of the entire Bible.

Unless this chapter is properly understood, then many prophetic discourses will be misunderstood.

Through Gabriel, God predicted the restoration of the Jews from Babylonian captivity to the land of Israel, the reconstruction of Jerusalem. He prophesied the great opposition that the reconstruction would arouse. He told of the coming of Messiah in the form of a man, His humiliation and violent death. He described the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem after Messiah’s death, the fact that this destruction was to be accomplished by the Romans, and the unstable conditions that were to follow those desolations. Finally, he foretold the disastrous covenant to be made with Rome, the cessation of sacrifices in Israel during the last times, and God’s final judgment on those who have desolated His people” (Charles Feinberg).

We’re not Israel; We’re not in exile. ***So what about us? How can we learn?***

1. What if the gospel goes forth amid much opposition & it seems people get more hostile to the gospel? (1 Thess.2.2) >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***
2. What if there are ‘religious ones’ who hinder you from speaking the gospel so people may be saved (1 Thess.2.15-16) >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***
3. What if you want to go to a place for gospel work but Satan hinders you (repeatedly) (1 Thess. 2.17-18) >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***
4. Consider Romans 1 - God’s wrath revealed from heaven in a Divine “Giving Over” (divine-abandonment) — to Immorality // to Homosexuality // to Depraved/Debased Mind (v.24, 26, 28). >> O God, in wrath, remember mercy! >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***
5. Also think on Rom 1- people are filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, deceit, slanderers, inventors of evil & give hearty approval to those who do such things (vv. 29-32)? >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***
6. And we read 1 Thess 4 & 1 Thess 5 & 1 Cor 15 & Revelation & we see that Jesus is coming soon! >> ***may our study of the Word drive us to humble prayer!***

Practical lessons: SO HOW CAN WE PRAY???

- ✓ Pray with an OPEN BIBLE
- ✓ Pray with a LARGE HEART
- ✓ Pray with an INFORMED MIND
- ✓ Pray with a SPECIFIC ENTREATY
- ✓ Pray with a CONTRITE SPIRIT

Practical implementation ideas:

1. Pray a psalm - take a verse, read it, and pray it, & move to the next verse (or skip a verse)
2. Pray an Epistle — Ephesians; since we're familiar with it
3. Pray thru James (very practical, an epistle full of practical wisdom)
4. Pray thru Sermon text (that was preached, Mon - Wed/// and that will be preached Thurs - Sun)

Another practical tip: (1) Pray to begin quiet time; (2) Read the text; (3) Journal by writing out a prayer *in light* of what you read.

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy
sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky
and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

HIS ROBES FOR MINE

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified.
In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

**I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise—my all—shall be for Christ alone.**

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God's daunting Law Christ mastered in my stead.
Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,
Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.

His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis
done!"
Sin's wage is paid; propitiation won.

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home!

Prayer:

- (1) **Adoration** [Psalm 113] (2) **Confession** [Dan 9.4-19] (3) **Supplication** [Luke 12.35-40]
Praying for David Varghese [seminary student] & Ratan Konala [India]