

Daniel



Lesson 17-The Prophet and His Prayer

Focus: Daniel 9:1-19

- ❖ In the “...first year of Darius...of the seed of the Medes...” Daniel began to understand the 70 year prophecy of Jeremiah (v.1,2)
 - *This year would have been 538 BC. This is 12 years after the vision of Daniel 8. Darius ruled for only a short time, dying in 536 BC. Then King Cyrus the Persian took over the kingdom. 536 BC is when the 70-year period of Jewish Captivity would have reached it’s end.*
 - **Daniel studied the prophets! He knew “by books” the number of the years that were prophesied by Jeremiah for the Captivity period. (v.2)** Daniel knew it was almost time for the Jews to go home. **Do you think we can also know when it’s just about the right time for Jesus to return to take us home, based on the prophecies? Absolutely!** Though no man “knows the day or the hour,” we can certainly know when it is “near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:36, 33). **This prophecy of the 70 years can be found in Jeremiah 29:10,11** (among other places too).
- ❖ Daniel began to pray earnestly (v.3-19)
 - *Daniel felt conviction and the necessity of special and earnest prayer as he realized the prophetic time that he was living in (v.3). We also, are brought to feel conviction from God about the nearness of His coming as we study the prophecies. These should lead us to humbly seek God in prayer, confession, and repentance of sin, so that our hearts may be right with Him.*
 - **(v.4-7) Daniel begins recognizing God’s greatness and faithfulness** (v.4) (after humbling himself before God—v.3), then he confesses all of their sins which Israel had committed as a nation—“WE have sinned...”. This prayer describes the sin of Israel as described in 2 Chronicles 36:11-18. **Daniel confesses the specific sins** which had actually taken place.
 - **(v.8-11) He prayed of the deserved rewards for Israel’s sinfulness. He prayed of God’s mercies and forgiveness.** Daniel mentions about God’s Laws—The Ten Commandments (written on stone by God’s finger) AND Moses’ Law (Ceremonial, etc., which God had told Moses to write down in a book). **Daniel mentions the Scriptural curse as the promised punishment for which they had suffered captivity** (See Deut. 28:47-57).
 - **(v.12-14) God had brought them the promised punishment for stubborn sin and rebellion** (As a parent keeps their word about the promised punishment for disobedience). And yet they had not made their prayer of repentance for renewal (v.13) **(2 Chronicles 7:14)—this is also a prayer we need in our lives for Spiritual healing and renewal today. God will heal us if we’ll humble ourselves and pray!**
 - **(v.15-19) Daniel always keeps his prayer DIRECTED to God, and pleads for God’s great mercies, based upon the loving, tender, forgiving, and merciful character of God.—We too may plead for such things. FOR GOD’S GLORY Daniel prays that it would be.**

- **“...not for our righteousness, but for your great mercies...” (v.18).** We must plead based on God’s Great mercies. We are sinners. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our only plea is the redeeming blood of Jesus and the mercy of God through Him. Our prayer should be, “God be merciful to me, a sinner” (Luke 18:13,14). Jesus Promises the forgiveness of God if we will truly seek him in such a way (1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18).
- (v.19) Daniel prays that God would **“delay not”** in this matter of restoring Jerusalem and the temple. Daniel still did not quite understand about the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 and how this might affect his people. He wondered if perhaps the Jews would be in captivity a lot longer than expected. **IN ANSWER to Daniel’s prayer, the angel Gabriel comes to Daniel to explain about the 2300 day prophecy which Daniel did not understand very well.** (we’ll study about this in our next lesson).
 - Daniel was a righteous man, and the Bible does not record any faults of his (a rare case), but even Daniel confessed His sins, for no man is without some fault (1 Kings 8:46; 1 John 1:8,10).
 - **“The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).** God answered Daniel’s prayer. (and He will answer ours too). Sometimes, Yes, No, or wait, but He does answer. We should be persistent in prayer, Jesus tells us (Luke 18:1).
- ❖ **If you’d like to know how to pray more effectively, Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:9-13**
 - Always remember the Holiness of the great Lord we are speaking with (we are only dust) (v.9). Pray for God’s will to be done (v.10). Pray for real life situations and daily needs (especially in the morning, then in the evening also) (v.11). Pray for forgiveness of our sins, and a forgiving heart towards others—character transformation (v.12). Pray for victory over sin and glorify God. (v.13). We always pray in Jesus’ name too (John 14:14; 15:16).
- ❖ **The simple ABC’s of Prayer are:**
 - **Ask:** “...ask...seek...knock...” (Matthew 7:7-11)
 - **Believe:** “...you ask believing, you shall receive...” (Matthew 21:22)
 - **Claim:** Claim God’s promises (see Titus 1:2) “God cannot lie...” and He always keeps His promises. Trust Him by faith!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to receive God’s healing power and forgiveness in your life by confessing your sins to him? _____ Will you choose to have a daily and active prayer life with God? _____ (trust in Him!)