

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
“Daniel’s Prayer for Israel”

3/14/10

Daniel 9:1-27

“It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.” (vs. 1-2)

“So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes.” (v. 3)

- *Supplication*
- *Self-Denial*
- *Sorrowful*
- *Sincerity*

1. DANIEL’S **PRAYER** FOR HIS PEOPLE: (vs. 4-19)

A. Daniel’s Prayer Includes **Praise**: (v. 4)

“O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant, and keep your promises of unending love to those who love you and obey your commands.” (v. 4)

B. Daniel’s Prayer Includes **Profession**: (vs. 5-14)

“But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.”

“Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame....because we have sinned against you.” (vs. 7, 8c)

“But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.” (v. 9)

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” (I John 1:9 NLT)

“You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem. Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth.” (vs. 12-13)

C. Daniel’s Prayer Includes *Petition*: (vs. 15-19)

“In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain.” (v. 15)

“O our God, hear your servant’s prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.” (v. 17)

“O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city---the city that bears your name---lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.” (v. 18)

“O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my Lord, for your people and your city bear your name.” (v. 18)

2. GOD’S *PROMISE* FOR HIS PEOPLE: (vs. 20-27)

“As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, “Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding....for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.” (vs. 21, 22, 23c)

A. The *Seventy* Weeks: (vs. 24-26a)

“A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, and put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.” (v. 24)

“Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.” (v. 25)

“After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will rise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple.” (v. 26a)

“The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.” (v. 26b)

B. The *Seven* Years: (vs. 26b-27)

“The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time (3 ½ years), he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.” (v. 27)