

Daniel 9.1-19

Seventy Years Steadfast



1620 - 102 people sailed from England to New England

Xtians >> Religious Freedom

By 1<sup>st</sup> Winter – 45 DEAD

Most of REST were SICK



Spring 1621 > INDIANS > Camp

Greeted them in ENGLISH

1 - SQUANTO –w/ till DEATH

Taught PRACTICAL Skills >

KEPT ALIVE in their New World

Crops, Vegetation, Fishing, Furs

Translator, Treaty & Peace Maker

Trusted Counselor & Friend

1608, English traders came to Massachusetts and captured a 12-yr old Squanto

Sold him into Slavery > Raised by Christians, Taught Faith in God

1618 - 10 yrs later – Amazingly Returned to America

Returned to Find Epidemic had Wiped out FAMILY and his Entire Village

2000 yrs EARLIER Daniel not much Older than Squanto > Carried to Babylon

He too LOST Family – City and its Temple Destroyed – Never return HOME

Daniel also Lived REST of his LIFE to keep OTHERS Alive

By this LIVING Word, Daniel still SPEAKS > find LIFE: Abundant, Eternal

vs. 1-3 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer...

Step into Ch 9 > Daniel in 80's – Served God in POLITICS about 70 yrs

Daniel continues to DO what Darius threw him to LIONS for > PRAYING

ANCIENT Prayer Encouragement & EXAMPLE as we Walk w/ God of Daniel

For the Hebrew community in Babylon it was the books that kept their tradition, theology and worship whole, alive and faithful. They had no temple...their main inspiration came from reading, studying, and interpreting their Holy Scriptures... The 'books' became for them the place of encounter with the living God himself...they were allowed as a nation to discover what today is always a new and wonderful mystery – that God has tied up real and living religion so closely with the Bible.

Ronald S. Wallace

## 1. God - Revealed through the Books

a. Inspiration – fellow prophet is part of CANON of Scripture

v. 2 the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet > EQUAL to Moses & David

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable... 2 Timothy 3.16

EVERY WORD of Scripture – VERBAL, PLENARY Inspiration – God's Word

This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon *seventy years*. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans...

Jeremiah 25.11-12

For thus says the Lord: When *seventy years* are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

Jeremiah 29.10

Daniel NOT mention EXACT verses (of course NUMBERS came much later)

Very LIKELY Reading 2 Places > Both PROMISE 70 yrs Babylon Captivity

Daniel WITNESSED change of EMPERORS – Now change of EMPIRES

NOT Sure when 70 yr CLOCK Started TICKING – BUZZER about to Sound!

Daniel makes PROMISES of God his PRAYER BOOK > TRUSTING in God

The Lord's promises drive his servant's prayer. It's as if God's promises have Velcro on them and our prayers are meant to 'get stuck' there. Dale Ralph Davis

b. Invocation – SOLEMN Invitation – Wants to BE WITH God

Bible NOT PUZZLE Book or a OUIJA Board > find Hidden Meaning of 70 yrs

vs. 3,4 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God...

Daniel's focus is on God's GREATNESS and GRACE

Fearful & Faithful – Makes us TREMBLE & KEEPS us SECURE

Seeks GOD'S FACE w his FACE – Eye to Eye – Heart to Heart – Know & Love

When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place... Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations Jeremiah 29.10-14

TIME in the BOOKS – Sweet Communion – SEEK the Lord, FIND & Follow

v. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness

NOT a Ritual of RELIGION but a RELATIONSHIP – Life-Long Love

German PASTOR imprisoned by NAZI's – Solitary Confinement – Not Alone...

"I had not been for twelve hours in the concentration camp and the Book had entered – the Holy Bible – the book that bears witness and testifies to the One to Whom all power belongs in heaven and earth, even in concentration camp. There the Book was, and there He was with all His strength, with all His comfort, with all I needed.  
Martin Niemoller

c. Intercession – Daniel asks for the WHOLE People of God in EXILE  
 70 yrs LONG Time AWAY – Many Forgotten God > TIRED of Waiting  
 Planted Gardens, Built Houses, Prosperity of Babylon > No Thanks to Giver!  
 New Generation BORN & Raised > Not KNOW Hebrew or GOD of Hebrews

Daniel the PROPHET also does the WORK of the PRIEST > Intercession

Just like PROPHET ABRAHAM prayed for KING ABIMELECH

vs. 6-8,16 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them...our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you...because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers

Daniel's prayers NOT "I, ME, MINE" but "WE and OURS"

His approach is a truly African one that recognizes that 'I am because we are!'...His agenda is God-centered...When a prayer is about nothing but God's own interest, it cannot go unanswered. Tokunboh Adeyamo

WHERE have these People been for 70 yrs? No Mention of Fellowship, Support

WHAT Encouragement have they been to Daniel as he SERVED their GOD

Not Surprised if he Calls down CURSES / Shocking that he wants to BLESS

NOTHING BAD is said Against Daniel in ALL of the BIBLE

Like ISAIAH – Honestly ADMITS he is as LOST as all those Around him

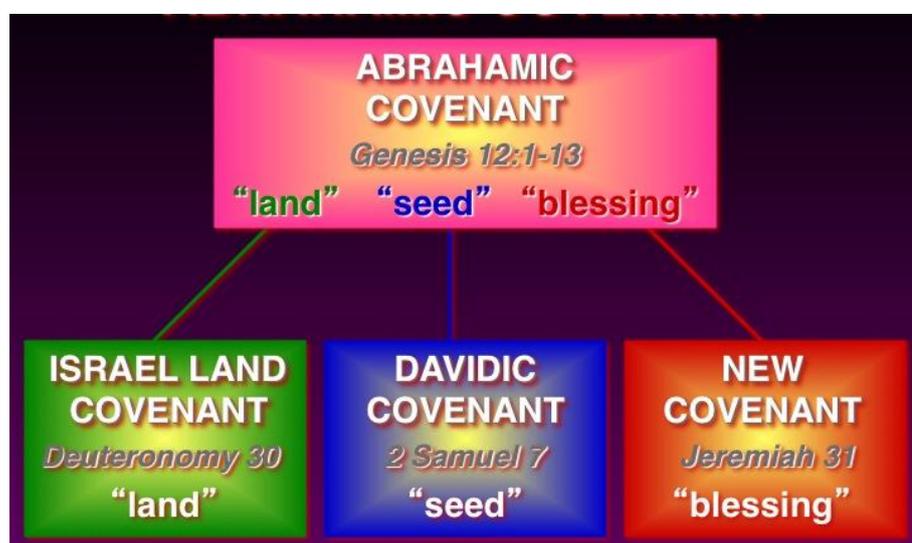
"Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"  
 Isaiah 6.5

What distinguishes us from the world is not that we are less wicked but that by the grace of God we have learned to see our wickedness for what it is and confess our sins. The church is the only body on earth that confesses sin. Where the confession of sin dies out, the church is no longer a church. Herman Veldkamp

d. Invitation God who Daniel INVOKES has Long INVITED People to Pray

vs. 17-19 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy...O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name...O Lord, hear

Daniel BOLD because God is FAITHFUL > Confidence is in the COVENANT



God is PROMISE MAKING & PROMISE KEEPING God > Promise: Covenant

ANCIENT Form of Relationship between CONQUERING King / Subject People

Appropriate FORM for CREATOR of UNIVERSE to relate to His CREATION

CYNIC Asks - If GOD is Sovereign WHY should we PRAY?

CHRISTIAN > We SHOULD Pray BECAUSE God is Sovereign!

It was because Daniel was confident that his sovereign God would do exactly what he had promised to do that he poured out his heart to him in fervent prayer.

Iain Duguid

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1.6

## 2. Guilt - Relationship is Broken

Daniel's God was RIGHTEOUS and FAITHFUL

Daniel and his People were UNRIGHTEOUS and UNFAITHFUL

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. James 1.23,24

Daniel LOOKS INTENTLY into MIRROR of Word of God > GRIM View

vs. 5-7 we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name...To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame...

CONTRAST could Not be more DRAMATIC

### a. Covenant Warnings

v. 11 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

ONE Main Covenant > Entire BIBLE is in FORM of Covenant DOCUMENT

<u>Preamble</u> – Describes the participating parties.	Exodus 20:2 – “I am the Lord your God.”
<u>Prologue</u> – Gives a description on the history of the two sides.	Exodus 20:2 – “I brought you out of Egypt.”
<u>Stipulations</u> – The laws that are to be honored.	Exodus 20-Deuteronomy 33
<u>Witnesses</u> – Those who will enforce the law.	Deuteronomy 4:26; 30:19 – “The Lord” and “Heaven and Earth”
<u>Sanctions</u> – The rewards and penalties that are applied to covenant keepers or covenant breakers.	Lev 26; Deuteronomy 28-33 – Blessings and Curses
<u>Document Clause</u> – The process of ongoing review of the testament so that the covenant would be remembered.	Deuteronomy 17:18-19; 31:9-13

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. Hosea 4.6

COVENANT – Lifelong Commitment – with ALL GENERATIONS

SIGN of OLD Covenant – Passed on to their CHILDREN

PARENTS Responsible to TEACH their Children – Fear & Follow God

The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans...all these he brought to Babylon....  
2 Chronicles 36.15-18

### b. Cataclysmic Wrath

vs. 12-14 He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice.

Daniel offers NO EXCUSE for the People or NO BLAME Upon God

They wrongly reasoned that if God's residence was the temple, there would be no way that an enemy, even one as mighty as Babylon, could defeat their city. They were safe as long as God lived in Jerusalem, and since the temple was immovable, they would be safe forever...Indeed, the horror of the destruction of Jerusalem reverberates through biblical literature...we cannot fathom the horror that the faithful felt at the destruction of their beloved city and their temple.

Tremper Longman III

### 3. Grace – Restoration has Begun

MOSES told the whole Story of Israel hundreds of Years BEFORE it Happened

REBELLION – REJECTION – RETRIBUTION – REPENTANCE – RETURN

All of it is PROPHESED within the Book of DEUTERONOMY

“And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.” Deuteronomy 30.1-3

Daniel seeks RESTORATION promised by Jeremiah AFTER 70 yrs EXILE

#### a. God is Righteous

COVENANT Promised PARDON to those PENITENT from PUNISHMENT

We should pray because of God’s grace. The solution to our sin is not to brush it under the carpet and pretend it doesn’t exist...remember God’s grace and confess before him, throwing ourselves on his sovereign mercy. Iain Duguid

vs. 15,16 And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem

God is JUST in all of His JUDGEMENTS

PUNISHMENT for SIN is the RIGHTEOUS Thing for God to Do > Justice

NEVER Ask God to be FAIR with You --- unless you Want to Straight to HELL

WAGES of SIN is Death – JUSTICE makes us Dead Men – 1000 X’s a DAY

v. 15 DANIEL calls Upon God’s MERCY and GRACE – Undeserved

We did NOT Deserve EXODUS Out of Egypt > Triumphed over PHARAOH

Just like God delivered Israel OUT of Egypt in the EXODUS

Now DANIEL Pleas for NEW Exodus out of 70 years of Deserved EXILE

Now – Here We Are – as BAD as Babylonians – Worse > Know Better

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

Titus 3.3-6

NOT BECAUSE of Works DONE by US

According to His OWN MERCY He Saved Us

Daniel TRUSTED in this GOD – Long before ADVENT of his SON

Still today – with Old & New Testaments – Not Faithful or Righteous

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1.9

He is FAITHFUL and JUST – His Righteousness is Basis of our REDEMPTION

b. God is Glorious

Hope was NOT in any of his own Righteousness, but the GLORY of God

vs. 17-19 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

ONE of the LONGEST Recorded PRAYERS in the BIBLE

Daniel PLEADING with God – Let NOTHING Separate Us from your GLORY

Calls upon NAME of God – Show His FACE – Righteousness and Mercy

How GREAT to Read this ANCIENT Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of ADVENT

What DANIEL ASKS – we Know in the Fullness of Time – Jesus ANSWERS

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4.12

Jesus PAID the Full PENALTY for our BROKEN Covenant

Endured the ENORMITY of God’s WRATH in our PLACE

His NAME is Being MADE GREAT – As we DECLARE it to the NATIONS

As we PRAY we PLEAD His Honor – His Righteousness – His Glory

He will be GLORIFIED when our DORM Mate Repents and Believes

When we FILL HAIDIAN Church with Friends who Need to MEET Him

When our CHILDREN Follow Him – When our COLLEAGUES See X in Us

When our MARRIAGE is Renewed – and our Testimony is TRUE

When we GROW STRONGER and SWEETER in our FAITH in Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1.1,14

Daniel 9.<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—<sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. <sup>3</sup>Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. <sup>6</sup>We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. <sup>7</sup>To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. <sup>8</sup>To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup>To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him<sup>10</sup>and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup>All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. <sup>12</sup>He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. <sup>15</sup>And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. <sup>16</sup>“O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. <sup>17</sup>Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. <sup>18</sup>O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our

desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. <sup>19</sup>O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”