

Part 16 — “The Plan of God & the Prayer of His People” — 18 September 2022

Introduction:

Following the conquest of Babylon by the Persians, Daniel came to understand that God’s plan for the captivity which he and his people were enduring had been spoken of in specific detail by the prophet Jeremiah. His trust in the power and goodness of God led him to confess his sins and those of his people and to call out to the Lord for His mercy.

Main Point: Because God is both sovereign over the events of history and personally involved in our lives, it is good right for us to approach Him in humble and worshipful _____ so that we might bring our requests before Him.

Daniel’s Prayer to the Lord—Daniel 9:1-19

The Historical & Prophetic Context (9:1-2)

1. Daniel found himself under the rule of yet another political regime (“Darius the Mede”—5:31).

⇒ Critics rightly point out that no figure with this name/title is attested to in ancient history. Others argue that the writer of Daniel has misidentified this figure as Darius I who ruled later (522-486 BC).

This ruler was likely Cyaxares II, a Mede, who was the _____ of Cyrus the Great.

“Cyrus did not conquer and rule the Medes prior to Babylon’s fall but that the two powers combined their forces to mutual benefit and that the Medes were ruled Astyages’ son, Cyaxares II. Once Babylon was conquered, the rule of Babylon was entrusted to Cyaxares II, known in Daniel as “Darius the Mede” (the latter being perhaps his throne name, a practice common among ancient near East kings).”

-J. Paul Tanner.

2. Daniel found hope for the future in His study of the Scriptures (the writings of Jeremiah—9:2).

⇒ The Lord had given specific word through Jeremiah that He would use the nation of Babylon and its king, Nebuchadnezzar, as instruments of His judgment against Judah because of their sin (Jer. 25:1, 8-9). This judgment would culminate in their exile which would last for a set period of time, after which they would be restored.

Jer. 25:11-12—¹¹ This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste.

Jer. 29:10—“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.

Key Point: Having seen God’s _____ fulfilled, Daniel was moved by the promises of God in Scripture to go before the Lord in prayer.

Daniel’s Prayer of Repentance (9:3-19)

1. Daniel’s prayer was offered in view of God’s revelation of Himself through His powerful Word.

Exod. 34:6-7a—⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”

* **He is the LORD (Yahweh), the _____ God!**—The God of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:18) & Israel (Exod. 19:5-8)

Dan. 9:4a—I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love...”

* **He is _____!**— *Dan. 9:7a—To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness...*

* **He is _____ and _____!**— *Dan. 9:9a—To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness...*

* **He is the God who powerfully acts to _____ His people!**

Dan. 9:15a— 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...

2. Daniel’s prayer was offered in view of God’s specific promises to the nation of Israel.

* **His promise to _____ them for their unfaithfulness. (Deut. 28:15, 45-46)**

Dan. 9:11b, 13a—¹¹ 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...¹³ As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us;

- * **His promise to _____ them when they would repent and turn to Him.** (Deut. 30:1-5)
Dan. 9:16a—“O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill...”

3. Daniel’s prayer included a confession of his sins and those of his people, Israel.

- * **They have broken the covenant and have not _____ the commandments of God.**
Dan. 9:5—we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.
- * **They have not listened to the Word of the Lord graciously sent to them through the _____.**
Dan. 9:6—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.
- * **They have not heeded the discipline of the Lord and _____ before Him.**
Dan. 9:13—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.
- * **They have reaped the _____ of their sins.**
Dan. 9:8—To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

4. Daniel’s prayer concluded by calling on the Lord to act on behalf of His people and deliver them.

- * **For His own _____!**
Dan. 9:17—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.
- * **Because of _____ He is!**
Dan. 9:18—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.
- * **For the good of His _____!**
Dan. 9:19—O Lord, bear; 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.”

Key Point: The prayer of Daniel was representative of those of the faithful _____ who clung to the promises of God and continued to trust that He had not left or forsaken them even in the midst of their exile.

Implications for Eschatology (Future Events)

- The repentance of Daniel and the faithful remnant of Israel during the exile anticipates the future repentance of the nation at the Second Coming of Christ.

Zech. 12:10; 13:1—¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn...¹ On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- Our trust in the _____ and _____ of the Lord Jesus should lead us to pray!

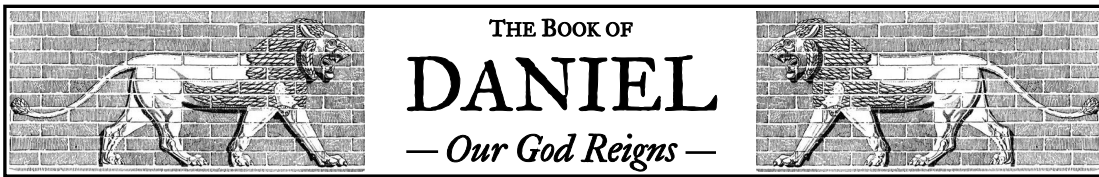
Heb. 4:14-16—¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

We pray in view of God’s precious promises to us in _____!

We freely _____ sin because we know we have received mercy!

We ask things of God with confidence because of our _____ with Christ!

“What a comfort it is now in our daily approach to God to minister boldness to us in all our [requests], that we go to God in the name of the one that he loves, in whom his soul delights, that we have a friend in court, a friend in heaven for us, that is at the right hand of God, and interposes himself there for us, in all our [requests] that makes us acceptable, that perfumes our prayers and makes them acceptable...Be sure therefore in all our [requests] to God to take along our elder brother...God looks upon us, lovely in him and delights in us, as we are members of him.” —Richard Sibbes



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