



The Great Prayer of Daniel

A Study of Daniel 9, "The Great Prayer of Daniel" • Part One

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

What an individual is in secret on his knees before God, that he is. No more, no less." – John Owen

A. Daniel Ch. 9 Overview

Daniel 9 has two parts: (1) **The Great Prayer of Daniel**, which is a model of devout, humble, promised-based and effective prayer; and (2) **The Great Prophecy of Daniel**, which is God's answer to the prayer.

B. Study Section

The Setting of the Prayer

1. The Time-Period of the Prayer.

Daniel 9:1–2a, NASB -₁ *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—₂ in the first year of his reign...*

Daniel 9:1, NIV -₁ *In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—*

- King Darius was the king that put Daniel in the lions' den as recorded in Daniel 6. He liked Daniel and appointed him to a high office in his government. He didn't want Daniel hurt. (Circa 537 BC, Daniel is 82 yrs. old.)
- It was a time of trouble and perplexity for the Israelites. They wanted to know, "When would the Babylonian captivity end?"

2. The Prompting of the Prayer.

Daniel 9:2, NASB -₂ *... I, Daniel, observed in the [sacred (OT)] books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations [lit., emptiness] of Jerusalem [how long their captivity would last?], namely, seventy years.*

Daniel 9:2, NLT -₂ *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.*

While pondering Jeremiah 25:8-11, Daniel understood the 70 year captivity was almost over. **Insight:** Judah (what Israel was called in that day) owed God 70 years because, for the 490 years they were in the land, they were to have set aside every 7th year for the land to have a sabbath's rest. They never did. After they stacked up owing God 70 years, God said that's enough. They were 66 years in with 4 to go, but Daniel wondered, *Had God's people learned their lesson?*

3. The Passion of the Prayer.

Daniel 9:3, NASB -₃ *So I gave my attention [lit., "I set my face"] to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. Daniel prayed in earnest. The language here does not describe many believers today. Few were as dedicated to the Lord in prayer as Daniel.*

4. The Praise of the Prayer.

Daniel 9:4, KJV -₄ *And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments...*

Daniel praises God for being **foremost** ("great"), **fearsome** ("dreadful"), **faithful** ("keeping the covenant"), **favoring** ("mercy"), and **fair** ("to them that love him ... keep his commandments").

C. Life Application Section

- Our payers must be **sensitive** to both "times" and "needs."
- Our prayers must be **saturated** with Scripture.

"Little of the Word with little prayer is death to the spiritual life. Much of the Word with little prayer gives a sickly life. Much prayer with little of the Word gives emotional life. But a full measure of both the Word and prayer each day gives a healthy and powerful life."

- Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p.161.

- Our Prayers must be **sincere** before the Lord. "I set my face before the Lord..." (KJV)
- Our prayers must **spotlight** God's greatness. "O Lord, Great and mighty..." (NLT)