

Lesson 9: Chapter 9 – The God Who Answers Prayer and the Prophecy of the 70 ‘Sevens’

In this chapter, we are reintroduced to the king of chapter six, Darius the Mede, placing it approximately 12 years after the vision of Daniel 8. The chapter opens with Daniel pondering the words of the prophet Jeremiah. His response is a model prayer for all believers of all ages. God answers his prayer through a prophetic revelation given to him by the angel Gabriel.

Day 1: Read Daniel 9:1-3.

1. Where does Daniel believe the words of the prophet Jeremiah came from (v. 2)?
2. Are there other places in the Bible where we are assured that we can be certain, like Daniel, that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God? Copy the following verses and choose one to memorize.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16
 - b. 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - c. John 14:26
3. Now read the account of Jeremiah concerning the Jewish exile in Jeremiah 29:10-14. The end of the prophesied 70 years is swiftly approaching, precipitating Daniel’s preoccupation with the prophecy. What is Daniel’s response to the words of the Lord handed down through Jeremiah?

Day 2: Now that we have understood the occasion for Daniel’s exemplary prayer, we are ready to study the contents and structure of his prayer. Read Daniel 9:3-19.

1. Why did Daniel pray in v.3, “in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes” (hint – see 2 Chronicles 7:14)?
2. Daniel opens his prayer with a section of adoration (v. 4). Do you regularly take time to praise God in your prayers, or do you hurry to the petition part?
3. In the next section of his prayer (vv. 5-14), Daniel confesses sin – not simply his personal sin, but the sins of his fellow Israelites.
 - a. What are the sins of the Israelites that Daniel lists?
 - b. Confessing sin on behalf of your fellow believers is a concept that is not limited to the Jewish people. In James 5:16, we read, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”. Do you pray regularly for the sins of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Make it a point this week to include confession of sins, both personal and corporate, in your prayers this week.
 - c. According to 1 John 1:9, what does confession of sins accomplish for us?

Day 3 – Daniel began his prayer with adoration and confession. The final portion of his prayer is one of petition. Read Daniel 9:15-19.

1. Daniel provides two reasons for God to answer his requests for a restoration of the sanctuary. What are they (hint, see v. 16 and v. 18)?
2. Daniel’s petition is not for his own comfort or security. Instead he is zealous for the honor and glory of the name of the Most High God. We know from the model prayer Jesus taught to his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13 that we have permission to request “our daily bread” (v. 11) in prayer. But, for many believers, requests for our own comfort and security or that of our loved ones tends to make up the great majority of

our prayer. Do you pray frequently that the name of the Lord would be glorified for all men to see? Take time to pray for that today.

Day 4: The remaining verses show God's answer to Daniel's prayer, delivered by an angelic messenger. They are amongst the most contested verses in all the Bible, not simply because of the revelation itself, but also because its implications of the revelation will reverberate throughout the totality of this age, all the way to the return of Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

1. Read Daniel 9:20-25. The angel reveals to Daniel that the everlasting kingdom that has been mentioned in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 will come in after the completion of a period called the "seventy 'sevens'" (v. 24), or seventy cycles of seven years. The concept of the seven-year cycle, shown as a 'seven' can be found going back to Leviticus 25:3-4. In v. 25, Daniel tells us that the seventy sevens begins when the city of Jerusalem is restored and rebuilt. When does this happen (hint – see Nehemiah 2:1-8)?
2. In v. 25, we learn that, during the first 60 'sevens', the Anointed One, a ruler, will come to Israel. Who do you think the Anointed One is describing (hint – see Matthew 27:11)?
3. As we read on in v. 26, an event occurs at the end of 69 of the 'sevens'. Mathematically, this date corresponds approximately to 32 A.D. It says at this point that "the Anointed One will be cut off". What happened during that time that would fulfill the prophecy (hint – see Isaiah 53:8)?

Day 5: At this point in the revelation, we have what is sometimes referred to as a prophetic pause, gap, or parenthesis. After the death of Jesus and his ascension to heaven, God pauses in his special treatment of his covenant people Israel to usher in an auxiliary plan wherein He will deal with the Gentiles. The rest of Daniel's revelation speaks of this gap and the resumption and fulfillment of the final seven-year cycle of his seventy 'sevens' prophesy.

1. Although the nature of this pause would have surely been a mystery to Daniel, Paul would go on to explain the purpose for God's interruption of his covenant with Israel. Read Paul's discussion of this very issue in Romans 11:1-32. List some reasons, according to Paul, for God's pause in the seventy 'sevens' (see especially vv. 11-15).
2. In v. 27 we see the resumption of the final, 70th 'seven'. Daniel records the angel's words. What will happen during this final seven-year period?
3. This reminds us perhaps of the despicable deeds of the little horn of Daniel's vision in chapter 8. Yet, we know that Antiochus IV Epiphanes has been dead for centuries before the arrival of the Anointed One. While Antiochus' actions can offer a preview of the actions to come, we can recognize that the "he" that is being described here in v. 27 is none other than the horn of Daniel 7. Look back to your notes on Day 4 of Lesson 7. Who, then, is described as the one who "will set up an abomination that causes desolation"?
4. What is the end that is decreed for the horn of Daniel 7, the Antichrist, the one who will torment the faithful during the final seven years preceding the Second Coming of Christ (hint – see Daniel 7:26 and Revelation 19:20)?