

Daniel 9 – Daniel's Reaction to God's Revelation

DANIEL'S DIVINE DISCLOSURE FROM GOD

Introduction

Welcome back for another Sunday evening of Bible Study. I have enjoyed spending this time with you each week. However, tonight is that last night we will do so in this format. Starting next Sunday evening we will once again be resuming our Sunday evening service in our auditorium. In fact, next Sunday will be two services. Our AM worship service at 11 am and our PM worship service at 6 pm. Next week, Pastor Jerry Holcomb, our Associate Pastor, will be preaching

in both services. My wife and I will be out of town for our wedding anniversary. If you are not local or you are still nervous about COVID-19, I encourage you to join the live stream for both services on Sunday. Once I return from my trip, I plan resume our study of Daniel on Sunday evenings.

As for tonight, we start chapter 9. We finished last week with chapter 8 as learned more about the “king of fierce countenance.”

As we begin chapter 9, let me take a few minutes and do a short review of both chapter 7 and 8. Just this week, I realized that it had been some time since I shared with you the chart that outlines this great book. I am going to put it on the screen, and we will spend a few minutes going over it.



An Outline of the Book of Daniel the Prophet

Chapter 7	Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10, 11, 12
THE SEVEN KINGDOMS	THE KING OF FIERCE COUNTENANCE	THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SEVEN YEARS	THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SEVEN YEARS
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THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SEVEN YEARS

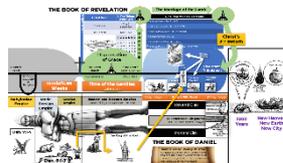
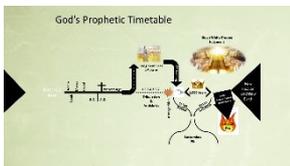
THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SEVEN YEARS

THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE SEVEN YEARS

*Talk through chart showing especially chapters 7 and 8.

As we come to chapter 9, we will find that this chapter is probably one of the

most important chapters in relation to the end of times and the tribulation period. In fact, before we go any further, lets review God's prophetic timetable.



*Show both charts of God's timetable using the simple chart first and the

detailed chart second.

Chapter 9 as been described as “backbone of prophecy.” You see if you get this chapter wrong it will lead you to great misinterpret the rest of end time prophecy. However, if you

correctly understand this chapter you will see exactly how everything that God is promised to come falls right into place.

BODY

DANIEL'S REACTION TO GOD'S REVELATION

And if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of their captivity, and shall say, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness: And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which I have possessed for thy fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: Then hear thou their prayer, and their supplication in heaven, thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause. | Kings 8:47-49



DANIEL'S REACTION TO GOD'S REVELATION

However, before we go any further, we must consider Daniel. I think that it is safe to say that Daniel knew something of the God's Word. Early in his captivity and at a young age, Daniel proved his understanding of Scripture. Now, when I say Scripture, I am talking about what was available to Daniel during his lifetime. We know that Daniel knew the Law. His request to not eat the king's meat is a clear example of his understanding the law. God's Law to His people, Israel, detailed what things they could eat and not to eat. Thus, Daniel was quite aware that the king's table was filled with things prohibited by God. His stand for God was shown as he asked that they eat the things God allowed. In the end, God blessed him greatly.

Another demonstration of Daniel's understanding of Scripture was evidence in his personal life. Remember later how those leaders around him and under his authority looked to entrap him. They convinced Darius to declare a rule by which those who prayed must pray or request things only

of Darius. Their suggestion and the eventual law was trap. They knew Daniel's personal habit of praying 3 times a day facing Jerusalem. Why 3 times a day facing Jerusalem? It was an instruction given to Solomon long before Daniel was born. Over in 1 Kings 8, we find this in Solomon's prayer of dedication of the Temple.

Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, 1 Kings 8:47-49

Note that God using Solomon prophesied of them being carried away as captives. When that happened, they were to pray for repentance and make supplication in the land of their captivity. And, additionally, they were to ***“pray unto***

thee (Jehovah) toward their land.” Daniel must have known this.

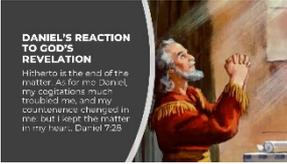
Even in Daniel’s day, 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17 although not written at the time, was essentially the same. Daniel understood that all of Scripture was indeed profitable. I would assume then that Daniel was student of God’s Word. It would stand to reason also that Daniel had read the writings of some of the older prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and even, perhaps, Ezekiel. If he did, and it seems highly likely, then he would have noticed how God prophesied that His people would be captive for 70 years. During those 70 years, Jerusalem would remain desolate.

It is very well possible that Daniel then began to weigh in his own mind the time of his captivity. He may have thought back to years that he spent serving first the Babylonians and then the Medes and the Persians. Already, at this point, Daniel was a much older man. Almost seven decades had passed since he first arrived in Babylon. Several times we have already seen how God’s revelations to him troubled him. Over in chapter 7, we see that...



I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. Daniel 7:15

Later at the end of that same chapter Daniel states...



Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart. Daniel 7:28

In chapter 9, we read...



And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it. Daniel 8:27

And now, when we start chapter 9, we find this testimony of Daniel...

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto

the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: 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; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. Daniel 9:1-6

All these revelations that he had experienced combined with Daniel's understanding of Scripture worked deeply in his heart and mind. It caused great concern and a sincere desire to know more. I would hope that God's Word has the same effect upon us. May we be great students of God's Word. And may we also allow it work in our hearts and our minds. God's Word, if studied correctly, will always cause us great concern. It should cause a great concern for our own spiritual welfare as well as the spiritual welfare of others. And, if we allow to have its work while at the same time yielding to God's Holy Spirit, it should create a sincere desire for us to know more and more.

Note that it caused Daniel to seek God's face through prayer, supplication, and fasting. He then began by confessing the sins of his people, Israel. You see a sincere study of the God's Word always confronts us with our sin. It did Daniel. You see Daniel considered Israel's sins his sins. He was a Jew. He was part of God's chosen people. Thus, their sins were his sins. As he studied and as God revealed the end of times, he was overwhelmed in his burden for his own people.

I cannot help but think that perhaps that is problem in American today. Perhaps we are not concerned enough. Daniel was so concerned that sought God's face. He even fasted and adorned himself with sackcloth and ashes. All this was demonstration before the Lord how concerned and burdened he was for his people. Could you imagine the possibilities for America if Christians were truly burdened for this nation? Imagine the revival fires sweeping through American again. Instead of rioting in the streets, we would see people flooding to the church house. Instead of lawlessness, we would see fathers, mothers, and families getting right with God. Indeed, we need Christian men and women who will allow the reality and truth of God's Word to overwhelm them driving them to their knees just as it did Daniel.

Unfortunately, we find that too often it has the opposite effect. Instead of repentance, we find people hardening their hearts. Instead of spiritual revival, we find people seeking their own way. And, truly, we are closer to the end of times than we have ever been before. As such, the Bible is quite clear that there will be a great falling away and times of great apostasy.

Does this mean that lives cannot be changed? No, of course not! Never has there been a better time to share the gospel. In fact, now is the time to share it. And we as Christians, must not allow our hearts to harden. We should allow it to melt us just as it did Daniel.

Daniel goes on to note three things in his prayer to Jehovah.



Daniel 9:7-10
**God is Righteous
in His Judgment**

First, God is Righteous in His Judgment.

**O Lord,
righteousness belongeth unto thee,
but unto us confusion of faces, as
at this day; to the men of Judah,
and to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that
are near, and that are far off,
through all the countries whither
thou hast driven them, because of
their trespass that they have
trespassed against thee. O Lord, to
us belongeth confusion of face, to
our kings, to our princes, and to our
fathers, because we have sinned
against thee. To the Lord our God
belong mercies and forgivenesses,
though we have rebelled against
him; Neither have we obeyed the**

despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Hebrews 12:5-10

God's righteous judgment upon His children is always with a purpose. God's judgment upon Israel will bring about a remnant that will be completely loyal to Him. From that remnant, God will establish His kingdom upon earth and fulfill His promise to Abraham and David. God's righteous judgment upon us is to correct us and bring us back in fellowship with Him.

Conclusion

We will need to stop here for tonight. We didn't get very far concerning the 70 weeks. We will hopefully to that in two weeks. However, Daniel's testimony in the first half of this chapter is extremely important. It challenges us to consider how serious are we in our burden for America. Daniel's was confronted with truth of God's Word. The truth spoke to the sinfulness of Israel. That truth then led to the truth of God's present as well as impending righteous judgment upon them. That same truth drove Daniel to his knees.

Folks, American is deep trouble. I know not whether it is too late for America. America is not Israel. However, America is our people. American has sinned and sinned greatly. The promises of God for Israel do not pertain to America. Yet, the question remains for us. Are we allowing the truth of God's Word to permeate our hearts in such a way that is driving us to our knees for our nation, our people, our loved ones? Or are we just hardening our hearts?

There are yet two more elements of Daniel's plea to God. We will see them in two weeks when we return to our study. They are...

- Israel's Guilt in Transgressing His Law.
- Daniel's Plea for God's Mercy and Forgiveness.