

# DANIEL - Chapter NINE

## REVIEW: Chapter SEVEN

1) The lion with eagle's wings = 586 - 536

2) The bear with ribs in its mouth = 536 - 333

3) The winged, multi-headed leopard = 333-300

4) The dreadful and terrible beast = 63 – 5 B. C.

## Chapter EIGHT

1) The two-horned ram – Daniel 8:20; depicts the kings of Media and Persia -

**2. The one-horned male goat – Daniel 8:21; - depicts the kingdom of Greece;**

**3. The broken horn and four horns that arose in its place – Daniel 8:22;**

**a. Alexander the Great?**

**b. His empire was divided between his four generals (Daniel 8:8;) 333-200**

**Ptolemy - (Egypt) Seleucus I - (Syria) Cassander (Macedonia and Greece) Lysimachus (Thrace and Asia Minor)**

**4. The little horn that became exceedingly great – Daniel 8:23-25;**

**Most writers are agreed that this is Antiochus Epiphanies who arose out of Syria, one of the "four kingdoms," B.C. 175-163.**

**1) Who imposed Greek culture and deities upon his subjects.**

**2) Who when he conquered Jerusalem:**

**a) Set up an image of Zeus in the temple**

**b) Offered swine flesh upon the altar**

**c) Forbade circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, possessing a copy of the Scriptures (Harkrider)**

## **5. The vision of the evenings and mornings – Daniel 8:26;**

**Daniel 8:26 “The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.” (ESV)**

**a. The number of days the sacrifices will cease, and the temple desolated.**

**Daniel 8:14 “And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.” (ESV)**

**b. Maybe a literal period (a little over **six years**) corresponding to the actual period of time the abomination by Antiochus Epiphanies occurred (171-165 B.C.)**

# **DANIEL - Chapter NINE**

## **Lesson Number Fifteen**

### **Daniel's Penitential Prayer (9:1-19)**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

**1. As we continue our survey of the book of Daniel, we come to a remarkable chapter...**

**a. In which we find a beautiful prayer expressed by Daniel - Daniel 9:1-19;**

**b. In which we find an amazing revelation regarding "seventy sevens"- Daniel 9:20-27;**

**2. Without question, the latter part of the chapter is most difficult...**

**a. Edward J. Young describes it as "one of the most difficult in all the OT, and the interpretations which have been offered are almost legion."**

**b. H. C. Leupold wrote "This is one of the grandest prophetic passages; and yet, if there was ever an exegetical crux, this is it."**

### **3. In light of its difficulty...**

**a. We should certainly approach this passage with humility, and not dogmatically.**

**b. We should be careful not to draw conclusions that contradict clear teachings of Scripture.**

**4. But before we consider the actual vision of the seventy weeks, let's take the time to consider the prayer offered by Daniel...**

**a. A beautiful example of confessing sin and seeking forgiveness.**

**b. Akin to the prayer of David in Psalms 51.**

**[A wonderful blessing we enjoy as Christians is the cleansing blood of Jesus as we confess our sins (1 John 1:9). Daniel's prayer in this chapter provides insight into the art of confessing sin...]**

# I. THE SETTING OF THE PRAYER

## A. THE DATE OF THE PRAYER...

1. In the first year of Darius, son of Ahasuerus – Daniel 9:1;

Daniel 9:1 “In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans” (ESV)

**2. The time is now about 538 B.C.**

## **B. THE REASON FOR THE PRAYER...**

**1. Daniel knew the prophecy of Jeremiah, regarding 70 years of Babylonian captivity -**

**Daniel 9:2 “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.” (ESV)**

**Jeremiah 25:9-12** “behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 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, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.”

**God made the sabbath principle central in his creation. To recognize God's ownership of everything, the seventh day is set apart (made holy) to the Lord. Violating the Sabbath day is a serious sin because it denies God's sovereignty. This concept was so important that God applied it to the creation itself. Every seventh year, the land was to lie fallow. The Israelites were not to sow or prune or reap. Whatever grew of its own accord could be eaten, but the land was not to be farmed. As a symbol of God's ownership, it was to rest (Leviticus 25:1-7). Yahweh promised an abundant crop in the sixth year, so no one would go hungry during the following Sabbath year (Leviticus 25:20-22).**

**Jeremiah 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.” (ESV)**

**2. The 70 years of Jerusalem began in  
606 B.C., with the captivity of Daniel and  
the first devastation of Jerusalem.**

**2 Chronicles 36:5-7** “Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also carried part of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his palace in Babylon.” **(ESV)**

**So with this first year of the Medo-Persian empire (With Darius the Mede over Chaldea, but with Cyrus the Persian over all), the prophecy of Jeremiah was almost completed -**

**2 Chronicles 36:21-23** “to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people,

may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.””

**Ezra 1:1-4** “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at

**Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.” (ESV)**

## C. THE PREPARATION FOR THE PRAYER...

**Daniel 9:3** “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.” (ESV)

a. To make request by prayer and supplications -

b. This may have included facing toward Jerusalem with sackcloth and ashes.

**With the Word of God fresh on his mind, his heart humbled by his own sins and those of his people, even his physical body humbled into submission, Daniel begins his penitential prayer..**

## **II. THE CONTENT OF THE PRAYER**

### **A. DANIEL'S CONFESSION...**

#### **1. Addressing the Lord his God -**

**Daniel 9:4** “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,” (**ESV**)

**a. As great and awesome**

**b. Who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who:**

**1) Love Him**

## **2) Keep His commandments -**

**Psalm 103:17-18** “But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.” (ESV)

**John 14:15** ““If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (ESV)

## **2. Confessing in behalf of his people -**

**Daniel 9:5-6 “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 our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.” (ESV)**

**2 Chronicles 36:15-21 “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, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the

treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.” (ESV)

### **3. Contrasting their shame with God's righteousness -**

**Daniel 9:7-9 “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. To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.”**

**a. To Judah, Israel, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem belong shame of face -**

**Ezra 9:6-7 “saying: “O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt. And for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as it is today.” (ESV)**

## **b. To God belongs righteousness -**

**Ezra 9:8-9 “But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant and to give us a secure hold within his holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our slavery. For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea and Jerusalem.” (ESV)**

## **4. Reviewing their sin, and the fulfillment of God's warnings -**

**Daniel 9:10-14 “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. 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. 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.” (ESV)

**a. The nature of their sin - Nehemiah 9:13-30;**

**They have not obeyed the voice of the Lord;  
They have not walked in His laws set before  
by His prophets; They transgressed His law,  
and departed so as not to obey His voice;  
They had not prayed that they might turn  
from their iniquities and understand His  
truth.**

**b. The fulfillment of God's warnings – cf.  
Leviticus 26:14-29; Deuteronomy 28:15-68;**

## **5. Summarizing their sin -**

**Daniel 9:15 “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.” (ESV)**

**a. To Him who delivered them from Egyptian bondage with a mighty hand.**

**b. We have sinned, and done wickedly!**

## **B. DANIEL'S PETITION...**

### **1. His passionate plea for God to:**

#### **a. Turn away His anger and fury -**

**Daniel 9:16 “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.” (ESV)**

**b. Hear his prayer and supplications -**

**Daniel 9:17a “Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake...”**

**c. Cause His face to shine on His sanctuary, which is desolate -**

**Daniel 9:17b “... O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.”**

**d. See their desolation, and the desolation of the city called by His name -**

**Daniel 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.” (ESV)**

**e. Hear, forgive, act and not delay! -**

**Daniel 9:19 “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.”**

**2. His passionate plea based, not because of their righteous deeds, but upon:**

**a. God's righteousness, and for His sake -**

**Daniel 9:16-17 “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. 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.” (ESV)**

**b. God's great mercies, and for His city and His people called by His name -**

**Daniel 9:18-19 “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.” (ESV)**

**The Babylonian Captivity (586 BC) was in many ways a time of spiritual growth for God's people. Without their temple, the Israelites learned that obedience is better than sacrifice (Psalms 40:6; Isaiah 1:10-19). They returned from Babylon focused on God and the need to be faithful to him (Ezra 10:1-4). Never again would the worship of Baal and the shedding of innocent blood be the religion of the nation.**

**Like Israel, Western culture has systematically eliminated signs of God's ownership. For example, many believe religion is now a personal affair and should never be considered in politics, education, or law; today the Ten Commandments cannot be publicly displayed and do not play a role in public life; and morality is now subjective, that is, there is no ultimate source of right and wrong. The false gods of secular**

**humanism have stripped the marks of Yahweh's ownership from much of what is rightfully his. The lesson of Israel's 70 years of exile is clear. God will punish sin. And he will restore all things to himself because they are already his. The question is, will we who know God as Lord of heaven and earth act to reestablish his claims on our society before it is too late?**

QUESTIONS And/or  
OBSERVATIONS

# Prayer Time