

DANIEL'S POWERFUL PRAYER

Daniel 9:1-23

Introduction

When this chapter begins, the Babylonian Kingdom has just ended and Daniel has begun to live under the new rule of the Medo-Persians. Cyrus appointed Darius to rule over Babylon and the events of chapter nine occur during Darius' first year as king (538 BC). It appears that Darius had already chosen Daniel to be one of three presidents to assist him in ruling over 120 princes, but he had not yet been cast into the lions' den (Dan 6). Darius was impressed with Daniel's trustworthy and excellent spirit so he determined to place him over all the other officials. This is what caused the other two presidents and the princes to be jealous of Daniel so that they devised a scheme to get rid of Daniel by having him cast into the lions' den.

About thirteen years had elapsed since Daniel received the vision about the ram and male goat (Dan 8). God provided Daniel opportunities to serve in kings' courts and gave him several visions because he had an excellent spirit. The essential qualities of Daniel's life, which produced in him such a godly testimony, are brought to light in this chapter. Through the prayer of Daniel in this chapter, three aspects of his godly character are seen, which are the basis for the godly life of any believer.

The aim of this lesson: Follow the example of Daniel for living a godly life.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer:

I. Prophecy of Jeremiah – 9:1-2

1. Circle the references in Jeremiah that says Judah would be captives in Babylon for 70 years.
5:1-3 10:23-24 25:11-14 29:10-11 33:3

II. Prayer of Daniel – 9:3-19

2. Which of the Jeremiah scripture passages in question #1 encourage believers to pray?
3. What did Daniel do that indicated his sincerity and humility in praying to God? (9:3)
4. Place the three divine names that Daniel used in his prayer after the right definition. (9:4)
 - a. Name related to His covenant; He would love and provide for His people -
 - b. Name related to His power and sovereignty; He would select and protect His people -
 - c. Name related to His authority; He would rule and judge His people -
5. Match the evils that Daniel named with the right definitions by drawing a line between them. (9:5)

Sin	crooked causing confusion and being restless
Iniquity	falling away from God
Wicked	defying God's authority
Rebel	fall short or miss the target
Depart	being crooked

6. Before the evils listed above write the verse # found in 9:6-16 where the evil is mentioned.

7. Write down the verses that speak of the mercy or forgiveness of the Lord God beginning with 9:4.

8. Write down the verses that speak of the righteousness that belongs to the Lord beginning with 9:7.

9. What Old Testament event does Daniel mention that should have kept Judah loyal to Him? (9:15)

10. Daniel mentioned Jerusalem by name or as "city" seven times in his prayer (9:4-19). Can you find them?

11. Why was Gabriel sent to Daniel with a special revelation from God? (9:23)

12. If you draw close to God in prayer, what can you expect God to do to you? James 4:8