

"THE BOOK OF DANIEL" 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 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 wonderful blessing we enjoy as Christians is the cleansing blood of Jesus as we confess our sins (1John 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**
- 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; cf. Jeremiah 25:9-12; 29:10**
- 2. The 70 years of Jerusalem began in 606 B.C., with the captivity of Daniel and the first devastation of Jerusalem -**

C. THE PREPARATION FOR THE PRAYER...

- 1. Daniel set his face toward the Lord God - Daniel 9:3;**
 - a. To make request by prayer and supplications**
 - b. This may have included facing toward Jerusalem**

II. THE CONTENT OF THE PRAYER

A. DANIEL'S CONFESSION...

1. Addressing the Lord his God - Daniel 9:4

a. As great and awesome

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

1) Love Him

2) Keep His commandments - cf. Psalms 103:17-18; John 14:15;

2. Confessing in behalf of his people - Daniel 9:5-6; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21;

3. Contrasting their shame with God's righteousness - Daniel 9:7-9;

a. To Judah, Israel, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem belong shame of face - Ezra 9:6-7;

b. To God belongs righteousness - Ezra 9:8-9;

4. Reviewing their sin, and the fulfillment of God's warnings - Daniel 9:10-14

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

b. The fulfillment of God's warnings – cf. Leviticus 26:14-39; Deuteronomy 28:15-68;

5. Summarizing their sin - Daniel 9:15

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

b. Hear his prayer and supplications - Daniel 9:17a

c. Cause His face to shine on His sanctuary, which is desolate - Daniel 9:17b

d. See their desolation, and the desolation of the city called by His name - Daniel 9:18

e. Hear, forgive, act and not delay! - Daniel 9:19

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

b. God's great mercies, and for His city and His people called by His name - Daniel 9:18-19

CONCLUSION