



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Leader Prays For God's People & Nation (Daniel 9)

MARCH 13, 2024

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With great insight Daniel studied Scripture, prayed for understanding, asked God's forgiveness, then begged God to fulfil promises. Daniel saw a breakthrough in the generational suffering of the Israeli people and received glimpses of their glorious future coming at the end of the age. Can you share when you prayed for a fresh start or turn in your life, for your family, your career, state, or nation?

INTRODUCTION

Daniel was among those resettled when Babylon conquered Israel and all surrounding nations. As a teen, he was mentored to serve in the royal court of Babylon. God greatly blessed his sixty years of service in the palace.

The army of the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. Cyrus rose up to be the next king and appointed Daniel as his chief advisor. Daniel reflected on the visions God had given him, visions revealing the rise and fall of nations into the end of times. He sought a better understanding from God. **Have you had glimpses of what your own future may be like?**

DANIEL'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

Daniel 9:2-3 In the first year of his reign, I Daniel, understood from the books according to the prophet Jeremiah that the number of years for the desolation of Jerusalem would be seventy. So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. (CSB)

Fifty years earlier, this is what the prophet Jeremiah wrote. **The LORD says:** "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:10-12). Daniel pled for God's mercy (Daniel 9:4), confessed sin for himself and the people (vv. 5-15), appealed to God's character (vv. 4,7,9,15), gave glory to God (vv. 16-19). **Is this your model prayer?**

GOD DISPATCHES THE ANGEL GABRIEL

Daniel 9:21-23 While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed." (NIV)

The angel came in a form which looked like a man, perhaps God's chief messenger (Luke 1:19). **Have you prayed through until you got an answer or a release?**

SEVENTY WEEKS OF YEARS - THE MESSIAH

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (NIV)

The term 'sevens' gives consistency to transitions in months of Roman calendars until this was fixed by Caesar and Augustus in the 1st century A.D. Daniel's remarkable prophecy starts with the 445 B.C. decree to rebuild Jerusalem made by Persian King Artaxerxes. Listed are the completion of Jerusalem's rebuilding, the first advent/coming of Messiah, his crucifixion, and destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in A.D. 70. **Can you see the contrast between atonement for sin in the Old Testament (Daniel 9:24) and Christ's atonement for our sin (Romans 5:8-9)?**

LAST DAYS - A GLIMPSE

Daniel 5:26 "The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end..." (NIV)

The church will be raptured, and the last seven years of tribulation begins (Revelation 3:10). Antichrist, the world leader, will attack Israel. God eliminates the evil one and judges' others. **Where are you in all this?**

A PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for sending Jesus to atone/pay for my sins. Please give me wisdom and understanding during the chaos in my life and in the world around me. Send a friend or two for the journey ahead. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen!

¹ The MacArthur Study Bible, NASB. (Thomas Nelson, Inc) 2006

Kansas

God's Leader Series: God Himself!
