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Daniel 9:20-24 Now while I was speaking and praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, 21) While I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, come to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. 22) And he gave me instruction and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. 23) At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. 24) Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place." (NASB)

HE WILL FULFILL THE DESIRE OF THOSE WHO FEAR HIM; HE ALSO WILL HEAR THEIR CRY AND SAVE THEM. PSALM 145:19 (NKJV)

What does Daniel repeat twice regarding the coming of Gabriel? What was Daniel primarily concerned about in his prayer? Why does Daniel mention "*the holy mountain of my God*" as the object of his supplications? Had Daniel seen Gabriel previously? Why is Daniel is in "*extreme weariness*"? Is this great intercessor still on Temple time? How long had Daniel been praying before God chose to answer his prayer? What instructions did Gabriel give? Why was he sent to Daniel? What are these "*seventy weeks*?" Is this decree of God about Israel or the whole world? Who is the only person who can accomplish all the prerequisites of this decree? FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 13: DANIEL 9:24-27 PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH AND THE END OF THE AGE!
- FEBRUARY 20: DANIEL 10:1-9 THE GREAT VISION OF DANIEL

Suddenly, in the midst of Daniel's praying, he sensed another presence in the room with him. He had been fasting, clothed with sackcloth and even ashes on his head as a sign of mourning over sin. The primary focus of his prayer had been repentance, not just his own, but for his people and especially their leaders. He was primarily concerned about the wickedness of his people and that even though they were under the ominous curses of God as slaves, taken captive to a foreign nation, they had not repented. They were continuing in the same sin, idolatry and filthy abominations before God that had brought His wrath upon them in the first place. There was no change in God's people. Instead of repenting and becoming a light to the nations, they wallowed in their iniquity and continually became worse! So Daniel's prayer was based entirely on the compassion and mercy of God rather than any change in His people. Daniel has worn himself out in prayer, but Gabriel brings good news.

THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT, A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART—THESE, O GOD, YOU WILL NOT DESPISE. PSALM 51:17

I. LONGING IN PRAYER

Daniel humbly summarizes his prayer first as confessing his sin and that of his people and then making his request before his Maker "*in behalf of the holy mountain of my God.*" Daniel was concerned about what God was concerned about, especially the problem of sin and the reputation or glory of God. Daniel was ashamed that God's name was still being abused because of his sin and the sin of his people and also the desolation of the greatest capital city

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM – PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14th Floor Speaker's Conference Room Thursday @ 7:00 Am – bible Study – GAB 14th Floor Speaker's Conference Room

DANIEL 9:20-21

Virginia

Daniel is Precisely Promised the Coming Messiah!

of Israel on Mount Zion, Jerusalem, which remained in ruins. Thus, "Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us" (v. 16). Daniel longed to see God's name again glorified and His city a shining light upon a hill. He remembered still the specific times of prayer and evening offerings to God in the Temple and still cherished those times so much, he had chosen that very time to bring his prayer before his great God. Daniel had been fasting and so focused on praying with such passion that he was now completely exhausted in "extreme weariness." Yet in his weakness God immediately and abundantly answered!

LORD, I CRY OUT TO YOU; MAKE HASTE TO HEAR ME! GIVE EAR TO MY VOICE WHEN I CRY OUT TO YOU. LET MY PRAYER BE SET BEFORE YOU AS INCENSE, THE LIFTING UP OF MY HANDS AS THE EVENING SACRIFICE. PSALM 141:1-2

II. LISTENING WITH PERFECTION DANIEL 9:22-23

This good news from Gabriel came with instruction to transform Daniel from weariness to joyful anticipation of what God would do in answer to his prayer on behalf of His people, His city and His sanctuary. This was not just seventy years, but even seven times that number. First Gabriel's focus is to reveal the gifts of God's grace to Daniel. In the previous chapter, Daniel had feared this great angel, Gabriel (Dan. 8:16-17). But after receiving his help, Daniel now appreciated this "man" (21) standing before him. The first gift from God that Gabriel bestows upon him in answer to his prayer is literally, "insightful understanding." Much greater than wisdom, it is the ability to see with clarity into the future with full assurance of what God has planned and promised. The second gift was an immediate answer to his prayers with a divine decree: "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued." The third gift was the reason why Gabriel had come and the greatest compliment he could receive from God: "for you are highly esteemed" or translated elsewhere

"greatly beloved." It was a term used for that which was greatly treasured such as gold (Ezra 8:27) or cherished garments (Genesis 27:15). The two imperatives, "*heed*" and "gain understanding" are telling Daniel to carefully ponder the gift of prophetic truth being given to him.

OPEN THOU MINE EYES, THAT I MAY BEHOLD WONDEROUS THINGS OUT OF THY LAW. PSALM 119:18

III. LOOKING INTO PARADISE DANIEL 9:24

In direct answer to Daniel's prayer for his people and their capital, God's decree pours out His great grace: "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city." The "weeks" are interpreted by all as years, so 490 years are specifically being decreed concerning Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. Six benefits are decreed for that time, the first three are negative regarding sin and the second three are positive regarding God's Kingdom and all of them are only possible through the finished work of the Messiah. The first "to finish the transgression" means that such rebellion against God will be spent, completed or accomplished. It will be brought to an end, exhausted. The second "to make an end of sin" speaks of sealing up, completing or putting an end to sin against God, others or even myself. The third was accomplished by the final sacrifice of the Messiah upon the cross "to make atonement for iniquity." This "atonement" was a transaction made with the blood of a sin-offering being applied to the mercy seat every year for their forgiveness from guilt and punishment. The blood or life of the sacrifice was the payment in the place of the one committing iniquity. The fourth "to bring in everlasting righteousness" will occur at the end when the Messiah will rule and reign in His paradise on earth, the Millennial Kingdom. The fifth "to seal up vision and prophecy" showing they have been completed, fulfilled or perfected. The sixth "to anoint the most holy place" speaking of the Temple in the Millennium (Ezek 40-48). All are through Christ and His ultimate sacrifice!

Questions to Ponder:

1) What is your relationship with God and is he pleased with your prayers?

2) Will you have to pay for your sin for all eternity or have you received Jesus, the Messiah, as your Lord and Savior?3) Is your delight in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and His coming kingdom where all will rejoice in *everlasting righteousness*?