



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

Leadership Matters in Prayer

JANUARY 23, 2025

Pastor David Andersen / 804-683-2285 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Daniel 9:7-12 *O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 8) O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9) To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. 10) We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 11) Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. 12) And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. (NKJV)*

Why the contrast of what belonged to God verses what belonged to Israel? Is there the greatest numerical group missing in verse 8 that was included in verse 6? For what reason is “Mercy” and “forgiveness” in the plural? How was the Word of God rejected through His prophets? Where was the “curse and the oath” listed? What was the “great disaster?”

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 30: DANIEL 9:13-19 *DESPERATE PRAYER THAT GOD ANSWERS!*
- FEBRUARY 6: DANIEL 9:20-24 *DANIEL IS PRECISELY PROMISED THE COMING MESSIAH!*

Daniel wisely understands the truth of Jeremiah and based on the fact that Babylon has been judged after 70 years, he prays with utmost earnestness and repentance that God will remember His covenant people and return them to their land for the sake of His great name. This prayer is in obedience to what is required in Jeremiah 29, and Daniel insists that God was just in His dealings with them, because of their flagrant and rebellious sin against Him. He realizes that favor will not be by their merit, but entirely upon God’s grace and faithfulness to His Word.

*FOR THE LEADERS OF THIS PEOPLE CAUSE THEM TO ERR,
AND THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THEM ARE DESTROYED.
ISAIAH 9:16*

*BUT IF YOU DO NOT OBEY ME, AND DO NOT OBSERVE ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS ... I WILL ALSO DO THIS TO YOU: I WILL EVEN APPOINT TERROR OVER YOU, WASTING DISEASE AND FEVER WHICH SHALL CONSUME THE EYES AND CAUSE SORROW OF HEART. AND YOU SHALL SOW YOUR SEED IN VAIN AND YOUR ENEMIES SHALL EAT IT ... AFTER ALL THIS, IF YOU DO NOT OBEY ME, THEN I WILL PUNISH YOU SEVEN TIMES MORE FOR YOUR SINS. ...
LEVITICUS 26:14, 16, 18*

I. LEADERSHIP IN RESPONSIBILITY DANIEL 9:7-8
Daniel brilliantly develops the clearest contrast between the actions and character of God verses His people who have treacherously turned against Him. To God belongs “righteousness” because He has faithfully fulfilled His Word through His actions. He has always done what is right. In contrast, “shame of face” belongs to His people because of their treachery. The foremost, feeling this shame, were “Judah” and “Jerusalem” whose kings were in the Davidic line and who had traditionally been favored

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

Virginia

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by God because of their obedience rather than the kingdom of Israel who had unquestioningly followed murderous King Saul and then fell into blatant idolatry. Immediately “*all Israel*” is included because they were certainly not exempt from the just judgment of God, literally “*because of the treachery which they have treacherously committed against You.*” They should especially be ashamed because they were in leadership as “*kings,*” “*princes,*” and “*fathers.*” “*All the people*” of verse 6 are missing as Daniel shows the leaders as responsible for this great treachery.

SHALL EVIL BE REPAID FOR GOOD? FOR THEY HAVE DUG A PIT FOR MY LIFE. REMEMBER THAT I STOOD BEFORE YOU TO SPEAK GOOD FOR THEM, TO TURN AWAY YOUR WRATH FROM THEM. JEREMIAH 18:20

II. LEADERSHIP IN REMINDING DANIEL 9:9-10
Daniel continues in prayer reminding God again of the contrast between Him and His sinful people as he begins to plead with God based on His goodness. The words “*mercy*” and “*forgiveness*” are intensive plurals, showing God had poured out his “*mercies*” and “*forgivenesses*” so many times in the past upon His people that such compassionate action “*belonged*” to Him in spite of the rebellion of His people. Just as it was their evil nature to rebel against the truth, it is God’s good nature to extend His “*mercies*” and “*forgivenesses.*” Daniel again develops this contrast as he specifically shows how they rebelled, “*We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.*” It was direct disobedience against Yahweh, “*the LORD*”. This name of God speaks of His covenant with Israel and His covenant keeping nature. He had made a covenant with Israel of blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience and He had kept His Word just as much as they had disobeyed it. The next name Daniel uses is “*our God*” meaning, “*the Strong and Mighty One who Swears by Himself.*” Again Daniel is emphasizing, not only the fact that God’s Word is absolutely true, but

that God makes it true by always keeping it, fulfilling it, and doing exactly what He said He would do. But to heap up their iniquity, they had continually rebelled against “*His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets.*” God had mercifully reminded them through His prophets that they had unmercifully persecuted, which only emphasized the height of their rebellion against God and His prophets who led them in the truth.

HE WHO IS OFTEN REBUKED, AND HARDENS HIS NECK, WILL SUDDENLY BE DESTROYED, AND THAT WITHOUT REMEDY. PROVERBS 29:1

III. LEADERSHIP IN RULERS DANIEL 9:11-12
Daniel paints the full picture of their wholesale rebellion against God’s authority, “*Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice.*” In departing they have committed apostasy, turning away from God, lying to themselves and others, and blatantly attacking what they knew to be true and right. What should have been the greatest terror to Israel they had ignored, “*therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.*” This was greater than a tsunami of justice, this was the fullness of the wrath of God being continually poured out in fearsome vengeance upon His treacherous people. This “*curse*” and “*oath*” was given by Moses in Leviticus 26:14-39 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68. A precise percentage picture is developed by God against Jerusalem in Ezekiel 5 where they are divided by thirds and destroyed continually in the most horrific manner until “*I have spent My fury upon them*” (v. 13). God’s Word was “*confirmed*” which He had spoken “*against our judges who judged us*” or more literally, “*our rulers who ruled us,*” “*by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.*” The leaders’ abominations and rebellion against God, His Word, and His prophets had ignited their annihilation!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you willing to stand up for God and His truth when no one else does?
- 2) As a leader, do you embrace your responsibility to lead toward God in obedience to His Word and prayer?
- 3) Is your sin and rebellion against God inviting His wrath against you, or do you know God’s grace in Jesus Christ?