

## **Confession & Petition**

### **Daniel 9:1-8**

#### **I. Introduction:**

##### **A. Daniel's Prayer**

1. Chapters 7- 12 record the visions Daniel received from God concerning future things.
2. Part of the revelation God gave to Daniel included the succession of Gentile kingdoms that would have power over Israel. This period of history is called **Time of the Gentiles**.
3. The time of the Gentiles runs from 586 B.C. (when Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem & Solomon's temple) to Christ return at the battle of Armageddon at the end of tribulation.
4. There are four Empires identified by God; The Babylonian Empire, The Persian Empire, The Greek Empire, & The Roman Empire
5. Roman Empire will be revived during the tribulation period under the antichrist.
6. Daniel lived through end of Babylonian Empire & into 1<sup>st</sup> first part of Persian Empire.
7. Daniel personally witnessed the conquest of Babylon by the Persians thus seeing the fulfillment of part of the vision he had received from God.

#### **II. Persian Empire (Daniel 9:1-2)**

##### **A. First Year of Darius the Mede**

1. The city of Babylon was conquered by confederate forces of the Medes & Persians on October 12, 539 B.C. Cyrus was the king of the Persians.
2. Darius the Mede was given charge of the city of Babylon under Cyrus' rule.
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> year of Darius therefore was 539 B.C.

##### **B. Daniel's Understanding**

1. The transition from 1<sup>st</sup> prophesied kingdom to the next reminded Daniel of God's promise to restore Israel to the land. Daniel had read the prophesy of Jeremiah.
2. Jeremiah had prophesied that God specifically said that after 70 years of captivity in Babylon He would restore Israel to the land. (**Jeremiah 29:10**)
3. Knowing God's word to be sure, Daniel began to do the math. He was in that 1<sup>st</sup> group of captives. The first deportation of Jews under Nebuchadnezzar was in 605 BC.
4. It was currently the year 539 which told Daniel the time of their return was very near.
5. From 605 to 539 B.C. was 66 years. It was almost time for Israel to go home.

#### **III. Daniel's Prayer (Daniel 9:3-4)**

##### **A. Prayer of Confession**

1. Daniel's prayer began with confession. Israel was in captivity in the first place because they had sinned against God and broken His law.
2. Years before, Moses had set before the people two paths (**Deuteronomy 28**).
  - (1) – The Path of Blessings
    - a. If they would keep the Word of God and do all His commandments, then would He bless them with great and abundant blessings.
    - b. They would have an abundance of crops & enjoy peace from their enemies.
    - c. God would make them a great people among the nations for His name's sake.
  - (2) – The path of Judgement & Chastening
    - a. Rebellion would bring divine chastening. Part of chastening was to lose the land.
    - b. A part of that chastening was to be scattered among the nations.

- c. What God had warned them of came to pass.
- d. Because of their sin God allowed them to be removed from the land for 70 years.

#### **B. The Way Back**

1. Daniel knew confession and repentance were the way back to God.
2. Daniel confessed they had broken God's laws, His commands.
3. Daniel confessed they did not uphold their part of the covenant. (**Daniel 9:5**)
4. Mercy: He knew mercy began with confession and repentance on the part of the sinner.
5. It was the mercy of God that set Daniel to prayer and confession.

#### **C. There Is Mercy Today**

1. Principle of confession & repentance is just as applicable today as it was in 539 B.C.
2. Holy & merciful nature of God never changes. He's same yesterday, today, & forever.
3. God demonstrated His love for us by giving His only Son to die on the cross for us.
4. Jesus died on Calvary's cross bearing penalty of the sin of whole world, us included.
5. Because of His death & resurrection, Jesus made way for us to reconciled to the Father
6. Salvation comes by way of the following:
  - (1) – Confession
    - a. A willing acknowledgement of our sin.
    - b. A willingness to confess to God we are sinners.
  - (2)– Repentance
    - a. Confession & repentance are 2 sides of the same coin.
    - b. We confess our sin to God desiring to change & to turn from sin & pursue obedience to Him
  - (3) – Faith in Jesus
    - a. We confess and repent while putting our faith in Jesus to forgive us.
    - b. It is the death and shed blood of Jesus that atoned for our sin.
    - c. Jesus will pardon our sin, wipe it from heaven's record books, when we put our faith in Him.
    - d. Application: God will pardon your sin & save your soul if you trust Jesus by faith.

### **IV. A Failure to Hear (Daniel 9:6)**

#### **A. We Did Not Listen**

1. Daniel confessed they were a stiff-necked, hard-hearted & spiritually deaf people.
2. They did not listen to the many prophets God had sent to warn them.
3. Many prophets had warned the people of impending judgment from God.
4. They ignored God's warnings right up to the point it was too late.
5. The Assyrians came and took away the northern kingdom of Israel.
6. The Babylonians came and took away the southern kingdom of Israel.
7. The Last Days: Jesus said days before His return will be just like this. (**Matt 24:36-39**)
8. Noah preached for 120 years, the whole time he was building the ark.
9. The people of his day did not listen to his message of warning.
10. They lived as if nothing would happen, right up to the day they all died in the flood.
11. Contemporary Society: They will be living with sinful indifference right up to the point of the rapture when Jesus calls His church out of the world.
12. They will go into eternity or the tribulation and face eternal judgment.

### **V. Consequence of Sin (Daniel 9:7-8)**

#### **A. Shame of Face**

1. Part of the built-in consequence of sin is shame, embarrassment.
2. Hebrews were humbled & shamed as they're taken captive & marched across desert.
3. Their captors exacerbated the pain of their loss & captivity with ridicule & belittlement.
4. The nation as a whole was disgraced going from the greatness of the kingdom under David and Solomon to a destroyed temple and razed city.

**B. Sin's Deception**

1. Sin's consequences are the same today. On the front-end sin is so enticing, so alluring.
2. On the back end of sin it bites like a serpent. Sin never delivers what it promises!
3. Illustration: Sin always brings shame of face.