

DANIEL
CHAPTER

9

DAY | ONE

1. This chapter records one of Daniel's prayers. We can learn much from this servant of God by studying his prayer. Prayer is how we communicate with God. As you know, communication is the basis for all healthy relationships. Let's see what we can glean from this great man of God. Be sure to read or listen to this chapter at least twice.
2. Daniel spent his entire adult life in captivity, under the authority of several kings. In Daniel 9:1-3 he shares a time setting. When does Daniel say he prayed this prayer?

The notes and map on the Biblical Reference page at the end of this study guide offers more clarification.

3. Let's take a few minutes to look back and see the events of this period. The Babylonians had been taken over by the Medo-Persian empire in Daniel 5. Belshazzar hosted a great banquet. Read Daniel 5:2-4. What costly mistake did the king make that night?

What was God's response to king Belshazzar's blasphemous attitude?

4. It had only been one year since the hand of God wrote on the wall, declaring Belshazzar's kingdom had come to its end. The Medo-Persian soldiers, under the command of Cyrus the Great, diverted the river running under the walls of Babylon and through the heart of their city. The soldiers simply marched in and seized control. Darius is the newly appointed King over Babylon. He appointed 120 men to oversee this newly acquired territory. Daniel, once again, experienced the favor of God. Read Daniel 6:3-4. What is about to happen to Daniel?

How did this go over with all the other satraps? (administrators)

5. The events of Daniel 6 took place immediately after Darius became King. The events of Daniel 9 took place in this first year of the reign of the Medo-Persian empire. Daniel has enjoyed a lifetime of looking to the LORD for wisdom and protection. He was around the age of 15, when he went into captivity in 605 BC, and Babylon was overthrown in 539 BC. How old would that make him in the first year of Darius reign?

6. Daniel was a man who dedicated himself to studying and understanding the scriptures. Take a few minutes to look at some verses from just one of the Psalms. These verses will build your faith and trust in God. On the Biblical Reference page, underline anything you see in these verses encouraging your walk of faith. This is one of my favorite Psalms. When you finish underlining, take some time to talk to God about all you have seen and how he might use these verses in your everyday walk.

Psalms 119:1-8

Psalms 119:105

Psalms 119:9-11

Psalms 119:114

Psalms 119:15-16

Psalms 119:125

Psalms 119:17-18

Psalms 119:133, 135

Psalms 119:29-30

Psalms 119:137-138

Psalms 119:33-37

Psalms 119:147

Psalms 119:44-48

Psalms 119:160

Psalms 119:55-56

Psalms 119:162, 165

Psalms 119:57-60

Psalms 119:169-174

Psalms 119:73, 80

Psalms 119:89-94

Psalms 119:88

Psalms 119:97-104

DAY | TWO

DAY | THREE

7. Daniel mentions his study of the words written by the prophet Jeremiah. Daniel 9:2. What had the prophet foretold? What length of time was mentioned for this event?
8. Do you see why it is important to pay attention to Daniel's age?

Approximately, how long had he been in captivity at this point?

9. In Daniel 9:4, what did he say he was doing?
10. I love watching and learning from other strong believers. It strengthens my walk of faith. Daniel was a man of wisdom and integrity. Look at Daniel 9:4-19. Daniel's prayer is a beautiful example for us to follow. Daniel expresses his adoration for the Lord, he confesses his sin and the sin of his people, he thanks God for his character, and lastly, he makes his supplication or request. Label the parts of Daniel's prayer in these verses.

_____ verse 4

_____ verses 5-6

_____ verses 7-12

_____ verses 16-19

Would you say this is the format of your prayers?

Matthew Henry's Commentary on this chapter says, "God's promises are to encourage our prayers, not to make them needless, and when we see the performance of them approaching, we should more earnestly plead them with God."

Do you truly grasp the magnitude of the privilege we enjoy, as believers, to pray for God's promises to be manifested in our lives and the lives of those we associate with?

11. In Daniel 9:5-6, 9-11, 13, 16, how did he describe himself and his people?
12. List the character qualities of God that Daniel mentioned in his prayer in Daniel 9:4-19. Highlight these qualities as you see them, then write your answer.

This is a good habit to practice, highlighting the character of God when you see it mentioned in God's word. The purpose for studying God's word is to get to know him and love him more.

13. Read Daniel 9:16-19 again. What is Daniel's supplication and request?
14. After taking this time to study Daniel's prayer in more detail, please take a minute and write a prayer for yourself and our nation.
15. The passion of our heart will be reflected in the passion of our prayers. I've heard people pray for revival with the same boring tone they might use when talking about the weather. I've heard others pray with the passion of a mother begging the Lord to heal her sick child. How would you describe Daniel's prayer?
16. The better we know our God, the greater our expectation of all God can and will do when we pray. Read Daniel 9:17-19 again. What important fact should we know about our God if we are going to make a request of him?

17. Read James 5:16 in several translations.
 These verses address a prayer of healing. There are many types of sickness: physical, emotional, and spiritual. The Lord desires that we be mindful of our relationship with others as well as our relationship with him.
 James 5:16b (NIV) The prayer of a _____ is powerful and effective.
 We all desire powerful and effective prayers, why not take a minute to talk to God about this?

18. What do half-hearted prayers imply?

I've heard it said, "Prayer is simply talking to God." Although that is true, we must consider our heart, words, and tone carefully and reverently as He is the Sovereign God of all creation.

19. What do the verses listed below tell us about asking God for anything?
 Read Psalm 19:14; Psalm 86:11; Proverbs 3:5-6; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:8; Matthew 6:33

20. One last quick lesson for us, from James 5, before we get back to Daniel.
 Read James 5:7-11 How are we to respond to suffering as we wait for the Lord to answer our prayers or ultimately for the Lord's return?

One day, he will come and gather his own to be with him. Until that day, life might become increasingly difficult for us in this world. We must know what God expects of his children.

On the Biblical reference page underline the instructions given us in James 5:7-11. Daniel is a beautiful example of one who served God and waited patiently on his timing.

21. While Daniel was praying, who appeared before him (vs 21)?
 Had they met before?

Read Daniel 8:16 and Daniel 9:21.

22. What was the purpose of this angelic visit (Verse 22)?

23. We don't want to miss the encouraging words the angel shared with Daniel.
 Reading Daniel 9:23, what were his words of encouragement and what was the message?

24. The final section of this chapter is the angelic message brought to Daniel. Let's look carefully at each part.
 What is the time mentioned in Daniel 9:24?

25. Daniel is recalling the words of the prophet, Jeremiah, concerning God's people, Israel.
 Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. What is Jeremiah's prophecy concerning the captivity of the Israelites?

On the Biblical Reference page, highlight the promise of God given in Jeremiah 29:10.


According to Jeremiah's prophecy, what is the length of time they will be in captivity? _____

Who had Jeremiah clearly warned God's people their rulers/captors would be? _____

Jehovah, the God who never changes, whose promises never fail, who is faithful even though his people are not faithful, designated the length of time they will be in captivity. God is not finished with his people; he has future plans for the nation of Israel.

How are his plans described? _____

Please, do not miss the end of Jeremiah 29:14. Who orchestrated their captivity in Babylon?

- 
26. Read Jeremiah 29:4-9. How were they instructed to live while in captivity? Be as specific as possible. It will be easier to make this list if you first highlight the key words of God's instructions. Do not miss the warning to be careful who you listen to. Not everyone who says they have a word from God is telling the truth.
27. Look up and define these four words from Daniel 9:24. It is best to use the Strong's Concordance but if that is not possible, use a good dictionary.
- Transgression- (Hebrew Pesha')
 - Sins-(Hebrew Chatta 'ah)
 - Iniquity- (Hebrew 'avon)
 - Righteousness- (Hebrew Tsedeq)

What do these definitions show the Israelites had been guilty of doing?

28. Let's take a closer look at Daniel 9:25. Daniel speaks of two distinct times. What is the first event mentioned?

What is the second event?

29. Daniel specifically said, "seventy sevens are decreed." (Verse 24) Seventy sevens = 490 years. We have said the mention of sevens in the Bible often indicates years and signifies completion. In verse 25-26, Daniel said there will be seven sevens (49 years) and another 62 sevens (434 years)..

Added together $49 + 434 =$ _____ years. If we subtract this number of years from the 490 years God decreed, we find there are _____ years remaining. The remaining years are the length of the Tribulation (the time of Jacob's trouble) yet to come when God will deal with his people and bring judgment upon all nations. Read Jeremiah 30:7.

30. Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 to see a summary of the events we have seen so far in Daniel. What was going on in the land of Israel while the people were in captivity?

31. Do you recall the reason for Israel going into captivity?
God had given very specific commands to Israel when he established them as a nation. As we have seen, the heart of God's people had wandered from him. What can we learn from studying God's discipline of Israel?

America is often referred to as a Christian nation. The word Christian means Christ follower. If we claim to be a Christian nation, what might we need to do?

People often say, 'We need another great revival' If we believe this is true, where should this revival begin?

Read Psalms 63:1-3; Jeremiah 29:12-13;l Matthew 7:7-8.
Psalms 63 are the words of King David, a man who longed to please God.
Jeremiah 29 are the words of a prophet who unswervingly served God.
Matthew 7 are the words of Jesus himself.

Could America's (or any other nation's)problem be found in James 4:2-3, which speaks of the motive behind our prayers? What did James say of their motives?

Are we asking God to bring revival and heal our land so our lives will feel more comfortable or do we honestly long for God's will here on earth?

32. What had God clearly commanded the Israelites concerning the land he had given them in Leviticus 25:1-5?
33. Read the verses in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 and Daniel 9:24. Do you see how important it is to carefully obey God's commands?

How had God viewed their disobedience concerning the Sabbatical rest for the land?

34. How might we apply this to our daily walk with the Lord?

Are there commands which we have taken lightly or ignored all together?

In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus was asked, "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?" What was his answer?

How carefully do you see these two commands being carried out today?

Who is the only person I am responsible and accountable for?

Craig Groeschel often says: "Leadership is influence, and everyone has influence." The question is how are you leading and influencing those around you?

35. After taking a few minutes to look at the verses pertaining to the Sabbath rest for the land, do you have a better understanding of why the Israelites were in captivity all those years?

36. King Nebuchadnezzar and his mighty army raided Jerusalem in 605 BC. All but a remnant of the Israelites were taken into captivity. (2 Chronicles 36:15-20 and Daniel 1:1-2) Years later the Babylonians went back to Jerusalem and destroyed the city and burned the temple of God. (2 Kings 25:8-10) In 538 BC, the Medo/Persian army overthrew Babylon. (Dan. 5:30-31) In 536 BC King Cyrus made a decree, which permitted the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the

_____. (Ezra 1:1-3, 7)


However, the decree mentioned in Daniel 9:25 is the decree made by Artaxerxes, the sixth Persian ruler. Read Nehemiah 2:6-8, 17-18, what were they allowed to rebuild? _____

37. Nehemiah was serving as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes when he received the news about Jerusalem. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4, what affect had the news of the present state of Jerusalem had on Nehemiah?

Nehemiah prayed for a long time before making his request known to the king. How long do you like to pray before attempting something that could be misinterpreted and could cost you?

Working in the king's presence every day was considered an honor and a privilege. No one was allowed to burden the king with their personal problems. Also, asking the king to rebuild the walls could be misinterpreted since the walls of the city were meant to protect the citizens from those who would try to overpower them.

38. Read Daniel 9:25-27 in the Message translation. Seven sevens equals 49 years, sixty-two sevens equals 434 years, together that equals 483 years. Then the Anointed One, Jesus the Messiah will be killed. This opened the way for the Gentiles and ushered in the church age. Since the 490 years have to do with Israel only, we see a break in the counting of the years until one wonderful and amazing event described in I Thessalonians 4:16-18. This event is often referred to as the rapture of the church. Can you imagine the panic which will ensue when Believers are taken out of this world. There will be mass confusion when this takes place. Everything holy and good is gone and the Anointed One (Jesus) is utterly rejected. Then there will be one last seven-year period. According to Daniel 9:26-27, what will be the events of this final seven-year period?



39. Read Matthew 24:4-16. The antichrist will set up an abomination, in the temple of God in Jerusalem, and demand everyone worship him. This is the same horrific event spoken of in Daniel 9:27. Read Matthew 24:21-22
What will the world be like at this time?

40. These verses are not here to cause fear. They are included to wake us up to the signs of the end...that are coming. This is a time for serious consideration.
The Lord paid a great price so that we can repent, and our sins will be forgiven and be a part of God's family. We will then spend eternity with him.
However, Jesus will not force anyone. He simply offers forgiveness and restoration.

If this is something, you would like to hear more about please talk to your small group leader or contact me.
Kathypatton16@gmail.com

God's grace is too amazing to miss, and eternity is too long to be wrong.

NOTES