

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

VII. Daniel's *Testimony* of His Visions and Prophetic Revelation (7:1-12:13)

- A. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts (7:1-8)
- B. The *Vision* of God (7:9-10)
- C. The *Vision* of the 4 Beasts Continued (7:11-12)
- D. The *Vision* of the "Son of Man" (7:13-14)
- E. The *Vision* of the 4th Beast Interpreted (7:15-28)
- F. The *Vision* of the Ram, Goat, and Small Horn (8:1-28)

G. The *Prophecy* of the Seventy Weeks (9:1-27)

{Part One}

1. Daniel's Prayer for the Restoration of Israel (9:1-19)

a. His *Calculation* of Jeremiah's Prophecy (9:1-2)

⁹ In the **first year** of **Darius** the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made **king** over the kingdom of the **Chaldeans**—

² in the **first year** of his reign, I, **Daniel**, observed in the **books** the **number** of the **years** which was *revealed* as the **word** of the **LORD** to **Jeremiah** the prophet for the **completion** of the **desolations** of **Jerusalem**, *namely*, **seventy years**.

b. His *Commitment* to Prayer (9:3)

³ So I gave **my attention** to the **Lord God** to **seek Him** by **prayer** and **supplications**, with **fasting**, **sackcloth** and **ashes**.

c. His *Confession* of the Sinfulness of Israel (9:4-11)

⁴ I **prayed** to the **LORD my God** and **confessed** and said,
"Alas, **O Lord**, the **great** and **awesome God**, who keeps **His covenant** and **lovingkindness** for those who **love Him** and keep **His commandments**,
⁵ we have **sinned**, committed **iniquity**, acted **wickedly** and **rebelled**,
even **turning aside** from **Your commandments** and **ordinances**.

⁶ Moreover, we have **not listened** to **Your servants** the **prophets**,
who **spoke** in **Your name** to our **kings**, our **princes**,
our **fathers** and **all the people** of the land.

⁷“**Righteousness** belongs to **You, O Lord**, but to us **open shame**, as it is this day—to the men of **Judah**, the inhabitants of **Jerusalem** and **all Israel**, those who are **nearby** and those who are **far away** in all the countries to which You have **driven them**, because of their **unfaithful deeds** which they have committed **against You**.

⁸ **Open shame** belongs to us, **O Lord**, to our **kings**, our **princes** and our **fathers**, because we have **sinned** against **You**.

⁹ To the **Lord our God** *belong* **compassion** and **forgiveness**, for we have **rebelled** against **Him**; ¹⁰ **nor** have we **obeyed** the **voice** of the **LORD our God**, to **walk** in **His teachings** which **He** set before us through **His servants** the **prophets**.

¹¹ Indeed **all Israel** has **transgressed** **Your law** and **turned aside**, **not obeying** **Your voice**; so the **curse** has been **poured out** on us, along with the **oath** which is written in the **law of Moses** the **servant of God**, for we have **sinned** against **Him**.

d. His *Confirmation* of God’s **Righteous Judgment** (9:12-15)

¹² Thus **He** has **confirmed** **His words** which **He** had spoken **against us** and **against** our **rulers** who ruled us, to bring on us **great calamity**; for under the whole heaven there has **not** been done *anything* like what was done to **Jerusalem**.

¹³ As it is **written** in the **law of Moses**, all this **calamity** has come on us; yet we have **not sought** the **favor** of the **LORD our God** by **turning** from our **iniquity** and giving **attention** to **Your truth**.

¹⁴ **Therefore** the **LORD** has **kept** the **calamity** in **store** and brought it **on us**; for the **LORD our God** is **righteous** with respect to all **His deeds** which **He** has done, but we have **not obeyed** **His voice**.

¹⁵ “And now, **O Lord our God**, who have brought Your people out of the land of **Egypt** with a mighty hand and have made **a name** for **Yourself**, as it is this day—we have **sinned**, we have been **wicked**.

e. His *Compassionate Plea* for the **Restoration** of **Israel** (9:16-19)

¹⁶ **O Lord**, in **accordance** with **all** Your **righteous acts**, let now **Your anger** and **Your wrath** **turn away** from **Your city Jerusalem**, **Your holy mountain**; for **because** of our **sins** and the **iniquities** of our **fathers**, **Jerusalem** and **Your people** *have become* a **reproach** to **all** those around us.

¹⁷ So now, **our God**, **listen** to the **prayer** of **Your servant** and to his **supplications**, and for **Your sake**, **O Lord**, let **Your face shine** on **Your desolate sanctuary**.

¹⁸ **O my God**, incline **Your ear** and **hear!** **Open Your eyes** and **see** our **desolations** and the **city** which is called by **Your name**; for we are **not** presenting our **supplications** before **You** on **account** of **any merits** of our own, but on **account** of Your **great compassion**.

¹⁹ O Lord, *hear!* O Lord, *forgive!* O Lord, *listen* and *take action!*
For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because *Your city*
and *Your people* are called by *Your name*.”

Daniel’s “Affective” Prayer... Key Observations for *Application*

1. Daniel was prompted to *pray* because he was looking at Jeremiah’s prophecy, and saw that the number of years (70years) concerning the desolations of Jerusalem were at a completion (9:1-2). He *prayed* and *petitioned* God on the basis of His prophetic promise. (Jer. 25:11-12, 29:10)

As we pray, we too can *petition* God on the basis of His prophetic promises and the truths contained in His word.

Let’s hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is *faithful*; (Hebrews 10:23)

2. Daniel made a personal commitment to spend *time* in *prayer* to the Lord God. In preparation for *prayer*, he *fasted* and *humbled himself* (9:3).

As we pray and *petition* God, we too must take *time* to fully focus our attention on Him, and humble our hearts before Him.

For My hand made all these *things*,
So all these *things* came into being,” declares the LORD.

“But I will look to *this one*,

At one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at My word.
(Isaiah 66:2)

3. Daniel began his *prayer* with praise to God, proclaiming His *greatness*, His *faithfulness*, and His *lovingkindness*. He also praised the Lord for His *righteousness*, *compassion*, and *forgiveness* (9:4, 7, 9).

As we pray and *petition* God, we also should begin by praising and glorifying Him for the great and loving God that He is, and for the multitude of blessings He has bestowed on us.

Ascribe to the LORD, sons of the mighty,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
Worship the LORD in holy attire. (Psalm 29:1)

4. Daniel’s *prayer* consisted of a heartfelt, detailed confession of Israel’s sins that brought about God’s righteous judgment upon them. Daniel confessed that:

Israel had **sinned**, committed **iniquity**, acted **wickedly** and **rebelled** (9:5a),
Israel had **turned aside** from **God's commandments** and **ordinances**, (9:5b),
Israel had **not listened** to the **prophets**, who spoke to **all the people** (9:6)
Israel had been **openly shameful** (9:7a,8),
Israel had been **scattered** among the **nations** because of their **unfaithful deeds** (9:7b),
Israel had **not obeyed** the **voice** and **teachings** of the **Lord** through **His prophets** (9:10),
Israel had **transgressed** **God's law**, and a **curse** had been "**poured out**" upon **them** (9:11).

As we pray, it is vital that we spend time **confessing our sins** before **God**, seeking **His forgiveness**, and **acknowledging** our **need** for **repentance** before **Him**.
Confession of sins, whether it be on behalf of an *individual* or a *nation*, has been a key **characteristic** of many of the **affective prayers** and **petitions** we see in the **Bible**.
(Ezra 9:5-15) (Nehemiah 1:6-7) (Psalm 51) (Matthew 6:12)

5. **Daniel** in his **prayer acknowledged** that **God** was **righteous** in bringing **judgment** and "**calamity**" upon **Israel**. For **He** had **warned** them (**Israel**), through the **prophets** and in the **law** what would happen if they did **not turn** from their **iniquity**, and had **continued** in their **sin** (9:12-15). (Jer. 44:2-6)

As we pray, it is important to **acknowledge** that **God** is **righteous** in **all His judgments**. As **His children**, and like **He** did with **Israel**, **God** may choose to "**discipline**" us for a **season** through **trials** and **suffering**, that we might **learn obedience** and the **way of righteousness**. (I Peter 5:10) (Hebrews 12:7-11)

6. **Daniel's prayerful appeal** to **God** for **Israel's restoration** was based on a number of **reasons**→
- **He knew** from **prophetic scripture** that the **70 year judgment** was almost **complete** (9:1-2)
 - **He appealed** to **God** to restore **His people**, **His sanctuary**, and **His city Jerusalem** for **His name's sake** (9:17-19).
 - **He appealed** to **God**, knowing that **Israel merited nothing**, but on the **basis** to **God's great compassion** (9:18).

Closing Quote

“If **prayer** to **God** can be called **persuasive**,
Daniel's prayer certainly merits this description.
Daniel, in his **holy life**, his **careful preparation** in **approaching God**,
his uncompromising **confession of sin**,
and his **appeal to God's holy character** as the **One**
who is both **righteous** and **merciful**,
illustrates the **kind** of prayer **God delights to answer**.
Daniel, led by the **Spirit of God**, had expressed precisely
the **prayer** that **God** had **wanted to hear** and **wanted to answer**.”
(John F. Walvoord)