



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 9

1. It's been 70 years since the beginning of captivity and Daniel reads in Jeremiah that it's over! (Daniel 9:1-2). It's the first year of the Persian empire and Daniel is curious about the healing of his people, and the future.

2. God gives Daniel incredible insight into the future. Read Daniel 9:24-27. Notice that the term 'weeks' translates as 'sevens'. God is saying there are seventy 7-year periods, or 490 years decreed.

- Who is the prophecy for, and what will be accomplished (v. 24)?
 - What marks the beginning of the prophecy? (v. 25). Notice what happened in March of 444B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1). What will be accomplished after the first 49 years?
 - What will happen at the end of the 483 years (7+62 weeks)?
 - What will happen during the final 7-year period (v. 26b-27)?
- How does the knowledge of the future help to bolster your faith? Discuss.

3. Daniel received great understanding from God based on the preceding prayer (v. 3-23). It was a humble national confession. Break up this passage into sections and discuss the prayer:

- The posture of humility (v. 3)
- Stating the problem (v. 4-6)
- Stating our condition (v. 7-10)
- Stating the hardness of our hearts (v. 11-13)
- Affirming the goodness of God, and not blaming. (v. 14-15)
- Clarifying our Motives (v. 16-19)

Notice that the purpose of humble confession is not for us to prosper, but for God's name to be exalted. At this point God gives Daniel great insight and understanding stating that he is 'greatly loved' (v. 20-23).

Application

Practice prayers of national confession this week. State where we as a nation have failed and walked away from God. How have we all be part of this? See what insights God gives you in the process.

Message Outline

Daniel 9

Introduction- Daniel 9:1-2

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

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Jeremiah 25:11-12

... shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon ...

I. Seventy 'Sevens' (v. 24-27 NASB)

²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

I. Seventy 'Sevens'- 490 Years (v. 24-27 NASB)

7 + 62 = 69 'sevens'- 483 years

²⁵ So you are to know and understand *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, *there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks*; it will be built again, *with* streets and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

I. Seventy 'Sevens'- 490 Years (v. 24-27 NASB)

1 'seven'- 7 years

and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”

Big Idea: Humble Confession is the doorway to Understanding

II. Humble Confession (v. 3-19)

³Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

A. Deep Awareness of the Problem (v. 4-13)

1. Stating the Problem (v. 4-6)

⁴I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. ⁶We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

A. Deep Awareness of the Problem (v. 4-13)

2. Stating Our Condition (v. 7-10)

⁷To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. ⁸To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. ⁹To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him ¹⁰and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

2 Chron. 7:14

If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

A. Deep Awareness of the Problem (v. 4-13)

3. Stating the Hardness of Heart (v. 11-13)

¹¹All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. ¹²He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled

us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. ¹³As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth.

II. Humble Confession (v. 3-19)

B. Affirming the Goodness of God (v. 14-15)

¹⁴Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. ¹⁵And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

II. Humble Confession (v. 3-19)

C. Clarifying Our Motives (v. 16-19)

¹⁶“O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. ¹⁷Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. ¹⁸O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

II. Humble Confession (v. 3-19)

A. Deep Awareness of the Problem (v. 4-13)

B. Affirming the Goodness of God (v. 14-15)

C. Clarifying Our Motives (v. 16-19)

D. Insight and Understanding (v. 20-23)

²⁰While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, ²¹while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. ²²He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. ²³At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

Big Idea: Humble Confession is the doorway to Understanding

