

“The effective prayer of a righteous man...” (James 5:16)
Or alternatively,
“The righteous _____ of an effective _____” (Daniel 9)

Who is Daniel?

(Daniel 1:1-6)

- This 1st invasion of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, according to secular history, was 606-605 BC.
- Daniel was probably around 15-17 years old when he was taken to Babylon.
- As we have learned in our study of Daniel, he became a trusted, faithful and wise adviser to the kings of Babylon.

Book of Daniel Outline

- Chapter 1 – Daniel & Israel in Captivity (written in Hebrew)
- Chapters 2-7 – **Prophecies** concerning the destiny of the _____ Nations (written in Aramaic)
- Chapters 8-12 – **Prophecies** concerning the destiny of _____ (written in Hebrew)

The Setting (9:1-2a) – “*In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign*”

- First year = according to secular history this would have been 539 BC
- Daniel, at this point, is probably in his eighties.

(Dan 5:30-31) – “*... the Chaldean king was slain. So Darius the Mede received the kingdom...*”

(Dan 6:1-3) – “*... Daniel began distinguishing himself ... and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.*”

Who is Darius the Mede?

1. One and the same ruler as Cyrus the Persian (Cyrus the Great – conqueror of the Babylonians)
 2. Or, a co-regent aligned with Cyrus (made king over the Babylonians 5:31; 9:1)
- In my opinion, biblical statements support #2 is the most likely option.

The Observation (9:2b) - “*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.*”

(Jer 25:8-12) – “*... against all these nations round about ... these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years ... Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation...*”

(Jer 29:10-14) – “*... When seventy years have been completed for Babylon ... You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart...*”

How do we make sense of these prophecies from Jeremiah?

1. From 25:11 - the surrounding nations will serve the king of Babylon for 70 years
2. From 25:12 - “when the 70 years are completed” the Lord will punish the king of Babylon and that nation.
3. Therefore the 70 years of Jer. 25:11 & 29:10, “have been completed” at the time Babylon is punished.
4. Since the punishment of Babylon and its king is reasonably determined as Babylon’s fall to the Medo-Persians in 539 BC, the 70 years must have begun 70 years earlier, or around 609 BC.
5. This fits with the view of scholars who see the Babylonians asserting final control the Assyrians (Ashur-uballit II) in 609 BC, and beginning to control the nations surrounding Judah, just as Jeremiah had prophesied. Note: This was also the year that Josiah, king of Judah, was killed trying to prevent Pharaoh Neco from helping Ashur-uballit II.
6. The fact that in Daniel 9:2 (1st year of Darius = 539 BC), Daniel mentions “observing” the 70 years from Jeremiah, indicates strongly that Daniel believed the 70 years from Jeremiah were completed.
7. Therefore, Daniel begins pray as the Lord directed in Jeremiah 29:12ff.

The Righteous Man of An Effective Prayer (9:3-19)

How does the Bible speak of Daniel?

- **Righteous** - Ezekiel 14:14,20 – “even though ... Daniel was in its midst...” could only save self.
- **Wise** – Ezekiel 28:3ff – “behold, you are wiser than Daniel” – Satan’s wisdom compared
- **Faithful** – Heb 11:33 – “who by faith... shut the mouths of lions”
- **Highly esteemed (beloved) in heaven** - Daniel 9:23, 10:11
- **Spiritually Disciplined** - Daniel developed a habit of a lifestyle of prayer, even if it cost him his life (Daniel 6)
 - a. Prayer 3 times a day (Dan 6:10; 1Ki 8:44-45; Ps 55:16-17)
 - b. Discipline for godliness, from a young age (Dan 1:8-9; 1:17-21; 2:17-23,28; 1 Tim 4:7-8)

What does Daniel’s prayer teach us about a man who we should all aspire to be like?

1. Daniel studied and believed that God’s written Word was Divine Revelation
 - a. Observed in the books... the Word of the LORD to Jeremiah (v.2)
 - b. His covenant... His commandments... and ordinances (v.4,5)
 - c. Your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name (v.6)
 - d. Voice of the Lord... His teachings... set before us (v.10,14)
 - e. Your law... Your voice... written in the law of Moses (v.11,13)
 - f. Confirmed His Words... spoken against us (v.12)
 - g. Listen... shine... hear... see (v.18-19 » Jer 29:12-14 call upon, pray... I will listen and be found)
 - h. Searched and sought to know (1Pet 1:10-12)

2. Daniel's attitude of true humility affected the way he approached God in prayer

- a. Gave attention (v.3)
- b. Sought Him (v.3)
- c. Fasting (v.3)
- d. Sackcloth (v.3)
- e. Ashes (v.3)
- f. Confession (v.3)

3. Daniel's knowledge of God and His plans, as revealed in His Word, were the inspiration for his prayers

- a. "So" (v.3)
- b. "The LORD", "God", or pronoun (64x)
- c. Great and awesome (v.4)
- d. Keeps his covenant (v.4)
- e. Keeps lovingkindness (v.4)
- f. Spoke to people through prophets (v.6,9)
- g. Righteousness (in all his deeds) belongs to (v.7,14,16)
- h. Compassion belongs to (v.9,18)
- i. Forgiveness belongs to (v.9)
- j. Oath through Moses (v.11)
- k. Confirms his words (v.12)
- l. Brought people out of Egypt (mighty hand) (v.15)
- m. Became angry, wrathful (v.16)
- n. Jerusalem (holy mountain) belong to (v.16)

4. Daniel's confession of grief over his own sin and the sin of his people fueled his desire to intercede for them

- a. We/us/our (34x)
- b. Have sinned (v.5,8,11,15,16)
- c. Committed iniquity (v.5,16)
- d. Acted wickedly (v.5,15)
- e. Rebelled (v.5,9)
- f. Turned aside from your commands (v.5,11)
- g. Not listened to the prophets (Your servants) (v.6)
- h. Open shame (v.7,8)
- i. Not obeyed His voice or teachings (by prophets) (v.10,11,14)
- j. Transgressed the law (v.11)
- k. Not sought the Lord's favor (v.13)
- l. Not turning from iniquity (v.13)

- m. Not giving attention to God's truth (v.13)
- n. Recognition of deserved consequences instead of blame
 - i. People driven to far away countries (v.7)
 - ii. Oath curse poured out on them (v.11) (Deut 28:1-14; 15-68)
 - iii. Great and unprecedented calamity on Jerusalem (v.12-14,18)
 - iv. Recipients of God's anger and wrath (v.16)
 - v. Became a reproach to surrounding nations (v.16)

5. Daniel trusted in God's righteous character and sought after His glory

- a. What does Daniel desire? Supplication = humble begging
 - i. Turn away from anger and wrath (v.16)
 - ii. Listen to your servant's prayer/supplications (v.17)
 - iii. Let your face shine on your desolate sanctuary (v.17)
 - iv. Incline your ear and hear (v.18)
 - v. Open your eyes and see (v.18)

- b. Why should God answer Daniel's prayer?
 - i. For Your own sake (v.18,19)
 - ii. The desolations of your city (called by your name) (v.18)
 - iii. Not because of our merit (v.18)
 - iv. Because of your compassion (v.18)

- c. Final Plea! O Lord, O Lord, O Lord = Please Lord! Please Lord! Please Lord!
 - i. Hear, Listen, Forgive, Act (v.18,19)
 - ii. Take action!
 - iii. For your sake!
 - iv. Don't delay!
 - v. Your city and people are identified with you! [We want YOU]

Discussion Questions:

1. In the first two verses of Daniel 9, listed are some names, places, and numbers. Write them out. Do you tend to read quickly through verses such as those, or do you slow down and research them? What does God think about these details?
 - Names:
 - Places:
 - Numbers:
2. What is the significance of those names, places and numbers?
3. This chapter highlights fulfilled Bible prophecy and how it impacted a humble man God. How does fulfilled Bible prophecy impact you? Do you know about fulfilled Bible prophecy because someone told you about it, or have you researched some of them for yourself? Does it matter?
4. Daniel's prayer is filled with rich biblical truth, with heartfelt sadness, with genuine confession, with passionate pleas, and with concern for God's glory. Would you say that your prayers are often like that? Why or why not?
5. Reviewing Randy's five aspects of Daniel's godliness, that were made evident in his prayer, Rate yourself for each one (on a scale of 1-10). Then, under each one, if you desire, write out what your plan would be your plan for improvement?

___ An attitude of true humility affecting the way to approach God in prayer

___ Studying and believing that God's written Word is Divine Revelation

___ Knowledge of God and His plans, as revealed in His Word, as the inspiration for prayer

___ Confessing grief over your own sin and the sin of your people fueling a desire to intercede for them

___ Trusting in God's righteous character and valuing His glory

6. If you were to pray today, a prayer like Daniel's, what would that prayer be? May I suggest going through the exercise of writing one out?