



## ***Conviction: Resolute***

### *Daniel 9*

Introduction question: Which of the following restrictions would be most difficult for you: leaving the country permanently, or never leaving the stain in which you now live? Why?

Daniel is an old man now. It's been about 70 years since he left Jerusalem. Frankly, he's lived in Babylon far longer than he ever lived in Jerusalem. Yet he knows he belongs somewhere else. He hasn't forgotten the promises of his God. Daniel hangs onto God's Word with confidence – even after all these years.

Read Daniel 9:2; Jeremiah 25:11-14.

- Daniel connected the dots between and his world God's Word. What sort of approach did he have towards God's Word in his daily life? How should ours be similar or different?

Read Daniel 9:3-15. Daniel's knowledge of, and confidence in, God's Word led him to pray. The Bible says he prayed, put on sackcloth and ashes, and made confession. Fasting is an expression of sacrifice and self-denial. Putting on sackcloth and ashes was an expression of contrition and repentance.

- Consider the verses you just read, what in particular about Daniel's prayer in response to God's Word stands out to you?
- Has there ever been a time in your life where you prayed according to specific promises from God's Word? If yes, explain.
- What situations do people face now where it is appropriate to pray God's promises?
- How do you feel about the idea that God continued to bring disaster on the people of Judah? Do you think God does this kind of thing today? Is every disaster a result of God's wrath? Why or why not?

Read Daniel 9:16-19. Daniel prayed for God to restore Jerusalem and His people because it would ultimately bring glory to God's name (In the books of Ezra and Nehemiah we know that God answered this prayer and glorified his name).

- If God desires to answer prayer in order to glorify His name, how should that cause us to pray differently throughout this week?
- What is the relationship between repentance and deliverance? If we are saved by grace, does this pattern continue in the life of the Christian? How is it the same or different?
- Notice throughout this passage Daniel uses the first-person plural "we." Why does he pray in this way? Should we pray for the church in the same fashion?

Set aside a few extra minutes this morning for prayer as a group.