

“Confess to a Merciful God”

Daniel 9:1-19

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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—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.

Jeremiah 25:11-12 – “This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste.”

Jeremiah 29:10-14 – “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

A. Learn from Daniel’s _____

Diagnostic Question:

Does God’s Word _____ your prayers?

B. Learn from Daniel’s _____

1. _____ God’s Greatness (9:4)

Daniel 9:4 – I 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.”

Diagnostic Question:

Do you _____ to whom you are speaking?

2. _____ Your Sins (9:5-15)

Daniel 9:5, 13 – “We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules... As 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.”

Diagnostic Question:

Do you _____ confess your sins to God? How often?

3. _____ for God’s Mercy (9:16-19)

Daniel 9:16, 18b-19a – “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... For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God...”

1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Diagnostic Question:

Are your prayers influenced by a concern for God’s _____?

Discussion Questions

- Read Jeremiah 25:1-14 & Jeremiah 29:1-14 for the context of Daniel’s prayer. What did God promise for His people? Which promises are fulfilled by the time of Daniel 9? Which remain unfulfilled? How did Daniel respond upon reading these promises and partial fulfillments?
- If God is sovereign to fulfill His promises, why is it essential for His people to pray? Consider Luke 11:1-13 in your discussion.
- Paul provides an example of how we should react to our sin in 2 Cor. 7:8-11. Describe the contrast between what Paul calls “godly grief” and “worldly grief.” Differentiate between hating your sin (for sinning against God and people) and hating the consequences for your sin.
- Review the Diagnostic Questions personally and in your group’s discussion.
- Pray that God would fulfill His promise in Revelation 22:20 – *He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*