

# Daniel

## Part 12 – Prayers, Weeks, and Messiah

### Daniel 9

#### Daniel's Prayer

- Arose from the Scriptures and the changes of his society and situation (v.1-2)
  - Darius the Mede now the king, Babylonians out
  - Read and studied Jeremiah 25.11-12, 29.10
- Confession was at its heart (v.3-15)
  - Greatness of God (v.4, 7, 9, 14, 15)
  - Sinfulness of Israel (v.5, 6, 8, 10-14)
    - Don't miss it – he was confessing the sin of his entire people, not just his own sin (but that too – v.20)
    - We have lost the idea that sin – not just pain or blessing – affects the Body of Christ too (cf. 1 Cor. 5)
    - "I can't confess something that I haven't done" – individual responsibility without corporate connection is a product of Descartes' "I think therefore I am," not of Jesus the Messiah
- Only hope is in God (v.16-19)
  - You have been faithful in your judgment, now be faithful in your mercy
  - We don't have a leg to stand on, so please show us mercy
  - "For your name's sake" = don't forget who you said you are

#### Gabriel's Prophecy

- There's a time period and a plan (v.24)
  - What exactly the time period is and to whom each description corresponds has been up for debate for centuries (even St. Jerome punted – "there are 9 theories, I don't know which one is right")
- The plan was clearer than the timetable – restoration was coming
  - Jerusalem rebuilt by a chosen one (Nehemiah / Ezra) – 445 BC (v.25)
  - A Chosen One will be cut off (Jesus) – 30 AD (v.26)
  - Jerusalem destroyed again because of the abomination (Destruction of temple) – 70 AD (v.26-27)
- Worth remembering and celebrating: God is bringing about His agenda
  - Ephesians 1.10 – He will sum all things up in Christ
  - Colossians 1.19-22 – He will reconcile all things to Himself in Christ

#### Questions for Discussion

1. What cultural situation or shift is currently driving you to prayer and the Scriptures? What are you finding as you study and pray?

2. If you were to be honest with yourself and God, how well do you with “confession of corporate sin” like Daniel did? And in that same honesty, what would be the first thing you’d confess to God?
3. Reread Ephesians 1.7-10 and Colossians 1.19-22. Where do you see the individual part of redemption in each passage? Where do you see the cosmic part of redemption? How do they relate to one another in the passages? Where do you tend to focus?
4. COVID Check-in: How are you? Your family? Your neighbors? Your One?