

(Daniel 9:1 NKJV) In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—**(Daniel 9:2 NKJV)** in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

We are now about 13 years after the vision of the Ram-Goat. Daniel was in his 80's. We don't know whether the Lion's Den incident was before or after this.

It is several years before the end of the Babylonian captivity:

Jeremiah 25:11-13 NKJV And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. **(12)** 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation. **(13)** So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations.

Jeremiah 29:8-11 NKJV For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. **(9)** For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. **(10)** For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. **(11)** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The 70 years was the punishment for violating the Sabbath rest for the land every 7 years and every 50 years for the Jubilee year. There was 130 years of rest required since the time when Joshua conquered the land. It was calculated that there were 70 years of violations and therefore God forced the rest upon the land by removing His people from it. I also read

Note that while this was under the reign of Darius, he was “made king” by Cyrus, the rightful ruler.

Isaiah 44:28 NKJV Who says of Cyrus, '*He is* My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' **Isaiah 45:1** "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: **(2)** 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. **(3)** I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call *you* by your name, *Am* the God of Israel. **(4)** For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

(Daniel 9:3 NKJV) Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

Perhaps Daniel is trying to figure out that, if the time is near, why hasn't he witnessed any movement towards return of the Jews to their land? So, he goes to the only One who can help! He goes to the LORD in fasting, sackcloth and ashes, all signs of mourning and contrition and humility, attitudes of the heart and not some "magic charms" that might impress God! He "sets his face", that is, he is determined to pray and pray big!

(Daniel 9:4 NKJV) And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,

All great prayer starts with an acknowledgement of Who God Is! From an OT perspective, His covenant with Moses was dependent on His children loving Him and obeying Him. But, He always kept His covenant! He blessed and He cursed and Daniel understood this very well. He also knew that the curses He poured out would soon be withdrawn.

(Daniel 9:5 NKJV) **we** have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

In all Daniel's confessions, he includes himself in the confession of sin along with the nation of Israel. Daniel, while being "beloved" of God, saved by God and anointed by God, includes himself because when He contemplates the glory and majesty of God, he cannot but see how unrighteous he truly is.

This attitude kept Daniel from complaining to God and compelled him to confess instead!

Daniel mentions "sin", "iniquity", "wickedness", "rebellion", and "departure". All these words are confessed because Daniel understood the depths of the peoples sin

Hosea 6:7 NKJV "But like men they transgressed the covenant; There they dealt treacherously with Me.

(Daniel 9:6 NKJV) Neither have we heeded Your servants the **prophets**, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.

God sent prophets, great men who spoke the very words of God. They spoke from the highest in the land to the commonest in the land. But to no avail.

(Daniel 9:7 NKJV) O Lord, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us shame of face, as *it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.*

It didn't matter if the Jews were scattered across the known earth. His is the glory, theirs is the shame. The responsibility lies on those who were unfaithful.

(Daniel 9:8 NKJV) "O Lord, to us *belongs* shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have **sinned** against You.

Repeated with the reason: sin.

(Daniel 9:9 NKJV) To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have **rebelled** against Him.

God remains merciful and forgiving even though Israel has rebelled against Him!

(Daniel 9:10 NKJV) We have **not obeyed** the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets.

Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. (6) And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Eighteen times in the book of Deuteronomy, the LORD asked them to obey His voice. Each entreaty came with blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

Even Jesus spoke of hearing His voice.

John 10:3-5 NKJV *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. (4) And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. (5) Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."*

(Daniel 9:11 NKJV) Yes, all Israel has **transgressed** Your law, and has **departed** so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against **Him**.

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

And over fifty verses are dedicated to the LORD's hot displeasure.

Unbelievably, it will be worse in the End of Days for the LORD will pour out His wrath on the entire world, even His rebellious people Israel.

(Daniel 9:12 NKJV) And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

Never before was a specific nation singled out for this level of disaster.

(Daniel 9:13 NKJV) "As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come

upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.

And even though this was promised and it then occurred, the people did not pray to the One who would listen and perhaps relent. The prayer would be such that the LORD might grant them repentance as they came to the TRUTH of Who He was: a God who says what He means and then is faithful to His promises...Did He not say

Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

(Daniel 9:14 NKJV) Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.

The LORD does not forget! Never think that if you are not disciplined or if consequences are not soon seen that the LORD has dismissed your sin. Do not let that kind of thinking dull your heart and ears to His grace and mercy.

(Daniel 9:15 NKJV) And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! (16) "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *are* a reproach to all *those* around us.

Daniel remembers the Exodus and how the LORD redeemed a rebellious people. And how Moses pleaded with Him when they built the golden calf:

Exodus 32:7-14 NKJV And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted *themselves*. (8) They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' " (9) And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it *is* a stiff-necked people! (10) Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." (11) Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? (12) Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. (13) Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your

descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.' " (14) So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

(Daniel 9:17 NKJV) Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the **Lord's sake** cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. (18) O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, **and the city which is called by Your name;** for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, **but because of Your great mercies.** (19) O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for **Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."**

“Oh! That you studied your Bibles more! Oh! That we all did! How we could plead the promises! How often we should prevail with God when we could hold him to his word, and say, ‘Fulfill this word unto thy servant, whereon thou hast caused me to hope.’ Oh! It is grand praying when our mouth is full of God’s word, for there is no word that can prevail with him like his own.” (Spurgeon)

If you are frustrated in prayer, read and re-read this prayer. See the attitude of Daniel; read the confessions; read the adorations; Start here, bending the knee of your hearts. Be bold to remind God of His goodness and His covenants – He doesn’t need reminding as much as He desires to know and understand His greatness, His enduring love, grace and mercy. We cannot approach Him as if He were a man that is to be influenced by vain flattery...No, with full assurance of His Word, with the boldness of knowing He will listen to His child, cry out to Him. You must then rest in the truth that He will answer Your prayer with your best interests in mind, even if He says ‘No’.