

Daniel 9

TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER

Daniel, now knowing of the 70 years, does not know what follows after the 70 year period. He did not know if the termination of the **70 years of captivity** would be followed by the Messianic Redemption.

Note what Daniel does in this time of uncertainty in his life and in the nation's life. Note carefully what his searching the scriptures, books of the Bible, causes him to do—**TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER!**

UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE

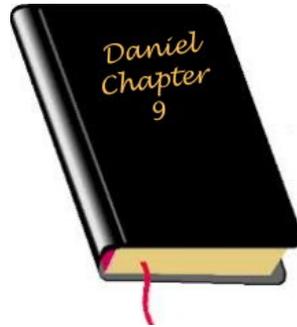
REQUIRES ILLUMINATION: By HOLY SPIRIT and By PRAYER.

Daniel 9:4-13

דניאל 9 Chapter Daniel

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|---|---|
| <p>א בשנת אחת, לדריגוש בן-אחשורוש--מזרע מדי: אשר המלך, על מלכות כשדים.</p> | <p>1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;</p> |
| <p>ב בשנת אחת, למלכו, אני דניאל, בינתי בספרים: מספר השנים, אשר היה דבר-יהוה אל-ירמיה הנביא, למלאות לחרבות ירושלם, שבעים שנה.</p> | <p>2 in the first year of his reign I Daniel meditated in the books, over the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish for the desolations of Jerusalem seventy years.</p> |
| <p>ג ואתנה את-פני, אל-אדני האלהים, לבקש תפלה, ותחנונים-- בצום, ושק ואפר.</p> | <p>3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes.</p> |
| <p>ד ואתפללה ליהוה אלהי, ואתוודה; ואמרה, אנה אדני האל הגדול והנורא, שמר הברית והחסד, לאהביו ולשמרי מצותיו.</p> | <p>4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made confession, and said: 'O Lord, the great and awful God, who keepest covenant and mercy with them that love Thee and keep Thy commandments,</p> |

Daniel 9 is a small Bible in itself.



We have a deep study of God, or

THEOLOGY PROPER

We have a study of **BIBLIOLOGY**,

or **of the Bible**

We have a study of sin, or

HAMARTIOLOGY

with some 9 words for sin

We have a study of

HISTORY-PROPHECY

from God's perspective

We have a study of

The Coming MESSIAH.

We have a rare study on

Prayer

Daniel addresses God by 1 of 4 different names use
some 30 times in just 20 verses of his prayer.

This does not include the personal pronouns, *YOU*, and *YOURS*.

We could spend a great deal of time just on
the **ESSENCE OF GOD** from Daniel 9.

I encourage you to just read Daniel 9:1-20 concentrating on his
addressing God. Remember, this is one of the Great chapters in the bible
on prayer. [THE ENTIRE CHAPTER 9 CAN BE FOUND IN THE LAST PAGES OF THIS PRINTOUT]

Daniel 9:1-3

¹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—

² in the first year of his reign, 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.

³ So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:3

3... *So*

He made up his mind where he is going to turn

3... *I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.*

His humbleness in prayer

We have two (2) descriptions of his thinking

wisdom includes learning how to pray

The Hebrew word for PRAYER

refers to a **prayer with an attitude of plea.**

It (**PRAYER**) is used in the same context as here, where King Hezekiah was instructed to pray for the remnant who survived.

But from Jeremiah we learn something important about **PRAYER FOR THE NATION**, where Jeremiah warns against praying this prayer of plea for a decadent people....much like the people in America today.

Then we have the word

3... *and supplications*

—asking for a favor, pleading for mercy.

We now come to HIS **PRAYER**.

3... | *prayed to the LORD my God*

I pleaded in prayer to the Lord my God.

People, when you pray, be ever so mindful of just whom you are praying. This will guide you things you can pray and things you cannot pray.

Now I want to point out something extremely important.

Whom do you love and whom do you **HIGHLY ESTEEM?**

(Someone who you know and love,

but also someone you respect and know intimately

and still love and respect!)

Before we look at this prayer I want you to see

how intimately Daniel both knows and loves God.

In this one prayer... he begins with **FOUR DIFFERENT NAMES OF GOD** indicating **FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS DANIEL KNOWS AND RESPECTS GOD.**

Note verse 4,

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and loving-kindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, Lord, my God, ... O Lord ...awesome God.

The English bible here uses just two different words for God

which loses the importance of our Knowing God.

He starts out

***⁴ ... I pray to the Lord 'YHWH' my God 'Elohim'
Alas O Lord 'Adoni' great and awesome God 'El'.***

This is knowing God intimately.

Let's see what all we learn about Daniel and his God.

People, don't turn this into legalism; don't try to impress God, as is the way of a Pharisee; don't throw out these names of God to impress God... He is not impressed with our 'show'. But when you know what a name of God means, you will be led of Holy Spirit when you address Him.

4 ... To the Lord—who is my God

To the Lord **YHWH** the sacred name of God, by which He identified Himself to Moses—noting His eternal existence—

”I am that I am”

It is the personal name of God

Daniel uses it because he knows he has a personal relationship .

4 ... To the YHWH who is my God.

Not Allah... not some God you have conjured up in your own mind.

To pray effectively to God you have to **KNOW** God!

THERE ARE PROBABLY A BILLION PRAYERS THAT ARE PRAYED EVERY DAY,
YET GOD PROBABLY HEARS VERY FEW OF THEM.

Here is where **PROPERLY UNDERSTANDING** the Bible is paramount.

Doctrine is so valuable.

*Oh, it sounds so wonderful to say
“God hears the prayers of everyone;”
but God Himself says many times that
He does not hear prayers... but actually turns away.*

*People, to know and understand God
demands that are guided by Scripture,
not by our emotions.*

⁴ ...I pray to the Lord-YHWH my (personal) God

Here Daniel uses the name ***Elohim***.

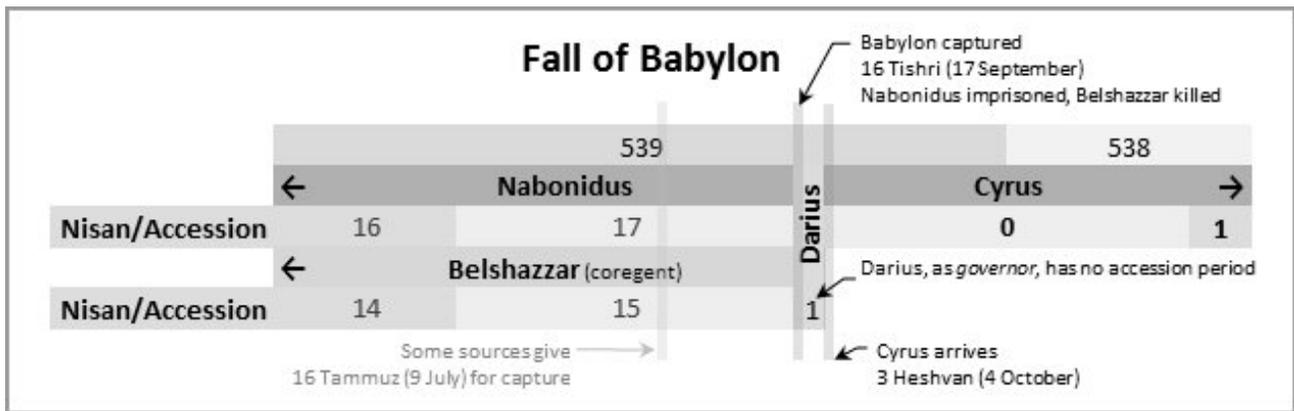
First, this is a plural recognizing the TRINITY of our God.

(The Father + The Son + The Holy Spirit)

Elohim is also used

To recognize the Sovereignty of God,
as Creator of All Things.

For the time: 539-538 bc, in a time of great historical upheaval when
Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian empire.



And note that by the time of Daniel there was the collection of sacred books considered authoritative.

List of the books considered by Daniel as the WORD OF GOD:

**Jeremiah, Leviticus, 2 Chronicles, 2 Samuel,
Deuteronomy, Zechariah, and Isaiah.**

Even though so much was going on in history, and so much was demanded of the time of Daniel, he made time for the study of The WORD OF GOD and prayed 3 times a day. Daniel 2:17-18 and 6:10.

When you are too busy to study the Word of God, you are too busy.

When you are too busy to pray to God, you are too busy.

Another great issue at debate in our present world is interpreting The WORD OF GOD, literally or figuratively.

It is clear to see that Daniel believed in the literal interpretation of Scripture. Daniel wrote that the Babylonian captivity would last 70 years and that is the way Daniel took it, as 70 literal years which were about over.

And finally and very important note that
his prayer was motivated by The WORD OF GOD.

Jeremiah 29:12

¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Daniel 9:4

I prayed to the Lord YHWH my God Elohim

my—showing personal relationship Yahweh my Elohim

Prayer is ALWAYS addressed to God the Father.

Don't miss the movement in this passage

verse 2	<u>I marked</u> for understanding in the books of Jeremiah
verse 3	<u>I gave full attention</u> to the Lord God –to seek Him by prayer and supplication Prayer Preparation
verse 4	<u>I prayed</u> This is in the Hiphil which means he is caused to pray after studying The WORD OF GOD.

The Prayer

Here is wisdom from Daniel:

First, you grasp a concept in WORD OF GOD, *which causes you to give full attention to God*, which motivates you to pray to Him. Even in knowing the PLAN OF GOD, what God has declared to occur we should not disassociate ourselves personally from the PLAN OF GOD. From growing in knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and living in His Power, in our marriage, our employment and our Local Church.

Secondly, another point of wisdom we learn from Daniel wording your prayers in Biblical terms and based on biblical doctrines. All through this prayer Daniel draws from books of the Old Testament, **Jeremiah, Deuteronomy, Isaiah**...etc.

In reading **Jeremiah**, Daniel knows about the 70 years captivity in Babylon, and he knows why the captivity, but what Daniel now desires is knowing what is going to happen to his people.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you

and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.

¹¹ For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

¹⁴ I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

This is what threw Daniel into this great prayer.

JESUS CHRIST knew that His soon-to-come crucifixion would bring great sorrow to the remaining disciples and a few believers but He also knew of His resurrection and the coming Church Age and therefore went into great prayer in John 17.

We could spend a great deal of time just on prayer in Daniel 9

Brief outline of his prayer

as a guide for *wisdom in our own prayers*.

1-4	Praise of God
5-11	Israel's sins
12-14	Recognition of administration of God's Holiness in wrath
15-19	Petition

And note where his prayer begins:

Acknowledgement of The Greatness of God.

⁴ and Confessed and said

Here is one of those words that when people see it they immediately think of 1 John 1:9 *confession of sin*.

But this word is much richer--the Hebrew word means to ACKNOWLEDGE, to PRAISE, to GIVE THANKS.

It Means To Acknowledge What Is Right About God In Praise And Thanksgiving.

All you have to do is to read on, and you will quickly discover

it means to praise God, not confess sin.

Here is where we learn a great deal about God in Daniel 9 and see why it is in the **WISDOM** section of the bible.

⁴ *Alas, O Lord*

The interjection *alas* is used to express the intensity of the gravity of the situation. –to express the pressing desire of the situation.

Sometimes we learn things in scripture that cause intense urgency in our prayers.

⁴ *Alas, O Lord 'Adonai'* –Lord or Master –it is used to express the sole authority of someone. '*my Lord*' expressing the recognition of supreme authority.

Recognition of this fact about God, is not the means of Salvation as is taught in the false gospel called '*lordship Salvation*'

This is the result of knowing Him by walking in His Spirit

—from **abiding** in **The WORD OF GOD**—

growing in the **knowledge** of **JESUS CHRIST**

—PERSONALLY KNOWING HIM INTIMATELY—

⁴ *Alas, O Lord*

This next phrase reveals yet more of what Daniel has learned about God in his 80 years.

⁴ *The great and awesome God*

Here we learn two characteristics of God

⁴ *Great*

Hebrew adjective means **great** and **gives an essence of God**

—**God Is Great In His Very Being**—

It does not mean that God does great things,

it means that **everything God does is great** because **God Is Great**

—Only Great Things Can Come From A Great Being.

⁴ *and awesome*

Granted, one of the definitions of this Hebrew word is **awesome**—

but in context and with the definite article should read:

⁴ *the all fearing God*

Daniel has been speaking about all these powerful empires and ruthless people, but here is *the **ALL POWERFUL**, all fearing God.*

Add to this that we have been studying the Wisdom of Daniel so:

Job 28:28

...behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom

It is not wise to fear these 4 ferocious beast,
it is not wise to fear this Antiochus IV Epiphanies.

It is not even wise to fear the horn
of the last 7 years of time of the Gentiles.

But it is wisdom to fear the Great God, Jehovah Elohim.

Psalm 111:10

*¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
A good understanding have all those who do His
commandments; His praise endures forever.*

HERE IS HOW TO BE HIGHLY ESTEEMED BY GOD:

Know Him As The Great All Fearing God.

⁴ Alas, O Lord, the great and all fearing God

– el

draws attention to the Omnipotence of God---the all-powerful One.

Now Daniel declares more about His God.

⁴ Who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments

⁴ Who keeps

the Hebrew word has the idea of protecting, or guarding – to keep constant watch over His covenant.

The word is used in Genesis 2:15 *Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it*. even before the fall, that is even before weeds, the garden needed to be cultivated--the soil turned...even in perfect environment there is work to be done...but also *keep it*

But here in Daniel 9:4

⁴ the great and fearsome God keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness. This is the rich Hebrew word *chesed* which means **Covenant Love**, from God or Divine Love

⁴ Keeps His covenant

This could refer to the original Abrahamic Covenant or even the Davidic Covenant –since it is referring to return to the land of Palestine.

Or it could refer to the covenant God made with Israel through **Jeremiah** that the captivity would last only 70 years, and then God would bring them back to Palestine. (Jeremiah 29:10-11) Since they all are concerned with the promised land, it probably includes all of these.

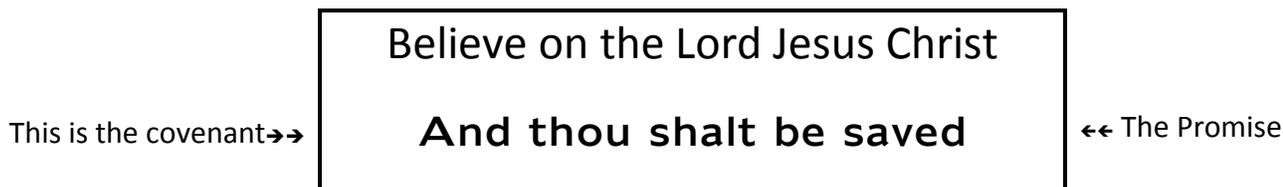
We are not going to go into a study of covenants at this point.

Books are written on just the study of Covenants.

But note that God guards, tends and keeps His covenants.

When the Jews thought of salvation throughout the Old Testament, they thought in terms of Covenant Relationship With God.

And in effect that is what Our Salvation is, a Covenant With God.



And according to passages like Gospel of John 6:29 the only requirement on man is to believe in the one God has sent. He sent His Son for our eternal salvation and He sent His Spirit for our temporal salvation or spiritual recovery from personal sins as we believe in the Holy Spirit.

⁴ *Alas, O Lord* Adonai the great and fearsome God El who keeps His covenant and you we should give thanks every day that God is faithful to His covenants for this is our Eternal Security and lovingkindness this is

Divine Love, dependent on the great faithfulness of God.

⁴ For those who love Him and keep His commandments

OK, here it is for those who love to hold on to a God who takes away Salvation. See, if you don't love Him and if you don't keep His commandments in Mosaic Law, God is not going to remain faithful to His Covenants which means you lose your Salvation if you sin 'big' sins.

First of all this does not say this!

⁴ Those who love Him

We have a different word for love, here **ahab**—referring to **Spiritual Love** that the believer can only love **through the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT by Faith In the HOLY SPIRIT** to receive the fruit of Spiritual Love by trusting the HOLY SPIRIT.

Here we know that Daniel read Deuteronomy 5:10 and 6:5

Deuteronomy 5

¹⁰ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 6

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

This is not talking about human love, sincere love etc.

No one can fulfill this without **faith**, FAITH in the HOLY SPIRIT to pour this love in us. For Daniel is going to now talk about how unfaithful the children of Israel really are, what sinners they are and yet God is going to fulfill His Covenant.

Read Deuteronomy 6:9 and 10

⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ "Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build,

In spite of their rebellion, **God is going to be faithful to His Covenant** and bring these rebellious people back to the promised land of Palestine as He promised He would do.

**But what now causes Daniel
to go into intense prayer to God?**

Daniel 9 (The Complete Chapter Nine is printed below)

Daniel's Prayer for His People

¹ *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—*

² *in the first year of his reign, 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.*

³ *So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.*

⁴ *I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,*

⁵ *we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.*

⁶ *Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.*

⁷ *"Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You.*

⁸ *Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.*

⁹ *To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him;*

¹⁰ *nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets.*

¹¹ *Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with*

the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him.

¹² Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what was done to Jerusalem.

¹³ As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth.

¹⁴ Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

¹⁵ "And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked.

¹⁶ O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.

¹⁷ So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary.

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 are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.

¹⁹ O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Gabriel Brings an Answer

²⁰ Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

²¹ while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

²² He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.

²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

Seventy Weeks and the Messiah

²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

²⁵ So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

From the Book of Proverbs

*The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom:
and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding.*