

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



DANIEL

Faith In His Sovereignty

The Way of Understanding

Daniel 9:1-27

Lesson 15

Background Information

Daniel was reading the prophet Jeremiah, and he suddenly understood that Israel's exile was prophesied to last for seventy years. *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* Jer. 29:10. He understood clearly that their own sin had brought God's judgment against them. He set his heart to cry out a prayer of repentance for the past sins of Israel. He confessed how Israel had departed from the Word of God, and had disregarded the prophets of God, showing their disregard of God Himself. He pleaded earnestly for the Lord to accomplish His Word and come to their rescue.

His own confidence in the Lord caused him to know that God would be faithful to His Word, and soon act to return Israel to the land He had given them. As Daniel worshiped, the Lord sent Gabriel to give Daniel understanding of His plan for the Jewish nation. Daniel's example gives us a pattern for "the way of understanding": search the Word, confess your sin, and cry out in prayer for the Lord to accomplish His Word in your life.

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. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Treasures of the Heart

"O our God, hear your servant's prayer!...
"O my God, lean down and listen to me...
"O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! ...
Daniel 9:17-19 NLT



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Daniel 9:1-19

1 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-- **2** 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.

3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. **4** 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, **5** "we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. **6** "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. **7** "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. **8** "O Lord, to us [belongs] shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. **9** "To the Lord our God [belong] mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. **10** "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. **11** "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. **12** "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. 13 "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. 14 "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. 15 "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. 17 "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."

What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Daniel 9:1-19 _____

Daniel 9:20-23 _____

Daniel 9:24-27 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Daniel 9:1-19 _____

Daniel 9:20-23 _____

Daniel 9:24-27 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst of difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it can help you trust Him when you can't see Him working.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Daniel 9:1-19 _____

Daniel 9:20-23 _____

Daniel 9:24-27 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

... effective prayer comes out of knowing and praying both God's word and our present circumstances. David Gusik

