

Daniel
A Guided Study
for
Christ Community Church



Chapters 9-10

Read Daniel 9

Primer question: What are you praying for these days? How are you praying? What promises do you hold onto as you pray?

The Setting (vv1-3)

Daniel knows his history. In the same year that Belshazzar and Babylon are overthrown, the Medes and Persians take over, the great Persian king Cyrus establishing Darius the Mede as a short-term regent over Babylon (539bc). Daniel has been in Babylon since, likely 605bc.

For context on the "70 years" of desolation for Jerusalem, read Jeremiah 25:1-14 and 29:10-14. What are the reasons Jeremiah gives for this exile? What is the hopeful promise he makes?

In Leviticus 26:27-39, what are the punishments God will assign his people? For what reasons?

Read Lev 26:34, 43. How does Moses describe what happens to the land during this time?

Read how Chronicles 36:20-23 speaks of these 70 years. The land “enjoyed its Sabbath rests.” In addition, Moses law commanded a Sabbath year for the land every seven years and a year of Jubilee after “seven “7s” (see Lev 25:8-10). What is implied by the Chronicler and the length of time prophesied by Jeremiah?

Daniel's Prayer (v4-19)

List the ways Daniel describes who God Is.

Which of these divine attributes stands out to you presently, perhaps due to your season of life? How might God want to encourage you with this truth? Use a concordance to find other Scripture references that help fill out this picture of God.

In one sentence, paraphrase Daniel's understanding of God's character from the clues in this prayer.

What leads to the people's sin (v6, 10, 13)?

What is the result of their sin (7, 11-14, 16)?

What phrase captures the heart of Daniel's petition in 9:15-19 for you? Why?

What is behind Daniel's passionate pleas in v17-19? Why do you think he's freed to be fervent?

God's Response (v20-27)

When does the Lord send a response to Daniel's prayer?

Why?

“As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you” (23). What does this imply about the interaction between Daniel’s prayer and God’s work?

Daniel 9:24-27 have confounded and divided scholars for many years, and there are many streams of interpretation. For a more in-depth comparison of two of the major understandings and a careful defense of one in particular, see this blog post (<https://www.samstorms.com/all-articles/post/daniels-70-weeks>). Our study broadly follows the same conclusions.

List the six purposes of the “70 sevens” of 9:24.

What are the book-end events at either end of 9:25?

How many of the “70 sevens” are spoken of in 9:25?

What is complete by the end of 9:25?

Everything in 9:26-27 take place during the 70th seven. These two verses are not written to be in succession to one another, but – as very common in Hebrew verse – with parallel repetition.

Thus: (A) = 26a
(B) = 26b
(A) = 27a
(B) = 27b

What are the first half of each of the verses (A) describing? How do they describe this event?

Daniel was hoping for a restored Jerusalem (9:15-19), but God answers with the promise of a Messiah to come. In what ways does Jesus fulfill and go beyond Daniel's hopes?

See Luke 4:14-21, Hebrews 9:23-28, Romans 8:1-4

Note the similarities between (B), 26b/27b, and Matthew 24:2, 24:15-28. They are pointing to the era-ending destruction of the Temple in 70ad by the Romans. Why do you think this event is of such significance?

However 9:25-27 works out, we stand firmly on God's decree in v24. Which of these promises brings you the most comfort? The most courage? The most hope?

Are there ways you are limiting God in your mind by what you imagine he can or will do?

Read Daniel 10

Primer question: Have you ever had an encounter with the tangible presence of God? If so, reflect on what stand outs to you from that experience? If not, is the potential more scary, exciting, doubtful, or...? Why?

When does Daniel receive this vision, relative to the one of chapter 9?

What has occurred in between chapters 9-10? (read Ezra 1)

What is Daniel doing before this divine messenger comes? (v2-3)

Where is Daniel when he receives this vision (v4)? What is surprising about this? Why might he be there?

Daniel chs 10-12 form a unit. The "true message" of 10:1 is not actually unpacked until the beginning of 11. Thus, the heart of Daniel 10 is the encounter with God.

List the descriptions of the man Daniel sees in v5-7.

Compare this to the vision in Ezekiel 1 (esp. v25-28) and vision of Christ in Rev 1:12-16. What are the similarities and differences?

How do Daniel's companions respond (v7)? Why?

What is Daniel's response (v8-11)? What can we discern is going on in his mind and soul? What is his posture?

What is the man's response to Daniel (v10-11)?

What is the spiritual condition the messenger seeks to impart to Daniel (v12, 19)? Why?

What does this chapter imply about prayer? See especially v2-3, 12. (bring this together with Daniel 2:18-29, 6:10, 9:20-21)

Daniel 10 pulls back the curtain that we glimpse backstage spiritual warfare (v13-14, v20-21). Describe what is evident to you from the passage, and list questions that remain unanswered. (see also 2 Cor 2:11, Eph. 6:11, Jude 1:9)

What is the messenger doing as he touches Daniel's lips (16)? Compare to Isaiah 6:7 and Jeremiah 1:9. What is the role of a prophet?

Why do you think Daniel was left so physically worn out (v8-9, v15-17) by this experience?

If the vision itself is in chs11-12, what does chapter 10 reveal for us? Why might God have preserved this for his Church?

V19 reveals the true reality that God can give spiritual strength and peace. How does it happen? For what reasons might you need strength and peace in this day? Where/How are you looking to receive them?