

Daniel's Prayer

Dan 9:4-17

SS Lesson for 03/10/2013

Devotional Scripture: James 5:13-18

OUTLINE

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From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

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From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

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God is faithful because His faithfulness is known as great (Lam 3:23)

God is faithful because all God's actions are done in faithfulness (Ps 33:4)

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God is faithful because nothing can nullify God's faithfulness (Rom 3:3)

Acknowledge God's mercy (4)

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PRAYER SEEKS GOD'S GLORY (DAN 9: 17)

God's glorious name (17)

- God's glorious name is glorified over and over daily (John 12:27-28)
- God's name is glorious because there is no other Name that saves (Acts 4:12)
- God's name is glorious because God's Name endures (Neh 9:10)
- God's name is glorious because it is through God's Name that we have been justified (1 Cor 6:11)
- God's name is glorious because God's name reaches to the ends of the earth and is filled with righteousness (Ps 48:10)
- God's name is glorious because God's name needs to praise (Ps 68:4)
- God's name is glorious because it is through God's name that we are delivered (Ps 79:9)
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CONCLUSION AND OTHER THOUGHTS

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS BY BOB DEFFINBAUGH ("DANIEL: RELATING PROPHECY TO PIETY")

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS FROM THE NIV STANDARD LESSON COMMENTARY

PRACTICAL POINTS FROM THE BIBLE EXPOSITOR AND ILLUMINATOR

Introduction

Overview and Approach to Lesson

The lesson examines a confessional **Prayer of Daniel**. The **study's aim** is to teach that someday Jesus will rule forever and ever. The **study's application** is to show that as Christians we can rejoice because soon our Lord Jesus will bring all things under His control.

Key Verse: Daniel 9:9

9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

Commentary on Daniel 9:9 from Barnes Notes Commentary

[*To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses*] Not only does righteousness belong to him in the sense that he has done right, and that he cannot be blamed for what he has done, but mercy and forgiveness belong to him in the sense that he only can pardon, and that these are attributes of his nature.

[*Though we have rebelled against him*] The word used here and rendered "though" may mean either "though" or "for." That is, the passage may mean that mercy belongs to God, and we may hope that he will show it, "although" we have been so evil and rebellious; or it may mean that it belongs to him, and he only can show it, "for" we have rebelled against him; that is, our only hope now is in his mercy, "for" we have sinned, and forfeited all claims to his favor. Either of these interpretations makes good sense, but the latter would seem to be most in accordance with the general strain of this part of the prayer, which is to make humble and penitent confession. In the same way, the passage in Ps 25:11 is rendered, "For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity, for it is great" - though this passage will admit of the other interpretation, "although it is great."

Approach to the Major Outlines in Lesson

The concept of the major outlines came from NIV Standard Lesson Commentary and was determined by reviewing the Scriptural Text.

Verse	Phrase	Major Outline
4	And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession	Prayer Starts with Confession
9	To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness	Prayer for God's Forgiveness
17	For the Lord's sake	Prayer Seeks God's Glory

Lesson Background

From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Daniel's prayer in today's text is best understood when viewed through a wide-angle lens. The national identity of the Israelites had its roots in God's promise to Abraham (who, ironically, was originally from Babylon) that he would become a great nation and that through him all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3). An important element of this promise was God's deliverance of Abraham's descendants from slavery in Egypt (about 1440 BC), bringing them into the promised land. The people's well-being depended on their keeping God's law. Should the Israelites fail in that, God vowed to deliver them into their enemies' hands (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). By Daniel's time many centuries later, that is exactly what had happened. The Israelites had forsaken God's ways, and God had kept his Word to judge them. Judgment was not, however, God's last word. He also foretold that should the Israelites return to him wholeheartedly, then he would restore their fortunes (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). This is the most important background to Daniel's prayer in today's

text. Daniel offered his prayer in “the first year of Darius... who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom” (Daniel 9:1). We date this to about 522 BC. Thus Daniel’s prayer in today’s text took place some 64 years after the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. The rebuilding of the temple was started in 538 BC as the first wave of the Jews returned from exile (Ezra 1:1-4:5), but subsequently halted (4:24). The work on the temple resumed in 529 BC and was completed in 515 BC (5:1-6:15). Thus Daniel offered his prayer during a time of transition for his people.

From "Daniel: Relating Prophecy to Piety" by Bob Deffinbaugh

In the ninth chapter of Daniel, Daniel concludes that the 70-year period of Israel’s captivity is virtually over, and that return of Jews to their own land is imminent. With this hope, Daniel begins to pray for himself and his people. His prayer of confession and petition is answered, but certainly not in a way Daniel would have expected. God sent Gabriel, His angel, to give Daniel understanding and insight into the vision he had received, enabling him to see the near future in perspective. God wanted Daniel to understand the relationship between Israel’s soon return to the land and the rebuilding of the temple—in the light of God’s promise to restore His people and establish His kingdom on the earth. God wanted Daniel to know that Israel’s imminent return to the land was not the coming of the kingdom of God. Chapter 9 is a truly rich portion of Scripture. Daniel’s prayer is a model worthy of our study, our meditation, and our imitation. Gabriel’s appearance and announcement provides Daniel and his reader with an increasing level of understanding of the vision God had previously revealed. Verses 24-27 begin to spell out future events in detail rather than with vague, mysterious symbols. While all may not agree on the meaning of these verses, all Christians would agree they provide very specific information concerning the last times. For the first time in Daniel’s prophecy, the suffering and death of Messiah is introduced. These inspired words of prophecy speak of the days to come. They also speak of the coming Messiah, through whom God will provide the forgiveness of sins and bring to earth the kingdom of God. They speak of the hope which lies ahead for every believer. They speak of those future certainties which put present events in perspective.

From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

After the death of King Solomon, Israel split into two separate nations. The ten northern tribes are usually referred to as "Israel," while the two southern tribes are designated "Judah." The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Most of those who survived the Assyrian invasion were carried away as captives, never to return to their homeland. Over a century later, the southern kingdom fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Prior to the actual destruction of Jerusalem, however, captives were taken in 605 and in 597. Daniel was among the best and the brightest of the Jews taken in the first deportation (Dan. 1:3-4). Uncompromising in his religious convictions, Daniel rose to prominence under several rulers. Even when the Medes and Persians conquered the Babylonians, Daniel continued to work for the government. While Daniel was not personally responsible for the fall of Judah, he nonetheless felt some accountability for the plight of his people. Consequently, he confessed the sins of the nation to Yahweh.

Major Theme Analysis

(Scriptural Text from the New King James Version; cross-references from the NIV)

Prayer Starts with Confession (Dan 9:4-7)

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.

Acknowledge God's faithfulness (4)

God is faithful because God is eternally faithful regardless (Ps 146:6).

6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them — the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

God is faithful because God's love and compassion motivates His faithfulness (Lam 3:22)

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

God is faithful because His faithfulness is known as great (Lam 3:23)

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

God is faithful because all God's actions are done in faithfulness (Ps 33:4)

4 For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

God is faithful because God's faithfulness is our shield and fortress (Ps 91:4)

4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

God is faithful because God's faithfulness endures forever (Ps 119:90)

90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

God is faithful because nothing can nullify God's faithfulness (Rom 3:3)

3 What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?

Acknowledge God's mercy (4)

God is merciful because His mercy keeps God from putting an end to the wicked (Neh 9:29-31)

29 "You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. 30 For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. 31 But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

God is merciful because His mercy makes Christians a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

God is merciful because His mercy is eternal (Ps 25:6)

6 Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

God is merciful when we confess our sins (Prov 28:13)

13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

God is merciful because He delights in showing it (Mic 7:18)

18 Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

God is merciful because we can find it when we approach His throne (Heb 4:16)

16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Confession of rebellion (5)

Confession of rebellion because of not listening to God (Isa 30:9)

9 These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction.

Confession of rebellion because to avoid rebellion is to live by faith (Heb 10:38)

38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

Confession of rebellion because to avoid rebellion we must glorify, praise and be thankful to God (Rom 1:21-25);

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

Confession of rebellion of the deception of others (Titus 1:10)

10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Confession of rebellion of murder (1 Tim 1:9)

9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

Confession of rebellion to receive God forgiveness (Lam 3:41-42)

41 Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven, and say: 42 "We have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven.

Confession of disobedience (6)

Confession of disobedience because disobedience stores up God's wrath (Rom 2:5)

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Confession of disobedience so that God can lead us in the way of everlasting life (Ps 139:23-24)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Confession of disobedience because disobedience is in conflict the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17)

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Confession of disobedience to receive God's mercy (Rom 11:32)

32 For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Confession of disobedience because every act of disobedience requires punishment (Heb 2:2)

2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment

Confession of disobedience so that we can enter God's rest (Heb 4:6)

6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience .

Confession of unfaithfulness (7)

Confession of unfaithfulness because God destroys the unfaithful (Ps 73:27)

27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

Confession of unfaithfulness because the way of those who are unfaithful is hard (Prov 13:15)

15 Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

Confession of unfaithfulness because God frustrates the words of the unfaithful (Prov 22:12)

12 The eyes of the Lord keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful

Confession of unfaithfulness because the unfaithful are like a withered fig tree in God's eyes (Matthew 21:19)

19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

Confession of unfaithfulness because God considers the unfaithful as worthless servants (Matt 25:24-30)

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Prayer for God's Forgiveness (Dan 9:8-14)

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.

Forgiveness of sinful rebellion (8-9)

Rebellion that comes from being evil (Prov 17:11)

11 An evil man is bent only on rebellion; a merciless official will be sent against him.

Rebellion that comes from being stubborn (Ps 106:43)

43 Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion and they wasted away in their sin.

Rebellion that comes from rejecting God's Word (1 Sam 15:23)

23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

Rebellion that comes from despising God's counsel (Ps 107:10-12)

10 Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, 11 for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. 12 So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

Rebellion that comes from being disloyal to God (Ps 78:8)

8 They would not be like their forefathers — a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Rebellion that leads to destruction (Prov 24:21-22)

21 Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious, 22 for those two will send sudden destruction upon them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?

Forgiveness of disobedience (10-11)

Disobedience that comes from the influence of Satan (Eph 2:1-3)

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time,

gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Disobedience of being deceptive (Eph 5:6)

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Disobedience that should not even be mentioned (Eph 5:12)

12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Disobedience through actions that display the denial of God (Titus 1:15-16)

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Disobedience that will receive just punishment (Heb 2:2)

2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,

Disobedience that keeps one from entering God's rest (Heb 4:6)

6 It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.

Forgiveness versus justice (12-14)

God forgives even though our sins require death (Ps 103:10)

10 He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Only through God's mercy are we forgiven (Neh 9:31)

31 But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

God's forgiveness does not keep a record of our sins (Ps 130:3)

3 If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Only through God's compassion are we not consumed (Lam 3:22)

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

Jesus provided God's justice so that we have been justified (Rom 3:25-26)

25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Prayer Seeks God's Glory (Dan 9: 17)

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.

God's glorious name (17)

God's glorious name is glorified over and over daily (John 12:27-28)

27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

God's name is glorious because there is no other Name that saves (Acts 4:12)

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

God's name is glorious because God's Name endures (Neh 9:10)

10 You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

God's name is glorious because it is through God's Name that we have been justified (1 Cor 6:11)

11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

God's name is glorious because God's name reaches to the ends of the earth and is filled with righteousness (Ps 48:10)

10 Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.

God's name is glorious because God's name needs to praise (Ps 68:4)

4 Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds — his name is the Lord — and rejoice before him.

God's name is glorious because it is through God's name that we are delivered (Ps 79:9)

9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake.

God's name is glorious because everything else is a loss compared to it (Phil 3:7-8)

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Conclusion and Other Thoughts

Concluding Thoughts by Bob Deffinbaugh ("Daniel: Relating Prophecy to Piety")

Daniel's prayer provides a marvelous model for all who would repent and turn to God for salvation. His prayer begins with a recognition of the perfections and holiness of God and a recognition of our own sinfulness. It recognizes God is just in punishing us for our sins. It comes to God not on the basis of our own deeds or righteousness, but on the basis of His character and His covenant. He is merciful and compassionate, so we may come to Him for mercy and grace. He is also the One who has instituted a new covenant through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. All who come to Him for mercy, grace, and salvation through Christ He will not turn away or cast out. There is no other way to come to God and enter into His kingdom. Even the godly man Daniel knew this to be the way. Just as our Lord suffered in order to enter into His glory, we are called to

suffer for His sake before we enter into the glory of His kingdom. There will be persecution and opposition and difficult days ahead. We should not only expect these times, but we should stand firm and endure them. One of the reasons the last days are recorded in Scripture is to let the saints know what to expect so that we might look to Him for the ability to endure. May God give us the grace we need to be faithful in the difficult days ahead.

Concluding Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Daniel's prayer is a model in teaching us what it means to confess sins with integrity. We do not simply apologize to God. We must reorient our lives around God's mission. We must be honest about our past and deliberate about our future. Daniel's prayer is also a wonderful example of corporate solidarity. In a world where leaders may not even own up to personal failings, it is remarkable to see someone who identifies with the sins of his people, both in his own generation and in generations past. Daniel makes no distinction between his behavior and that of Israel as a whole. Yet we know Daniel was a moral exemplar among his people. He took bold steps to honor God when his own life was on the line (Daniel 1 and 6). But Daniel's life did not revolve around himself. If his people were not right with God, then God's mission was at stake. When God's mission is in jeopardy, God's people have to join together, confess together, and turn to God together.

Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

1. God's faithfulness and holiness put our sin and rebellion in their true, ugly light (Dan. 9:4-5)
2. Our sin is repugnant, and no one can escape its shame (vs. 6-8)
3. The Lord's merciful forgiveness is our only hope, but it is a glorious hope that we can joyfully embrace (vs. 9)
4. All have sinned, and the consequences are deservedly grim (vs. 10-11)
5. We have suffered no punishments we did not deserve; God is wholly just in everything He does (vs. 12-14)