

DANIEL 9:1-19

Study by Glenn Palmer

Introduction: The vast majority of commentators skip or minimize the prayer and go to Daniel 9:20-27 (the discussion of the 70 sevens, the one who causes desolation, etc.). But almost all commentators say that the Hebrew in Daniel 9:20-27 is exceptionally difficult. Further, because foresees the future, there are many ways to interpret the passage. Calvin is one of the few who spends time on the prayer. In fact he writes more on the prayer (1-19) than he does on the vision (20-27). Even Dr. Edward Young, a Reformed scholar, wrote seven pages on the prayer, and forty pages on the 70 sevens. Daniel 9 is one of the most interesting prayers in the Bible. *In the first six pages of Google search, the prayer was mentioned once and that on page six!!!*

Daniel 9:1

1. When was this chapter written? *In the 1st year of Darius the Meade - 539 BC*
2. Look up Daniel 5:30
3. This chapter probably occurred before Daniel in the lions' den.
4. "Made ruler" as Cyrus is the emperor. Darius is in charge of Babylon while Cyrus goes to conquer more lands as he is the bear (Daniel 7:5).

Daniel 9:2-3

5. After a terrifying vision, (8:27 - "laying exhausted and lay ill"), Daniel does which two things:
 - a. *Reads the scriptures*
 - b. *Prays*
6. Jeremiah 25:11-12
7. Jeremiah 29:10
8. Note Daniel's humility.
 - a. He reads Jeremiah and does not exalt himself over Jeremiah. He could have said, "Jeremiah was an okay prophet, but nothing like me. After all, I am the third in command and am in charge of the chief province. I am the best."
 - b. He has just been shown what will happen, yet he returns to the scriptures. He does not say, "I will wait for another vision from the Lord and I'll wait for Archangel Gabriel", but he studies the scriptures and prays hard.
9. What did Daniel do in this verse:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Turned to the Lord</i> b. <i>Pleaded with Him in prayer</i> c. <i>Fasts</i> d. <i>Puts on sackcloth</i> 	Not necessarily facing Jerusalem, but his heart
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10. Name three other times where people put on sackcloth to pray.
 - a. *People of Nineveh Jonah 3:5-7*
 - b. *Esther 4:1*
 - c. *Ezra 8:23*

Practical Application: *If God is Lord of lords and King of kings, why pray? After all, God is sovereign and faithful. He has already promised that the Jews would be returned after 70 years. So why pray? You can't change God's mind if He has already said it will happen.*

11. John Calvin
 - a. "Prayer is the chief exercise of faith. . . *He was stimulated to prayer because he knew from books the number of years. . . this knowledge became a stimulus to him to pray more earnestly.*" (italics in the original)
 - b. There are two kinds of prayer
 - 1.) Daily, regular prayer I Thessalonians 5:17 Romans 12:12
 - 2.) Emergency - special aid prayer. Give two Biblical examples + one personal example
 - a.) *Nehemiah's arrow prayer; Jesus on the cross*
 - b.) *Daniel praying when he was told all the magi were to be killed*
 - c.) *Praying for lost keys, wallet, etc*
 - c. What is the purpose of putting on sackcloth and ashes? *Pray harder. It is for real.*

Daniel 9:4-19

12. Calvin: "Whenever we ask for pardon, the testimony of repentance ought to precede our request."
13. How many times are the words "we" or "our" in this prayer? 38
14. Does this strike you as strange? *Daniel, a righteous man, confesses the sin of the nation, even though he is not involved.*
15. How many verses discuss Adoration? 7 verses: 4, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18,
16. How many verses discuss Confession? Twelve: Verses 5-16
 - a. There is a thought that since God the Father has already forgiven us of our sins, then we do not need to confess our sins as they are already forgiven. Thoughts?
 - b. Calvin contends that there is not as much confessions of sins because only one in a hundred will acknowledge that they have sinned and really need to repent.
 - c. How many times do you find the expression
 - 1.) "We have sinned" or "We have done wrong"? Six times: vss. 5 (2x), 8, 11, 15 (2x)
 - 2.) "We have rebelled" Two times: vss. 5 & 9
 - 3.) "We have not obeyed" or "refused to obey"? Three times: vss. 10, 11, 14
 - 4.) "We have turned away" Two times 5, 11
 - d. Does this help explain why Daniel was in sackcloth and ashes?
17. How many verses discuss Thanksgiving? None
18. How many verses discuss Supplication? Four verses 16-19
19. Why does the Lord punish His people? *Because without punishment, they would not listen*

Practical Application: How do we pray? Do we ever pray really confessing our sins? Do we understand the serious nature of our sins?

20. Read the Islamic prayer (from <http://www.howmuslimspray.com/> accessed on 20 Dec 13)
Call to prayer.

Allah is the **greatest**, Allah is the **greatest**. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but Allah. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. Come to prayer, Come to prayer, Come to success, Come to success, Allah is the **greatest**, Allah is the **greatest**. There is no god but Allah.

1st chapter of the Qu'ran is recited.

In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful. Praise be to Allah, lord of the worlds. Most gracious, most merciful. Master of the Day of Judgment. You (alone) we worship and you (alone) we ask for help. Show us the straight path. The path of those whom you have favored; not the (path) of those who earn your anger nor of those who go astray." (1:1-1:7)

He is Allah, the one! Allah is he on whom all depend. He begets not, nor is he begotten. And there is none like unto Him." (112:1-112:4)

Glory be to *my* Lord, the almighty. Glory be to *my* Lord, the most High.

[Explanation of prayer: Other than glorifying Allah, it is also a moment for Muslims to ask Allah for his forgiveness, mercy, blessings and bounties. Muslims then sit for a few seconds and prostrate one more time before standing up again.]

All service is for Allah and all acts of worship and good deeds are for him. Peace and the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you o prophet. Peace be upon us and all of Allah's righteous slaves. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is his slave and messenger. O Allah exalt Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad, just as you exalted Abraham and the followers of Abraham. Verily you are full of praise and majesty. O Allah send blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, just as you sent blessings on Abraham and upon the followers of Abraham. Verily you are full of praise and majesty."

[Slight modifications were made to the prayer so that it would not be blasphemous. God was changed to Allah. Capitalization was eliminated for Allah as that is reserved for God.]

21. What is the relationship between the Muslim and Allah? *Slave to Master*
22. What does Islam mean? *Submission*
23. List eight ways that Daniel's prayer is different than a Moslem's prayer.
 - a. *Islamic prayers are rote. The exact same prayer is said five times a day, 7 times/week.*
 - b. *The prayer is not personal. Although there is my Lord two times, it is not 38 times.*
 - c. *There is no confession of sin. There is no repentance.*
 - d. *There is no thanksgiving.*
 - e. *Muslim prayers have a lot of required movement - must stand, must sit, etc.*
 - f. *Emphasis on Muhammad although he is not God or a god.*
 - g. *Emphasis on the day of judgement, a future event; there is fear - thus, the cry for mercy.*
 - h. *Daniel 9:3: I pleaded with Him in prayer and petition. There is no supplication for specific problems. There is no "give us this day our daily bread."*

Daniel 9:5-6

24. What are the three ways God reveals Himself? What are the three types of revelation?
 - a. *General revelation - creation*
 - b. *Special revelation - the Scriptures*
 - c. *Christ Himself revealed God*
25. How did God reveal Himself to the Israelites? *He sent his servants the prophets who spoke in your name*
26. Who did not listen? Cf. vs. 8.
 - a. *Our kings*
 - b. *Our princes*
 - c. *Our fathers*
 - d. *All the people of the land*

Vs. 10: *all Israel*

"Our"

27. Calvin: "We can never separate love and obedience." In other words, some say they love God, but then do not obey Him.
28. John 11:9-10
29. Calvin: "They had no pretext for their ignorance after they had been instructed in God's law. They were like a man who stumbles in broad daylight. . . . So Daniel here enlarges upon the people's crime, for the law of God was like a lamp pointing out the path so clearly that they were wilfully and even maliciously blind (Ps. 119:15). . . . the people did not sin in ignorance."
30. How does Matthew 10:15, 11:23-24 apply? *God punishes those who know and disobey more severely than those who did not know.*

Daniel 9:7

31. Who have been scattered?
 - a. *Men of Judah*
 - b. *The people of Jerusalem*
 - c. *All Israel - both near and far - the northern 10 tribes*
32. Why is this remarkable? *Daniel prays for the northern 10 tribes - this is one of the few places where the 10 tribes are included*

Daniel 9:9

33. Note that just confessing your sins does not guarantee mercy. That is why you are read your Miranda rights! "Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law"!!!!
34. Ps. 130:4 *But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared*
35. Hebrews 4:16 *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.*
36. Two dangers:
 - a. We are such great sinners, that there is no hope for us. NO - God is merciful
 - b. We did not sin that much, therefore no need to confess our sins. NO - God is holy.

Daniel 9:11

37. The people were warned that if they sinned they would be punished.
38. Leviticus 26
39. They ridiculed God's threats. They did not believe
 - a. that their sins were that bad or
 - b. that God would really punish them.

Daniel 9:13

40. God told the people at Moses's time, that if they sinned they would be surely punished.
41. Was God faithful to himself? Yes
42. Did the people return to God when they were punished? No
43. Calvin writes that there are three steps so that God will be gracious to us
 - a. Sorry for our sins
 - b. Believe in God - have faith
 - c. Pray as proof of our repentance

Daniel 9:14

44. KJV: Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us:
 - a. Watched = like a guard watching night and day
45. NIV: The Lord did not hesitate to bring disaster upon us.
46. Why did, must, the Lord punish His people? *God is righteous*
47. In what areas is God righteous? *All*

Daniel 9:15

48. Why does Daniel mention the Exodus?
 - a. According to Exodus 20:2, on what basis did God give the 10 Commandments? *He brought them out of Egypt, therefore he is their redeemer*
 - b. *He is looking for another great miracle. God saved His people once already out of captivity*
49. The Exodus occurred in 1446 BC. Daniel 9 occurred in about 539 BC, 907 years later. Note that Daniel says that “a name that endures to this day.”

Daniel 9:15-19

50. **How does Daniel get the upper hand with the Lord in this prayer?** *It does not look good for the Lord to have “Your city and Your holy hill” in desolation. It is God’s name that is injured.*
 - a. Vs. 16:
 - 1.) *“Your city”*
 - 2.) *“Your holy hill”*
 - 3.) *“Your people are an object of scorn”*
 - b. Vs. 17: *“Your desolate sanctuary”*
 - c. Vs. 18:
 - 1.) *“the desolation of the city that bears your name”*
 - 2.) *Challenges the Lord for “Your great mercy”, not for their righteous acts*
 - d. Vs. 19:
 - 1.) *For your sake*
 - 2.) *Your city*
 - 3.) *Your people bear your name*
51. Calvin’s prayer: “Grant that we may never be exposed as a laughing-stock and spectacle to the disgrace of Your sacred name.”

Daniel 9:17

52. NIV: “Look with favor”
53. KJV: “Cause thy face to shine”

Daniel 9:18

54. Vs. 17 “Cause thy face to shine” & vs. 18 “Give ear” Does God the Father have a face or an ear? *No - these are just expressions of speech.*