

Daniel:

God's Divine Ambassador

New Hope
Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study
2010



The Story Thus Far:

- ❖ 605 B.C.: Nebuchadnezzar took over Judah
 - ❖ Took Daniel and other aristocratic youths to Babylon to serve his kingdom
 - ❖ Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah became Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- ❖ 586 B.C.: Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, carried last of the Jewish leadership into exile
- ❖ 539 B.C.: Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon

The Story Thus Far:

- ❖ Chapter 1: Daniel & Friends remained faithful to God and the Covenant
- ❖ Chapter 2: Daniel received a vision from God both revealing and interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream
 - ❖ Foretold world history, including the 4 major empires (including Babylon)
- ❖ Chapter 3: The golden image; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego delivered from the fiery furnace by "the Son of God"
- ❖ Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's boanthropy

Daniel's Visions

- ❖ Chapter 7: The 4 Beasts and “Ancient of Days”
- ❖ Chapter 8: The Goat and 4 Horns
- ❖ Chapter 9: The 70 Weeks and the “Prince”
- ❖ Chapter 10: Spiritual Warfare
- ❖ Chapter 11: Enemies of God's People
- ❖ Chapter 12: Tribulation, Resurrection, and Final Victory

The Vision of Ch. 9

- ❖ Date: “first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus”
- ❖ 539 B.C.: Cyrus conquered Babylon
- ❖ “I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years”
 - ❖ Jeremiah 29:10-14: prophesied in 605 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar took Jeconiah, the queen mother Daniel, his friends, and others into exile
- ❖ “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes”

Jeremiah's Prophecy

- ❖ “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

Real Prayer Relies on God

- ❖ Recognition of God's identity: "I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, 'O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...'"
 - ❖ "Keeps covenant:" both for obedience and disobedience of the people
 - ❖ "Steadfast love:" unconditional, covenantal love that God would not break or deny
- ❖ We must understand the identity of the God to Whom we pray

Confession of Sin

- ❖ Recognition of the people's sin: "...we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules"
 - ❖ "sinned:" missed the mark
 - ❖ "done wrong (committed iniquity):" to go astray
 - ❖ "rebelled:" used 24 times in Scripture
 - ❖ 12 times against God
 - ❖ 12 times referring to rebelling against human rulers
 - ❖ Not the usual verb used for rebellion against God (Scripture usually uses "transgressions")

Confession of Sin

- ❖ “We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land”
 - ❖ The people knew the law but refused to listen to the prophets
 - ❖ Prophets spoke, even at the risk of death
 - ❖ People ignored the prophets’ warning

Effects of Sin

- ❖ v. 7: “To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness”
 - ❖ “Righteousness:” Right living, by the law of God
 - ❖ “...but to us open shame”
 - ❖ “Open shame:” complete, total embarrassment and humiliation
 - ❖ God defined righteousness; the people brought shame on themselves through their sins

God's Compassion

- ❖ v. 9: “To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness...”
 - ❖ “Mercy:” word means compassion; refers to the compassion of a mother for a child, or between siblings
- ❖ “All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him”
 - ❖ The people knew the results but disobeyed anyway
 - ❖ Israel's sin forced God to act in accordance with the Law He gave to Moses

God's Faithfulness

- ❖ v. 14: “Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice”
 - ❖ Moses prophesied rebellion and destruction in the 15th century B.C.
 - ❖ God faithfully disciplined the Jews just as He had faithfully blessed them

God's Faithfulness

- ❖ v. 15: Reminder of Sinai
 - ❖ The Jews disobeyed even at the Exodus, even at Sinai while receiving the Covenant
- ❖ v. 16: “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us”
 - ❖ Would God fulfill His word and restore His people?

Intercession for the People

- ❖ vv. 17-19:
 - ❖ “...listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy:” Daniel’s intercession is complete
 - ❖ “...for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate”
 - ❖ Cry for God to restore His sanctuary
 - ❖ “Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name:” Call for God to restore Jerusalem

Intercession for the People

- ❖ vv. 17-19:
 - ❖ v. 19: Call for God to hear Daniel's prayer and forgive the sins of the people
 - ❖ Call for God to restore Jerusalem for the sake of His holy name