

Daniel's Third Look Ahead

"Visions and Dreams" part 4, from Daniel 9
Pastor Bob Johnson, February 28th, 2021

1. **A P _____ awareness (9:1-2)**
(Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10, Isaiah 44:26-28, Jeremiah 29:11-14)

2. **A P _____ response (9:3-19)**
(Nehemiah 1:5, Deuteronomy 8:11-14)

3. **A P _____ answer (9:20-23)**
(John 15:7, Romans 8:26-27, 1 John 5:14)

4. **A P _____ for Israel (9:24)**
(Leviticus 25:8, Jeremiah 23:5-6, 1 Peter 3:18, Luke 24:44-47; 4:17-18)

Insights in Light of Daniel's Dream:

- God delights in **P** ...
that are humble and contrite

- God desires for **P** ...
to understand where His story is headed.

For a free audio or video copy of this message go to GracePointSD.com
and/or search Grace Point Church San Diego on your Podcast App

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 7 of our first small group season for 2021!!

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. We are currently studying and discussing the last half of the Book of Daniel. God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.

Getting Started:

In Daniel 7 and 8, God gave Daniel visions of Babylon's defeat and the Medo-Persian Empire's victory. Daniel was able to actually see the fulfillment of these prophecies. This transition of power from one empire to the other took place in 539 BC.

Speaking of victories and defeats, what is one or two victories (successes) or defeats (setbacks) that you experienced that still stick with you?
What about that experience still prompts you to remember it?
What lessons did you learn from the experience?

In Daniel 9:3, we read that Daniel "turned his face to the Lord" and sought God in prayer with "fasting and sackcloth and ashe". His 'turning his face toward God' is a sign of his seeking God and desire to share His heart with God. The three last descriptions reflect Daniel's broken heart and his sense of mourning regarding the oppression the people of Israel were experiencing away from the land of Israel.

When Daniel wrote Daniel 9, he was in his mid-80's and has been in Babylon for 67 years. After all those years, he still praying and seeking God on behalf of his people.

Is there anything that you have had a burden to pray about for a long period of time?
What is a long-term request you have prayed about that God has laid on your heart?

Before we go further into our study and discussion, let's stop and pray with each other and for each other regarding some of the 'long term prayers' that God has laid on our hearts.

In Daniel 9:4, Daniel begins his prayer with some adoration. It has been said that adoration is focusing on God's face more than His hands.

What do you think that means?

What character qualities of God does Daniel identify as he begins his prayer?

Thinking about God's character, what other character qualities of God can you think of that you are grateful for and can help motivate us to pray to God more consistently?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Daniel 9:1-24. From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 9, we see that Daniel's prayers were influenced by what he read from God's Word (i.e. Jeremiah 25:11 and 29:10-14).

Knowing what God promised, Daniel prayed in line with what God had previously said.

Like Daniel, as we read and reflect on God's Word, we are able to discern more of God's character and what God has promised. This understanding can help us pray in line with what is revealed to us from Scripture.

Along with the promises found in God's Word, we can also learn from the actual prayers found in God's Word.

Let's read and reflect on a few of the prayers of Scripture. What questions or insights do you have from these prayers.

Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Jabez's prayer (1 Chronicles 4:10)

Hezekiah's prayer (2 Kings 19:15-19 and 2 Kings 20:3)

Solomon's prayers (1 Kings 3:7-9 and 1 Kings 8:22-53)

David's prayers (for favor Psalm 60, for help in trouble Psalm 43, for mercy Psalm 86)

Jonah's prayer (Jonah 2:1-9)

Paul's prayer (Ephesians 1:16-19 and Ephesians 3:14-19)

Let's spend some more time praying for what God brings to our hearts.

Before we wrap up, one of the truths we read in God's Word is that it is God's will for us to be conformed to the image or character of Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:29)

The character change God desires for all of us is both physical (our actions) and mental (our attitudes and how we view God, ourselves and others).

As a Christ follower, how have you seen Romans 8:29 begin to be true in your life? What changes either in action or attitude can you identify that God has begun to bring positive change in your life?

Let's thank God for the positive changes we can identify and humbly ask God to continue His transforming work.

As we wrap up, how else can we pray for each other?