

Daniel 9

1 We have a specific date that can be matched by the historical inauguration of this king. Same time as Daniel 6. Fifty years before Esther. 539BC

2 Daniel is reading Jeremiah's prophecy. Though Jeremiah did not go this direction, someone took a copy of his prophecies into captivity and it ended up in the hands of Daniel. I would imagine there were very few copies, but someone who possessed them would want someone in a place of influence, like Daniel, to have one. He must have been reading Jeremiah 25:11,12 or 29:10 or both.

3 Interesting that he doesn't just say, "Oh, boy - it is going to happen, I don't need to do anything." Instead he pleads with God in fasting, prayer, petitions, in sackcloth and ashes. Seeing God's plan, he interceded for His will to be done, repentance for his nation, a right heart amongst the people so they could return.

4 Take note of this prayer from the heart of this servant of God. First he acknowledges God's greatness and faithfulness. That faithfulness is to keep his covenant of love with those who love and obey Him. God does not need to be reminded of his character, but we need to remind ourselves as we pray so that our prayer is a prayer of faith. If the people's hearts have changed and they have recognized their sin and repented, God will keep his covenant of love. Some would say that God had given them a writ of divorce and so the covenant is over. Daniel didn't see it that way.

5 Now the confession for his people. This is intercession. WE have sinned and done wrong. He includes himself, not just by association but in recognition that none are righteous. He goes on to say they are wicked, rebellious, and have turned from God's commands and laws. We don't like to think of ourselves like that, but the old nature is right there with the Jews. Without the grace of Christ and the covering of His blood, you could certainly say "we".

6 WE have not listened to your servants the prophets. This is one of the most damning indictments. God speaks, but we refuse to listen. In those days He spoke through the prophets. In these days He speaks in His Son. Hebrews 1:1-3. Are we listening? Sovereign God is our Maker and when He speaks we are obligated to listen!

7 The Lord is righteous, and we are covered with shame. That is reality and we all should recognize it. Why are we covered with shame? UNFAITHFULNESS to God. He has never been anything but faithful to us and that demands faithfulness in response. Instead, we have taken His faithfulness for granted and in our prideful arrogance and lack of appreciation, been unfaithful.

8 From the least to the greatest - all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

9 But that does not change who God is! All the more reason to repent of our rebellion and submit to his rule over our lives.

10 We don't obey - or keep the laws He graciously gave us for our own good.

11 That is the only reason we are in captivity, our transgression and refusal to obey, our turning from Him. Do you think today that since you are not under the Law you will not go into captivity if you turn and refuse to obey? You will indeed find your sin takes you captive and is a much worse master than Babylon ever was.

12 The destruction of Jerusalem was God's faithfulness.

13 Sin upon sin. We sin and God lifts his shield of protection. Devastation that has been pounding on the doors comes in like a lion. Then to not turn to God in the calamity is to compound our sin. We see the hand of judgement and yet refuse to repent and acknowledge His goodness and hand in it all. This is the USA today. There

is only a remnant that is willing to say - we have sinned, and then turn and give attention to His truth.

14 It wasn't as if God says, "Should I do such a harsh thing?" He knew exactly what they needed. He did it. Yet they did not respond to his faithfulness and turn and obey. If pride and wealth, self sufficiency is keeping us from God - He will remove it. Then all we can say is it is our own wicked hearts that keep us from Him.

15 Acknowledge what He has done and our indebtedness to Him - and then acknowledge your rebellious response to that goodness.

16,17 Why is he praying this? - for the sake of the Lord, for His will to be done that God might be glorified.

18 Hear - not because of who we are, but because of who He is.

19 Listen, forgive, hear, act - for God's sake - because the Children of Israel represent God's testimony in the earth. Daniel is concerned about JHWH's testimony.

The Seventy Weeks

20 For Zion - for the place the Lord will set His throne. The prayer is that the testimony be restored and a hill can be symbolic of a group of people. A mountain is sometimes a nation and so a hill would be a group, the remnant.

21 3PM - You can recognize particular angels. He is not asking for a vision but in prayer for the remnant.

22 Angels can be sent to help us understand, to give us insight into a matter.

Remember Daniel is praying about the honor of God being restored through His people becoming a testimony.

23 God holds in high esteem his faithful servants. That is incredible.

24 Seventy sevens foreordained for the people of captivity and the city of God. Six things are to happen, for it is the completion of the time of man and his reign over men, of Satan and his reign in the earth. Part of this deals with the death and resurrection of Christ. Does anointing the most holy (most Holy Place or most holy One) mean the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom? Christ's ascension and glorification? The new temple? The spiritual temple?

25 The seven sevens saw the street and trench rebuilt, and 62 more saw the Anointed One - Messiah. Decree 444 - 454 BC era. 483 years later the Messiah was to be cut off. That brings us right up to the time of Jesus crucifixion. Some go so far as to say this was issued in the year 445 and using the Jewish 360 day year, came to the exact day of Palm Sunday.

26 No one was with Him in his death, all had deserted Him, but it is also true that it was not for Himself. As always both possible translations fit. This exactly predicted the time of the crucifixion. It also tells us that following that Jerusalem will be desolated like a flood - and it was. Wars will continue until the end. Jesus drew from this passage. He must have known it well.

27 See various translations. There is one seven (week of years) left - the seven years of the end-time. Who is the HE? After three and a half years he breaks the covenant - causing sacrifice and offering to cease. Rev 11:3, 12:6, 13:5 And he sets up and abomination that causes desolation. Sounds like the AC. But there is a predestined END for him and for the desolated city. Mt 24:15