



For the Week of Jan. 20, 2013

Daniel 9:1-19 - Daniel's Prayer

1In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— 2in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. 3So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

4I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:

“O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, 5we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6We 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.

7“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. 8O Lord, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. 9The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; 10we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. 11All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

Growth Group Discussion Guide

“Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward”

Scripture: Daniel 7

Sermon Summary – The main ideas found in this week’s message:

- The people of Judah had broken their covenant with God – this is what resulted in their exile.
- The Old Covenant was conditional. It was an “If...then” type of covenant. (Exodus 19:3-6)
- According to the Old Covenant there were both rewards and punishments based on behavior (Leviticus 26)
- In spite of the people’s knowledge of this covenant, they chose to sin. (2 Chronicles 36:15-21)
- In the beginning of chapter 9, we find Daniel studying Scripture (a letter he had received from a contemporary prophet, Jeremiah).
- Jeremiah’s letter informs the exiles that their time in exile would last 70 years and it informs them that when that time is up, if they would pray, God would come and rescue them. (Jer. 29:1-14)
- Chapter 9 takes place in the first year that of the new Empire (the Medo-Persian Empire) – 539 BC.
- Daniel had been in exile for 66 years at this point, which meant that the 70 years was almost up!
- Daniel prayed an exemplary prayer of confession and repentance in which he **WORSHIPS, CONFESSES SIN, and ASKS THE LORD FOR MERCY.**

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What first brought you to UBC?
- What made you want to stay at UBC?
- Who taught you how to pray?

WORSHIP – Sharing Our Gratitude for God

- What prayers have you seen answered lately?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. Why were the people of Judah in exile?
2. Do you think they understood the terms of their covenant with God?
3. Why did they break the covenant?
4. How is our relationship with God (through Christ rather than the law) different than the Old Covenant?
5. Since our relationship with God is now based on grace rather than the law, does it matter if we sin? Why/why not?

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. 12You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. 13Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. 14The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

15“Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. 16O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

17“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. 18Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

6. Why do we sin?
7. What is sin?
8. How do you feel when you know you have sinned?
9. How did God’s Word lead Daniel to pray?
10. Has reading the Bible ever led you to pray? How/Why?
11. Why is being in God’s Word so important for us?
12. How do you think it would affect us if we didn’t spend time in God’s Word for a long time?
13. What are the different parts of Daniel’s prayer?
14. Why do you think each of these parts are important?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- What opportunities did you have this week to share your faith or be a witness for God?

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ? How can we best pray for your relationship with them?

- Other prayer concerns?