

Daniel 9 – Sermon Notes Scripture, Prayer, and Hope

Daniel's an old man. He would not have chosen this life. He was stolen as a child and made to serve a foreign godless king. He made the best of it -- faithful to God and a blessing to a king.

And there are two things we never see from Daniel.

1. He never complained to God about his life.
2. He never did anything stupid. He lived a fairly pure life.

So in the last chapter, we see that God shared a nightmare with Daniel. His people were going to get tromped.

Read Daniel 8:27 – Daniel was sick

What do you do when you're faced with a future that doesn't go where you want it to go?

Daniel does three things.

1. He got up and went to work.

Read Daniel 9:1-3 – Daniel reads and prays

2. He reads the Bible.
3. He prays.

And as he was reading Jeremiah's words, he saw God tell Jeremiah that the devastation of Jerusalem would last 70 years.

Daniel was there when Jerusalem was devastated. How long ago was that now? Well, it was... (Daniel is figuring in his head)... it was... 67 years ago.

This is the hope that Daniel was looking for. Oh God! Please! Restore my home city! Let Jerusalem be the city that it used to be! Please God! Please!

Read Jeremiah 9:5-19 – Daniel's prayer

Can you feel Daniel's heart? Have you ever wanted something so bad? Something in *your life* to be different? Have you ever cried out to God in such a way?

Daniel says to God that "We are sinners." Isn't it easy to blame everyone else? Some people never take any responsibility.

Read Daniel 9:20-23 – God Responds to Daniel's Prayer

God tells Daniel He will answer his prayer, but not like he thinks.

Read Daniel 9:24 – Seventy Sevens till a Change

Seventy sevens means "in a perfect amount of time."

In a perfect amount of time, God will do six things:

To Fix the Past, God will:

1. stop rebelliousness
2. end selfishness
3. and repair the scars left on people's lives

To Fix the Future, God will

4. make a way for people to always do what is right
5. set in place once and for all His final plans
6. and place the Most Holy One in our midst

- It was Jesus Christ who took all of our sins upon himself.
- It is Jesus Christ who transforms our scars into new skin.
- It is Jesus Christ who deserves our submission and causes us to stop rebelling against what is good.

- It is Jesus Christ who shows us what is right.
- It is Jesus Christ who sets up God's plan once and for all.
- It is Jesus Christ who is the Anointed One, the Holy One, who lives in our midst.

We need to pray as Daniel prayed with great desire that God will keep His promises and restore our past and future.