

Daniel 9 – Questions to Ponder Scripture, Prayer, and Hope

Agree or Disagree: Mark the following statements as to whether you agree or disagree.

_____ God loves me enough to make everything good in my life if I just believe in the right way and do my best.

_____ God has a plan to make the world a perfect place and to let me live in it with Him.

_____ I am not the one primarily responsible for the mess this world is currently suffering.

1. If you were Daniel, would you be happy with your life? What would you be happy with? Unhappy?
2. How do you react when life doesn't go the way your way?

Read Daniel 8:27-9:3 – Daniel Responds to Difficulty

3. How did Daniel respond to life not going his way?

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

4. Have you ever prayed such an emotional prayer? What were you praying about?
5. Did Daniel take responsibility for the sins of his people? Do you take responsibility or tend to blame others?

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

6. Has God ever told you that He will answer your prayer but not the way you want? How were they different?

Read Daniel 9:24 – Seventy Sevens till a Change

7. God describes the world He will create. How do you think He plans to end rebellion and selfishness and heal everyone's scars?
8. It was revealed to Daniel that God had a much grander plan than just his life. Is that enough for you?

Look over the agree/disagree statements at the beginning. Do you still agree/disagree with the same statements? Make changes if you need.

Pray Daniel's prayer from *The Message Translation*:

"Master, you are our God, for you delivered your people from the land of Egypt in a show of power—people are still talking about it! We confess that we have sinned, that we have lived bad lives. Following the lines of what you have always done in setting things right, setting people right, please stop being so angry with Jerusalem, your very own city, your holy mountain. We know it's our fault that this has happened, all because of our sins and our parents' sins, and now we're an embarrassment to everyone around us. We're a blot on the neighborhood. So listen, God, to this determined prayer of your servant. Have mercy on your ruined Sanctuary. Act out of who you are, not out of what we are.

"Turn your ears our way, God, and listen. Open your eyes and take a long look at our ruined city, this city named after you. We know that we don't deserve a hearing from you. Our appeal is to your compassion. This prayer is our last and only hope:

"Master, listen to us! Master, forgive us! Master, look at us and do something! Master, don't put us off! Your city and your people are named after you: You have a stake in us!"

(Over)