

Times are Crazy, Live For God

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision: "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Daniel 9:20-24

More Questions Than Answers? The Heart God Blesses

Daniel 9:1-*In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom-2-in 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.*

3-*So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.*

4-*I 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,...*

5-*we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.*

6-*We 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.*

8-*O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.*

9-*The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;*

10-*we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets.*

11-*All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. "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.*

12-*You 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.*

13-*Just 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.*

14-*The 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.*

16-*O 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.*

18-*Give 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.*

19-*O 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."*

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ~ WEEK ONE REVIEW

Daniel 8:1-*In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me.*

2-*In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.*

3-*I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later.*

4-*I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.*

5-*As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.*

6-*He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage.*

7-*I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.*

8-*The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.*

➡ Man's Power Doesn't Last

9-*Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.*

10-*It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.*

11-*It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.*

12-*Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.*

13-*Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"*

14-*He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated."*

➡ Evil's Influence Doesn't Last

17-*As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end" ...*

22-*The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power.*

23-*"In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.*

24-*He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.*

25-*He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.*

26-*"The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."*

27-*I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.*

➡ God's Patience Doesn't Last

GOD'S PURPOSES ~ WEEK TWO REVIEW

9:24-*"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.*