

“PERSUASIVE PRAYER”

Daniel 9

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains one of the greatest prayers in the Bible!
Numerous parallels with Ezra 9 and with Nehemiah 1 & 9

This passage shows us a great deal about how we should pray:

- We see the Premise for Prayer
- We see the Preparation for Prayer
- We see the Persuasion of Prayer
- We see the Product of Prayer

In life we learn many things; few of us really learn how to pray.

YOU MUST LEARN TO PRAY LIKE DANIEL

I. THE PREMISE FOR PRAYER

A. Time of Prayer

B. Occasion of Prayer

- Reading the Books—collection of the prophets—esp. Jeremiah
- Jer. 25:11-12 & 29:10--70 years captivity; Jerusalem’s desolations; Babylon’s fall
- 605-538 BC—almost 70 years; Babylon had fallen
- 586-515—the temple ruined, then restored (71 years)
- Daniel did not doubt the fulfillment of prophecy; he may have wanted God to shorten the time, or to count from his 605 BC date for the beginning time.
- **The real motivation for his prayer was Israel’s un-readiness to be restored. They were unrepentant and un-humbled.**
- **Both the preceding and current generations were ONE MASS of Sin and guilt.**

C. Description of Prayer

1. “Prayer”—3, 4, 29, 21
2. “Speaking”—20 (aloud, real communication)
3. “Confession”—4, 20
4. “Supplication” (for mercy; requests--3, 17, 20)
5. “Laying before”—maybe bodily also; a picture of sacrificial offering—20, 18; literally “causing to fall”

II. PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

- A. _____ Relationship with God—“my god”—4, 18, 19, 20; “our god”—9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17
“thy servant”—17; “highly esteemed”—precious to God, His delight! (23)

Is God finding delight in us?

- B. _____—in God’s Word—v. 2, the “word of God to Jeremiah”; Daniel took it literally!
- C. _____ of Heart
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____ (v. 4)

1. God’s Greatness—“great and awesome.” He is to be feared; only God is truly **awesome**.
2. God’s Goodness—Yahweh; “keeps His covenant” and His “lovingkindness” (*chesed*).

III. THE PERSUASION OF PRAYER

- A. _____ How we need such earnest, persevering prayer today!
 - Notice Daniel’s physical exhaustion in v. 21—“wearied in weariness”; **does our earnest prayer wear us out physically?**

- B. _____
 1. Negative—“Let your anger and wrath turn away” (v. 16)
 2. Positive (vv. 17, 18, 19)

Hebrews 4:16 states that we can come boldly before His throne of Grace—Do we?

IV. THE PRODUCT OF PRAYER (20-23)

- A. Eagerness to Help (20-21a)
 1. Interrupted Daniel’s prayer (21a)
 2. Responded at the beginning of Daniel’s praying (23)
- B. Assistance Sent
 - The Person—“the man” Gabriel (cf. 8:16-18); means “man of God”,
 - Known to Daniel from chapter 8
 - He knows of Daniel
 - He is concerned for Daniel
 - He is “strong” in order to help Daniel
 - He “touched” Daniel (v. 21; cf. 8:18, 27) in his exhaustion
 1. The Help: “insight given”—v. 22, “insight in understanding”—i.e. “deep insight.”
- C. Love Expressed: “Highly esteemed”—i.e. preciousness, a plural word = “greatly precious”.
So are our prayers in His sight—especially if we pray like Daniel!

CONCLUSION

O THAT WE MIGHT BE SO DESIROUS TO GOD AND PRECIOUS TO HIM!

O THAT WE MIGHT HAVE SUCH PERSUASIVE PRAYER BEFORE GOD!

Was the deliverance by Cyrus’ decree a response (at least in part) to this prayer?

Do we

- Have a Reason for Prayer (Premise)?
- Are we Prepared for Prayer?
- Are we Persuasive in Prayer?
- If so we will see the Product of Prayer.
- **HOW WE NEED MIGHTY MEN AND WOMEN OF PRAYER FOR GOD!**