

# DANIEL'S PRAYER AND VISION

BIBLE TEXT : Daniel 9:1-27.

LESSON 424 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness" (Psalm 143:1).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### **Daniel 9:1-27**

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;  
2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.  
3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:  
4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;  
5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:  
6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.  
7 O Lord, righteousness *belongeth* unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, *that are* near, and *that are* far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against

## Bible References:

### Notes:

#### **Daniel's Spotless Life**

As this is the last lesson we shall study in the Book of Daniel, let us for a few moments review some of the incidents in the life of Daniel.

When just a young man, Daniel was chosen by King Nebuchadnezzar to learn a foreign language and to assist the king. He was selected because he had "no blemish," he was "skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science" (Daniel 1:4). Under various kings, he was put to severe tests, and God always gave him the victory. He overcame the first trial because he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank" (Daniel 1:8).

God gave Daniel wisdom to recall a dream, which the king had forgotten, and to interpret it. Daniel acknowledged that it was not his own wisdom, and humbly he prayed: "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter" (Daniel 2:23).

At a later time, King Belshazzar called Daniel to read the writing on the plaster of the wall of his palace, written by a mysterious hand during a great feast. It was because in Daniel was "an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts" (Daniel 5:12). The queen said that "the spirit of the holy gods" was in him.

He became one of three presidents in the province and was preferred above the others "because an excellent spirit was in him" (Daniel 6:3). When the king planned to set him over the whole realm it brought the disfavour of the other presidents and princes, who conspired against him. He was cast into the den of lions, but God miraculously delivered him because he served God continually. "He was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him" (Daniel 6:4).

#### **Captives in Babylon**

We have learned in previous lessons that because of the disobedience and sins of the Jews, they had been taken from their homes and were captives in Babylon. God had said that for 70 years they should be there. Daniel was just a young boy when he left home. If he served God so faithfully, why was he a captive in Babylon? Why were he and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, permitted to be taken away from home along with the others to a faraway country? We do not know the whole plan of God in this, but we do know that the kings and all the people under their rule were made to know about the God in Heaven, through the example set by these men. It may have been the Lord's way of giving the people in heathen lands an opportunity to know the Lord. Just as missionaries today go to heathen lands to tell people about Jesus, so these young men were used of God. The Book of Daniel is part of our Bible and

thee.

8 O Lord, to us *belongeth* confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

9 To the Lord our God *belong* mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

10 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that *is* written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

13 As *it is* written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

14 Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

15 And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy

many persons have been strengthened in their faith and trust in God through Daniel's example.

### **Prayer and Fasting**

Shortly after Daniel's experience in the lions' den, during the reign of King Darius, he had another remarkable experience. He was not a young man now, for it was about 70 years since he and his people, the Jews, had been taken as captives to Babylon.

One day as Daniel was reading in the Book, which was their Bible, he learned that Jeremiah the Prophet had foretold that at the close of the 70-year period of captivity, the Temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt, and God's people should return.

As a symbol of humility before God, Daniel clothed himself in sackcloth, he sat in ashes and fasted and prayed. As at other times, he set his "face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications." He suffered for his people whose sin had caused them to be driven from their homes; the Temple had been destroyed, and there was no place for sacrifice unto God. Daniel did not remind the Lord of his own goodness; he did not tell God that he had been faithful, and that there was no fault to be found in him. No! He carried a heavy burden for his people and for them he made confession unto God: "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: . . . To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him" (Daniel 9:5, 9). He pleaded with the Lord to remember Jerusalem and the sanctuary that was desolate; he felt that the city and its people had become a reproach and he asked God for mercy.

We read in Psalm 78:38: "But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath." That is the God of mercy to whom Daniel prayed.

### **The Vision**

We know not how long Daniel fasted and prayed, but at the time of the evening sacrifice, the angel Gabriel came and touched him. He told Daniel that he was greatly beloved, and the angel said that he had come to show Daniel many things.

The angel unfolded a prophetic vision before Daniel. He told of the time when the holy city, Jerusalem, would be rebuilt. He told of the coming of Messiah the Prince, which is none other than Jesus. This was about 550 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Gabriel also told Daniel of the time that the antichrist should come during the Great Tribulation. (See Lesson 413, Book 32.) Jesus referred to this prophecy by Daniel many years later, as we find recorded in Matthew 24. Another prophecy given to Daniel was of the time of "everlasting righteousness", which shall be during the Millennial Reign of Christ upon the earth. (See Lesson 168, Book 13.) At that time Satan and sin shall be put down, and Christ and His saints shall rule and reign upon the earth. "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

"And to seal up the vision and prophecy" (Daniel 9:24), no doubt refers to the completion of the whole prophecy, concerning things to come.

Today we are privileged to live in this twenty-first century, and as we study God's Word we look back upon many great events that have happened. We see the prophecies fulfilled as time goes on, and we look forward to things yet to come. At Christmas time we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, which took place more than 2,000 years ago; on Good Friday we think upon His death; at Easter we thrill to the story of His resurrection. However, to the Christian,

holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people *are become* a reproach to all *that are* about us.

17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

20 And whiles I *was* speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

21 Yea, whiles I *was* speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

22 And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew *thee*; for thou *art* greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to

these dates are not only history. They are a living reality and he worships the risen, victorious Lord not only on certain days, but every day of the year.

A great event that we are expecting to transpire very, very soon is the Rapture of the Church, when Jesus shall come to take His waiting Bride unto Himself. (See Book 32, Lesson 412.) This event will precede the Great Tribulation period and the Millennial Reign of Christ upon the earth, of which Daniel spoke. God's Word is eternal and all prophecy will be fulfilled.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" (II Peter 3:11). We, like Daniel, certainly ought to live close to God and spend much time in prayer, in order that we might be ready.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Under what three kings did Daniel serve?
2. From what part of their Bible was Daniel reading, and what did he learn?
3. How did Daniel show his humility when he prayed?
4. For whom did he pray?
5. Why were the people of Israel taken captive into Babylon?
6. How long were they there?
7. What had happened to the Temple in Jerusalem?
8. Who came unto Daniel while he prayed?
9. Tell part of the vision Daniel saw.
10. Has part of the prophecy been fulfilled? What is yet to be fulfilled?

make reconciliation for iniquity,  
and to bring in everlasting  
righteousness, and to seal up the  
vision and prophecy, and to anoint  
the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and  
understand, *that* from the going  
forth of the commandment to  
restore and to build Jerusalem  
unto the Messiah the Prince *shall  
be* seven weeks, and threescore  
and two weeks: the street shall be  
built again, and the wall, even in  
troublesome times.

26 And after threescore and two  
weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but  
not for himself: and the people of  
the prince that shall come shall  
destroy the city and the sanctuary;  
and the end thereof *shall be* with a  
flood, and unto the end of the war  
desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the  
covenant with many for one week:  
and in the midst of the week he  
shall cause the sacrifice and the  
oblation to cease, and for the  
overspreading of abominations he  
shall make *it* desolate, even until  
the consummation, and that  
determined shall be poured upon  
the desolate.