

1. We are now ready for a study of chapter nine.
2. Before we begin let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as might be necessary.
3. The chapter can be simplistically divided into Daniel's prayer, Dan 9:1-19 and The Seventieth Week of Daniel, Dan 9:20-27.
4. I want to first give you several points of introduction:
 1. The third vision of Daniel, following the two preceding visions of Chapters seven and eight concerns the program of God for Israel culminating in the coming of their Messiah to the earth to reign.
 2. Although other major prophets received detailed information concerning the nations and God's program for salvation, Daniel alone was given the comprehensive program for both the Gentiles, as revealed to Daniel in preceding chapters, and for Israel, as recorded in Dan 9:24-27.
 3. Because of the comprehensive and structural nature of Daniel's prophecies, both for the Gentiles and for Israel, the study of Daniel, and especially this chapter, is the key to understanding the prophetic Scriptures, certainly to include the Revelation of John.
 4. Of the four major programs revealed in the Bible for the angels, the Gentiles, Israel, and the church, Daniel had the privilege of being the channel of revelation for the second and third of these programs in the Old Testament.
 5. This chapter begins first with Daniel reading Jeremiah's prophecy of the desolations of Jerusalem lasting seventy years and then his offering an intercessory prayer for his nation.
 6. The chapter concludes with the third vision of Daniel, given through the agency of the angel Gabriel, which provides one of the most important keys to understanding the Scriptures as a whole.
 7. In many respects, this is the high point of the book of Daniel.

KJV

Daniel's Prayer

Dan 9:1 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;

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Daniel's Prayer

Dan 9:1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom--

1. The first question which arises is who is Darius the Mede? The Bible records three persons who bear the name Darius.

1.1 First, there is Darius the Mede, found in our passage and:

1.2 The second personage is Darius the king, or Darius king of Persia.

1.2.1 He is better known in history as Darius I, a cousin of Cyrus the Great, he ruled as king of Persia from approximately 521 to 486 B.C.

1.3 Third, there is a reference to Darius the Persian, the last king of Persia, "his empire" was destroyed by Alexander the Great. He is mentioned in Neh 12:22.

Neh 12:22 The family heads of the Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan and Jaddua, as well as those of the priests, were recorded in the reign of Darius the Persian.

2. Scripture and secular history both substantiate the fact that both the Medes and the Persians played an important role in the downfall of the Chaldean Empire.

3. The army that captured Babylon was led by Gobryas, a Persian general under Cyrus, while the man who assumed the rulership of the Chaldean Empire was Darius, a Mede.

3.1 There are those who believe in fact that Gobryas was the Darius who conquered Babylon. Let me read what C. I. Scofield has to say in footnote 3 to Dan 5:18:

"Darius the Mede ... Concerning this Darius, secular history awaits further discoveries. It is conjectured that he was Gobryas a Median official whom Cyrus made ruler of Babylon after the conquest."

4. Although many historians have attempted to present these two men as one and the same person, they were separate individuals.

5. Daniel 9:1 declares without equivocation that Darius was "the son of Ahasuerus a royal personage.

6. This fact was verified by the Jewish historian, Josephus:

“Such, then ... was the end to which the descendants of King Nebuchadnezzar came. Now Darius, who with his relative Cyrus put an end to the Babylonian sovereignty, was in his sixty-second year when he took Babylon; he was a son of Astyages but was called by another name among the Greeks ...

7. Cyrus spent little time in Babylon after its capture; he left the throne in the hands of Darius.

8. Approximately two years later, upon the death of Darius, Cyrus united the two kingdoms and took to himself, the title, King of Persia.

9. All the events of Daniel chapter 6 transpired within a two-year span during the reign of Darius the Mede.

9.1 Recall our study of chapter six where Daniel ended up in the lions den.

Dan 6:1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,
Dan 6:2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

Dan 6:3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Dan 6:4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

10. The Chaldean Empire had been replaced by the silver breast and arms of Nebuchadnezzar's image (Dan 2:32 and 39).

Dan 2:32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

Dan 2:39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

11. The arms represented the two kingdoms that were then merging into the breast the powerful Persian Empire! The one of bronze recall was that of Greece.

12. To our knowledge, Nebuchadnezzar was the only born-again king of the Chaldean Empire; however, under the Persian rulers there was a notable trend toward regenerate leadership.

13. In the days of Isaiah, Cyrus was referred to as the Lord's "anointed," the only time the Lord applied that term to a Gentile ruler.

14. Apparently he was a believer long before he consolidated the Persian Empire. Cyrus is mentioned many times in Scripture as the Lord's special servant.

2Ch 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2Ch 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.

Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Isa 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

Isa 45:1 "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

15. The conversion of Darius the Mede is recorded in Daniel 6; this is remarkable considering "Darius the Median" was sixty-two years old when he "took the kingdom" (Dan 6:25-26).

Dan 6:25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly!

Dan 6:26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

16. Not many people become believers that late in life! "Took" in verse thirty-one is the Peal perfect of the Chaldean word QEBAL and means literally that he "received" the kingdom.

17. In Dan 5:31 we have a reference to Darius' appointment as regent of Babylon.

Dan 5:31 and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

17.1 Before Cyrus departed for Ecbatana, it would seem he delegated the political rulership of Babylon to Darius, and left the military administration in the able care of Gobryas.

18. John Walvoord writes regarding this first verse in his book Daniel *The Key To Prophetic Revelation*.

“... the events of Belshazzar's feast in chapter 5 occurred between the visions of chapters eight and nine. It is not clear where chapter 6 fits into this order of events, but it also may well have occurred in the first year of the reign of Darius, either immediately before or immediately after the events of chapter 9. If Daniel's experience at Belshazzar's feast as well as his deliverance from the lions had already been experienced, these significant evidences of the sovereignty and power of God may well have constituted a divine preparation for the tremendous revelation now about to unfold.

19. What is certain is that the immediate occasion of the chapter was the discovery by Daniel in the prophecy of Jeremiah that the desolations of Jerusalem would be fulfilled in seventy years.

20. The expression by books is to be understood to mean "in books." Jeremiah the prophet, in addition to his oral prophetic announcements, had written his prophecies in the closing days of Jerusalem before its destruction at the hand of the Babylonians.

21. Although the first record of Jeremiah had been destroyed (Jer 36:23), Jeremiah rewrote it, acting on instructions from the Lord (Jer 36:28).

Jer 36:23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire.

Jer 36:28 "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

21.1 The word "books" given the methods available would have been scrolls written on papyrus.

21.2 Papyrus was made from the papyrus plant. Papyrus reeds grew in the shallow lakes and rivers of Egypt and Syria. The reeds were prepared for writing by stripping and cutting lengthwise into thin narrow slices before being beaten and pressed together into two layers set at right angles to each other.

21.3 When dried the whitish surface was polished smooth with a stone or other implement.

21.4 The oldest papyrus fragment known dates back to 2400 B.C. It is from the papyrus we get our word "paper."

21.5 Most papyri was shipped through the Syrian Port of Byblos and it is thought the Greek word for books Biblos comes from the name of this port.

22. Jeremiah himself had been taken captive by certain Jews rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar and had been carried off to Egypt against his will to be buried in a strange land in a nameless grave, but the time less Scriptures which he wrote found its way across desert and mountains to far away Babylon and fell into the hands of Daniel.

23. How long Daniel had been in possession of these prophecies is not known, but the implication is that Daniel had now come into the full comprehension of Jeremiah's predictions.

24. Jeremiah had prophesied in Jer 25:11-12:

Jer 25:11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer 25:12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

25. Later, Jeremiah added in Jer 29:10-14:

Jer 29:10 This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.

Jer 29:11 For I know the plan I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jer 29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jer 29:14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

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