

1. Last week I taught Dan 9:15-19 and when time expired I was about to begin an analysis of Gabriel's trip to Babylon where he would answer Daniel's petition.
2. Before continuing with that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 9:1-19.

Dan 9:1 It was now the first year of the reign of King Darius, about 538 B.C. Darius was the son of Ahasuerus the Mede; he became King of Babylon at the promulgation of Cyrus.
Dan 9:2 In the first year of Darius' reign I was pleased to read from the Scroll of Jeremiah where it clearly taught that our exile into Babylonia would last for only seventy years and with the desolation of Jerusalem occurring in stages beginning in 606 B.C., the time of our return was drawing near. It was equally clear to me that the King of Babylon had just been punished and since Jeremiah had said our return would not occur until after that punishment, I felt it appropriate to beseech the Lord to do what He promised and not to delay.

Dan 9:3 And then I gave myself totally over to the Lord God and prayed, I also fasted in order not to be distracted, I wore sack cloths and covered my body with ashes to demonstrate my state of abject humility and reliance on His grace.

Dan 9:4 I then began "O Lord, you are great and awesome for you always fulfill your promises of uncompromising love to those who keep your protocol.

Dan 9:5 but we have sinned so much; we have rebelled against You and scorned Your commands.

Dan 9:6 We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, whom you sent again and again down through the years with your messages to our kings and princes and to all the people.

Dan 9:7 O Lord, you are righteous but as for us, we are just eaten up with sin, just as you see us now; yes, all of us--the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, and all Israel, scattered near and far wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you.

Dan 9:8 O Lord, we and our kings and princes and fathers are weighted down with shame because of all our sins.

Dan 9:9 But we know You are full of uncompromising love, and pardon even to the worst of us.

Dan 9:10 Lord God, we have disobeyed you; we have flouted all the laws you gave to us through your servants, the prophets.

Dan 9:11 All Israel has disobeyed, we have turned away from you and haven't listened to your voice. And so your awesome curse has crushed us the curse written in the law of Moses your servant.

Dan 9:12 And you have done exactly as you warned us you would do, for never in all history has there been a disaster like what has happened at Jerusalem to us and our rulers.

Dan 9:13 Every curse against us written in the law of Moses has come true; all the evils he predicted all have come. But even so we still refuse to satisfy the Lord our God by turning from our sins and doing right.

Dan 9:14 And so the Lord deliberately crushed us with the calamity he prepared; He is fair in everything he does, but we would not obey.

Dan 9:15 O Sovereign Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by removing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. Lord, I ask that you do it again even though we have sinned time and time again and are full of evil and rebellion,

Dan 9:16 yet because of all your uncompromising love, I ask that you please turn away your anger from Jerusalem, your own city, your holy mountain. For the Gentiles mock at you because of our sins and your city lies in ruins.

Dan 9:17 O Sovereign Lord, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead! Let your face shine again with peace and joy upon your desolate sanctuary - if for no other reason do it for your very own glory.

Dan 9:18 O my Sovereign God, bend down your ear and listen to me. Open your eyes and see the ruins of the city and the Temple - everyone knows that Jerusalem and all that is located therein is yours. We don't ask because we merit help, but because you are so merciful, this despite our grievous sins.

Dan 9:19 O Sovereign Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen to me and act! Don't delay - for your own sake Lord do it now for your people and the city that bears your name.

3. Now we are ready for a study of Dan 9:20-23.

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Dan 9:20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication befo^re the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Dan 9:21 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.

Dan 9:22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

Dan 9:23 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.

NIV

Dan 9:20 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--

Dan 9:21 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.

Dan 9:22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

Dan 9:23 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:

Principles:

1. While Daniel was offering his petition to the Lord, the answer was already on the way by means of the heavenly messenger, the angel Gabriel.
2. Daniel in verses 20 and 21 tells us that even while he was praying, Gabriel was sent to answer his prayer.
3. As Daniel expresses it "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; 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."
4. According to Dan 9:21, Gabriel arrived about the time of the evening sacrifice which would have begun at 3:00 PM.
5. The prayer of Daniel recorded here is only a summary of the actual oral prayer which was lengthy and culminated at the time of the evening sacrifice.
6. The reference to "the man Gabriel" is not a denial that he is an angel, but serves to identify him with the vision of Dan 8:15-16.

Dan 8:15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man.

Dan 8:16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

Dan 8:17 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."

Dan 8:18 While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.

Dan 8:19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.

Dan 8:20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.

7. The term man, is a translation from the Hebrew noun ISH, it is also used in the sense of a servant. As we taught earlier in chapter 8, there is an interesting play upon the name Gabriel.

8. Leupold notes: "The term 'Gabriel' means man of God, but with this difference: the first root, Geber, means 'man' as the strong one, and the second root, El, means the strong God."

9. In other words, the expression the man Gabriel could be translated "the servant of the strong one of the strong God."

10. In addition to the identification from the name itself, Daniel adds, "whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning," that is, in chapter 8.

11. Gabriel, according to Daniel was caused to fly swiftly in order to arrive for the evening oblation. The Hebrew in Dan 9:21 translated "being caused to fly swiftly" is difficult as all commentators note, but this seems to be the best possible translation.

12. God directed Gabriel to go immediately to Daniel at the beginning of Daniel's petition. Although he flew swiftly, he did not arrive until the end of Daniel's prayer.

13. It is a touching observation that he arrived at the time of the evening oblation. There had been no formal evening oblation for half a century since the destruction of the Temple in 586 B.C.

14. In Daniel's youth, he had seen the smoke rise from the Temple site in the afternoon sky with its reminder that God accepts a sinful people on the basis of the efficacious sacrifice of the Messiah to come - the expiation being taught by the liturgy of the sacrifice.

15. This sacrifice usually began about 3:00 P.M., and consisted of a perfect lamb offered as a whole burnt offering accompanied by meal and drink offerings, which typified the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross as the spotless Lamb of God. (Heb 9:14)

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

16. Daniel does not speak specifically of the sacrifice but only of "the evening oblation," that is, the meal offering and the drink offering. The time of one, of course, was the time of the other.

17. As the time of the evening sacrifice was also a stated time for prayer, Daniel was encouraged also to pray.

18. As God in a sense met the spiritual need of His people at the time of the sacrifice and oblation, so Gabriel was sent by God to meet Daniel's special need at this time and remind him of the mercies of God.

End Lesson Taught 10-12-2002