

POWER HOUR

10/06/2024

Lesson Text:
Daniel 9:4-14

Background Scripture:
Deuteronomy 28:15-68, Ezra 9:5-15

Devotional Reading:
Nehemiah 9:1-37, Jeremiah 44:2-6 &
Daniel 9:21-27

“DANIEL INTERCEDES FOR ISRAEL”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. Daniel 9:5 NLT*

Time: 539 B.C.

Place: Babylon

Daniel 9:4-14 NLT

4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. **5** But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. **6** We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land. **7** “Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. **8** O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. **9** But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. **10** We have not obeyed the Lord our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice. “So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured down on us because of our sin. **12** You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem. **13** Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth. **14** Therefore, the Lord has brought upon us the disaster he prepared. The Lord our

God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him.

INTRODUCTION

After the death of King Solomon, Israel split into two separate nations. The ten northern tribes are usually referred to as "Israel," while the two southern tribes are called "Judah." The northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. Many of those who survived the Assyrian invasion were carried away as captives, never to return to their homeland. The southern kingdom fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Before the actual destruction of Jerusalem, however, captives were taken in 605 B.C. and 597 B.C. Daniel was among those taken in the first deportation (Daniel 1:3-4). Uncompromising in his religious convictions, Daniel rose to prominence under several rulers. He was entrusted with government work by both Babylonian kings and Medo-Persian kings. While Daniel was not personally responsible for the fall of Judah, he rightly felt a burden for the plight of his people. Consequently, he confessed the sins of the nation to the Lord. important for a proper view of prayer. Otherwise, we will "ask amiss" (James 4:3), praying for the wrong things in the wrong way (Matthew 6:5-7).

POINTS TO PONDER

1. God's faithfulness and holiness put our sin and rebellion in their true, ugly light (Daniel 9:4-5).
2. Our sin is repugnant, and no one can escape its shame without God's help (Daniel 9:6-8).
3. The Lord's merciful forgiveness is our only hope, but it is a glorious hope that we can joyfully embrace (Daniel 9:9).
4. All have sinned, and the consequences are deservedly grim (Daniel 9:10-11).
5. God is wholly just in everything He does, including in His discipline and punishment for sin (Daniel 9:12-14).

CONCLUSION

We have learned something about the nature of God. He is a just God; He cannot let sin go unpunished. However, He is also loving and forgiving and welcomes His wayward children back whenever they repent. Daniel has taught us this week that the way back to God, both individually and collectively, is through confession and repentance.

QUESTION(S)

- Why did Daniel offer this prayer?
- How did Daniel describe God in his prayer?
- How is this helpful in understanding God's character?
- What was the main purpose of Daniel's prayer?
- What had the prophets attempted to do for Israel?
- What was the nation's general response to the prophets?
- How does the world today respond to the church and the gospel?
- Does the fall of Israel and Judah say anything to our nation?
- What is similar or different?
- Why did Daniel include himself among those responsible for the nation's fall?
- What curse was meted out on Israel (Daniel 9:11)?
- How is the calamity that came upon Jerusalem described?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"God Strengthens Daniel"*

Lesson Text: Daniel 10:10-19

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