**Surviving in Dangerous Times – Lesson 8 – Daniel 9**

I. Review

II. Daniel’s Prayer for Israel (v1-19)

 A. The setting – 1st year of Darius, the Mede – made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) by God – 538 BC (v1-4a)

 1. Daniel reviewing Jeremiah’s writings – noted number of years for completion of the desolations of Jerusalem to be 70 (Jer 25:11-12, 29:10-13)

 2. Prayer begins in Bible – the word drives it – a model prayer of confession

 3. Directed his attention to God and sought Him in prayer and supplications with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes – Ez 10:6, Is 22:12, Jer 6:26

 4. Daniel knew reason for exile in first place – Israel had rebelled against God – thus, Israel needed to confess this problem and remember what God had said about obedience

 5. Prayer not necessary to end the exile, but to prepare Israel for what comes beyond it

 6. Prayer rooted in God’s character and focused on concern for His kingdom and its people, not self

 B. Prayer of Confession (v4b-15) – stark contrast between God’s character and man’s

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| God’s Character | Man’s Character |
| Verse |  | Verse |  |
| 4 | * Great
* Awesome
* Keeps covenant
* Lovingkindness for those who love Him & keep His commandments
 | 5-6 | * Have sinned
* Committed iniquity
* Acted wickedly
* Rebelled
* Turned aside from God’s commandments and ordinances
* Have not listened to prophets
 |
| 7a | * Righteousness
 | 7b-8 | * Open shame to all regardless of location
* Unfaithful deeds committed against God
* Have sinned against God
 |
| 9a | * Compassion
* Forgiveness
 | 9b-11 | * Rebelled against God
* Not obeyed God’s voice to walk in His statutes as given in by prophets
* Transgressed God’s law
* Turned aside, not obeying Him
* Curse poured out on us
* Have sinned against God
 |
| 12-13a | * Confirmed His words spoken to Israel
* Has brought great calamity on Israel unlike anything done to Jerusalem
 | 13b | * Did not seek the favor of God by turning from iniquity and giving attention to the truth
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| 14a | * Lord kept calamity in store and brought it on Israel
* Righteous with respect to all His deeds
 | 14b | * Have not obeyed God’s voice
 |
| 15a | * Rescued His people out of Egypt with a mighty hand
* Has made a reputation for Himself
 | 15b | * Have sinned
* Have been wicked
 |

 C. Prayer of Supplication (v16-19) – requests and reasons for them

 1. Let anger and wrath turn away from us in accordance with God’s righteous acts because of our sins and iniquities, we are a reproach to everyone around us

 2. Listen to my prayer and supplications for Your sake. Let Your light shine on Your desolate sanctuary (Num 6:25)

 3. Hear and see our desolations and those of Jerusalem. Our prayer is not based on any merits of our own but on God’s compassion

 4. Hear and forgive – listen and take action – for Your sake. Do not delay because Jerusalem and its people are Yours (Jer 14:20-21)

III. God’s Immediate Response through Gabriel (v20-23)

 A. Gabriel appears to Daniel while he is still praying for himself and all Israel (Is 65:24)

 1. Daniel had seen him before in a vision (Dan 8)

 2. Daniel was extremely weary

 3. Happened at the time of the evening offering

 B. Gabriel gave instruction and told Daniel he came to make him circumspect, intelligent and wise

 1. Daniel asked God to hear 🡪 presence of angel verifies that

 2. Daniel sought God’s favor 🡪 addressed as highly esteemed, deeply loved

 3. Daniel said don’t delay 🡪 response before done praying

IV. Coming Things – 70 periods of seven – weeks of years? (v24-27)

 A. Interpreting Gabriel’s account must be done in context of Daniel’s prayer – failure of Israel to keep old covenant

 B. 70 periods of 7 decreed for Daniel’s people and Jerusalem – six purposes – all fulfilled by or at the final establishment of God’s kingdom

 1. To finish the transgression (revolt)

 2. To make an end of sin – abolish it

 3. To make atonement for iniquity – to bring God and man together

 4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – sin not present

 5. To seal up vision and prophecy – all prophecy fulfilled in and authenticated by Christ

 6. To anoint the most holy [one or place]

 C. Problems interpreting the 70 periods of seven

 1. Literally or not – 490 years or something else

 2. When is the beginning of the period: the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

 a. Which decree?

 (1) “Rebuild the house of the Lord” – Cyrus to Zerubbabel, 538 BC (Ez 1:3)

 (2) “Adorn the house of the Lord” – Artaxerxes to Ezra, 458 BC (Ez 7:11-27)

 (3) “Rebuild Jerusalem” – Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, 445 BC (Neh 1:5)

 b. Perhaps a prophetic word, not a royal decree

 (1) Jeremiah’s prophecy in Jer 29:10 – 597 BC or shortly after

 (2) Gabriel’s words in Dan 9:23 – 538 BC

 3. When is the end of the period? Which period?

 a. Who is the anointed one in v25? Jesus or Cyrus (Is 45:1)?

 b. Plotting the weeks based on the decree’s date – are the 7 and 62 weeks consecutive or is there a break between them?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates of decrees** | **+49** | **+434** | **+1** |
| After 597 BC | 548 BC | 114 BC | 107 BC |
| 538 BC | 489 BC | 55 BC | 48 BC |
| 458 BC | 409 BC | 25 AD | 32 AD |
| 445 BC | 396 BC | 38 AD | 45 AD |

 4. After 69 weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing – how long after?

 a. People of a prince to come will come and destroy Jerusalem and the temple

 b. The end of the city and temple will come with a flood – to the end there will be war – desolations have been determined

 5. A 70th week – is it contiguous with 69th week?

 a. One will make a firm covenant with the many for a week – who is the one?

 b. Halfway through the week, he will stop sacrifices and offerings – who is this?

 c. On wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate – what does this mean?

 d. Eventually there will be complete destruction

 D. So what’s the bottom line? – once again, a long haul view

 1. We are not privy to all the details or the timing of these events

 2. Nevertheless, we know:

 a. A Messiah was prophesied to come and He has come

 b. That Messiah would be cut off and He was

 c. Another prince will come who will destroy Jerusalem and its sanctuary and that has happened

 d. There will be a final judgment at the end

 2. So we have hope – for Daniel the new covenant will come (Jer 31:31-33) – for us, it already has