

THE RELEVANCY OF DANIEL'S PRAYER TODAY
DANIEL 9:1-19

Introduction:

1. There are many prayers recorded in the Bible but this one of Daniel's is one of the best.
2. In this prayer we see the true heart of the prophet showing his love for his people Israel.
3. The nation of Judah had been taken captive by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar and would be in captivity for the next 70 years.
4. The Medo-Persian Empire assumed control of the Kingdom, and it was in the first year of the reign of King Darius that Daniel offered up this prayer to God.
5. Let's look at this prayer in depth and see what we can learn from it.

I. DANIEL'S CONFESSION FOR HIMSELF AND HIS PEOPLE. **v.5**

- A. We have sinned. (To miss the goal or path of right and duty)
- B. We have committed iniquity. (To bend, twist, pervert)
- C. We have done wickedly. (To do that which is wicked, to be guilty, to be condemned)
- D. We have rebelled. (To rebel, to revolt)
- E. We have departed from God's precepts and judgments. (To turn aside, to end)
- F. Listen my brethren, we know what is right yet many times we refuse to do it.

James 4:17 *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

II. THE PROBLEM THEN AND NOW. **vv. 6-9**

- A. We have not listened to God's Word. (To hear and understand by choice)
- B. Unfaithfulness to God was seen by other nations.
- C. That brought about shame to the nation of Israel in the eyes of those nations around them.
- D. When saved individuals do not listen to the Word that is preached or taught, others take notice and see their unfaithfulness, and that should bring shame to the child of God that is being unfaithful. **Psalm 44:15** *My dishonor is continually before me, And the shame*

of my face has covered me...

III. OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS A RESULT OF NOT LISTENING TO HIM. **vv. 10-14**

- A. All Israel was guilty of disobedience.
- B. They were warned in the Law of Moses what would happen if they were not obedient. **Deuteronomy 30:15-20*****
- C. The disaster that would come upon the Israelites would be horrendous.
- D. In spite of God's judgments they still would not repent.
- E. God demands obedience from His children. **1 Samuel 15:22** *So Samuel said: "Has the*

LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

IV. DANIEL'S PLEA TO GOD. **vv. 17-19**

- A. Daniel implores God to listen to his prayer.
- B. His plea is not for his sake or his countrymen's sake, but because of God's mercies.

Lamentations 3:22 *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

- C. He asks God for four things in his prayer:
 1. For God to forgive their sins and iniquities.
 2. For God to listen to his pleas.

3. For God to act.
 4. For God to not delay in acting.
- D. Daniel's reasoning for God to not delay in acting:
1. For God's own sake.
 2. For the sake of Jerusalem.
 3. For the sake of God's people.

Conclusion:

1. How can we expect our country to turn back to God when we are as guilty as the nation of Israel?
2. It is one thing to blame others for our country's sins, but as individuals are we Christians also to blame because of our failure to confess our sins and truly repent?
3. This prayer of Daniel's given over 2500 years ago is still just as important today for any individual or any country to follow. **2 Chronicles 7:14** *...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*