

HOW GOD ANSWERED DANIEL Part 2
Daniel 9: 20-27

INTRODUCTION :

“The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God’s standing challenge, ‘Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!” — Hudson Taylor

Quote : “What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.” —E.M. Bounds

For the past two Sundays, we have discussed about Daniel : A Mighty Man of Prayer. We discussed How Daniel prayed, What Daniel prayed for and today we will discuss How God answered Daniel’s prayer.

Last Sunday, we are concluding our study of Daniel in Chapter 9. As mentioned earlier, we have finished from verses 1 – 19 **and now we will see how God answered his prayer from verses 20-27**

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

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

PRAY

How God answered Daniel

1. God answered Daniel swiftly.

Daniel 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- 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.

I love how the Word of God said that “While” Daniel was still praying... Gabriel was already sent to answer his prayer.

The same story we have in Acts when the church was praying for Peter when he was imprisoned.

Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

While the church were praying, little did they know that God already sent an angel to free Peter. Peter even thought he was just seeing a vision.

But look at this.

11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”

12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying

You see this again? They were praying for Peter but they never knew that their prayer was already answered. **The most important thing here is we keep on praying. The word is constant prayer** *constant prayer*

Why? It's because God has answered your prayers already once you kneel down and pray.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER : Even if you don't see it, God is already moving.

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

Again, the secret is constant prayer :

Look at another situation again when Daniel prayed in chapter 10

Daniel 10 : 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

But what was the cause of the delay again?

13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

PRAYER IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE!

2. God answered Daniel specifically.

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:

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

To understand why this is the answer to Daniel's prayer, we need to look at what he was praying about. Let's look again at the preceding verses

Daniel 9 : ¹⁵ "Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶ Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Daniel knew that the reason they were in that situation is because of the sins of his people and he was asking God to

THE SPECIFIC ASK : turn away your anger and your wrath

We all know and like the character of God that He is full of grace and lovingkindness. In fact, most of our modern day worship songs have that theme.

But we must not forget that God is a holy God and a righteous judge and part of His righteousness is his anger and wrath against sin.

Ezekiel 25:17 I will carry out great vengeance on them and punish them in my wrath. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I take vengeance on them."

Remember God's wrath is not like man's wrath which is always unjustified, it is born out of emotion and most of the time, it's because he wants to take power and control.

James 1:20 For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Illustration : I was talking with this old man who was a former soldier and he had a limp. I asked him what's the cause of the limp. He said, it was caused by a grenade that

was thrown at them. And you know grenade explodes shrapnels. He said, he has so many shrapnels in his body that not all of it was taken out except for the ones that endangered his life.

That's what rage and anger and wrath do to a situation. When you get angry and full of rage and can't control your temper, it's like throwing a grenade in your own house. Yes, people might survive but the shrapnels will be there on the ones you aimed your grenade at.

Rage and anger does not come from the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5: 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these

QUOTE : Now God's wrath is born out of His holiness and righteousness. God's anger and wrath is directed towards sin. He is but right to punish sin.

And if there's something that sinners (which is everyone in the world) needs to be afraid and tremble of that is the wrath of God.

Look at the Bible verses :

Isaiah 26:21 For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

No wonder who wrote the book of wisdom which is Proverbs

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

Because if people fear the Lord, they will base their decisions and actions on what they know what is right in God's eyes. (not in their own eyes).

I emphasized right in God's eyes...not our ways or eyes.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

How do we know what is right in God's eyes? THE WORD OF GOD!!!

Illustration : I heard this story about a student who was debating his professor that God is not real and the student said, "I will curse God right now and if God is real, then he will strike me down." So the student started cursing God and nothing happened and so

the student said to the professor, "See, nothing happened to me. That's why there is really no God." The professor replied, "Do you think that God will reply to your foolishness at this point when the Bible says that He is also slow to anger and patient?" And then quoted,

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Yes, God is patient to sinners but look at what Romans said to people who continue to sin and try to live their life their own way.

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Etymology : storing “thesaurizo” accumulating....LORD HAVE MERCY!

Daniel knew his people were in that situation because of their sin and that's why he asked God,

Daniel 9 : ...we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath

And look at the reassuring answer of God to Daniel

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Etymology : chathak “determined” settled, marked out... it means God decreed it and it will happen.

What did God decree? *to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness*

Remember this, Daniel knows that the cause of their pain and suffering was sin. *we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.*

**Now in order for the pain and suffering to go away, what do you need to take away?
SIN!!!**

Illustration : It's like my wife years ago, she had pain in her stomach that is causing her to suffer until we discovered there's a cancerous tumor in her ovaries. What do you do

in that situation, just give her pain relievers? OF COURSE NOT. You take away the cancerous tumour that's causing the pain.

Sin is like a cancerous tumour in our body. It has to be taken out. And what was the promise of God to Daniel.

LISTEN CAREFULLY : Remember this, we talked earlier that even if you don't see it, God has already answered your prayers but the answer to your prayers is based on who He is.

Let me explain. You might be praying, Lord give me a new job. That's a fair ask. What we expect is that God will answer right away and give us that new job. BUT remember this, God will look at the motivation and root cause of the prayer AND like a good doctor, He will not treat the symptom (looking for a new job) but also the root cause of your prayer. Maybe, it's lack of faith. Maybe it's wrong motivation. Maybe, it's idolatry. Because God will not answer prayers that is contrary to who He is.

In short, God will not only give you the job but sometimes, He will fix your relationship first or character first so that when you get that new job, you have the right attitude that will reflect Jesus Christ in your workplace.

Let us go back to the verse.

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Quick eschatology lesson : Seventy seven or in other version, seventy weeks. A week, which is 7 days represents a year. So seventy multiplied by seven is 490 years.

In short, after 490 years, GOD WILL PUT AN END TO SIN AND MAKE AMENDS FOR WICKEDNESS AND BRING BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS...BUT HOW?

to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing

Etymology : Anointed One "Mashaiach" which is Messiah

Daniel knew that the cause of all of this pain, suffering and shame is the anger and wrath of God on the sins of his people.

So God's specific answer, is not only saying, "Don't worry, I will restore Jerusalem, (which he did by the way) but I will forever take away sin (which is the cause of all pain and suffering in this world) by sending a Messiah!

That 490 years (remember the Babylonian calendar is there are 360 days in a year not 365), and that seven sevens and sixty two sevens which is 173,880 days. This is the equivalent of 476 years and 25 days, using our modern Gregorian calendar's 365-day year was Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem and people extolled Him as the Messiah

John 13 : 12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!" (Save us)

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

5 "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey's colt."

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

God is saying to Daniel, I will take away sin and make amends to you and there will be righteousness forever by sending a Messiah!

But how will the Messiah take away sin?

After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing

It is through Jesus the Christ (christos "anointed one") who died on the cross for our sin.

This is the reason, when Jesus was on the cross, God's Son, ALL THE WRATH OF GOD AGAINST SIN WAS LAID ON HIM.

That's why Jesus was called

John 1:29 "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

And those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, believing that his death on the cross was the punishment for our sin will be saved from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

SHOW ILLUSTRATION : LISTEN CAREFULLY VERY IMPORTANT:

It is both the tremendous love of God for sinners and the anger and wrath of God on sinners is the reason behind the Cross.

And the only way, we can be saved from the anger and wrath of God is through Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

DANIEL WAS MOURNING BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE AND GOD ASSURED HIM THAT ONE OF THESE DAYS (WHICH HAS NOW HAPPENED 2000 YEARS AGO) THAT GOD WILL TAKE AWAY HIS WRATH AGAINST SIN THROUGH THE ANOINTED ONE RULER (MESSIAH, THE KING) JESUS CHRIST! HALLELUJAH!

GOD ANSWERED DANIEL'S PRAYER SPECIFICALLY EVEN WITH TIMELINES!

Did he understand in detail when the angel was speaking. Not so, but he got the answer to his prayers.... *"more than he can ask or imagine."*

Application : That's why when God answers prayers... He will answer it completely. Before He changes a situation for you...He will change you first.

Now let me talk to those who haven't put their faith on the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only escape from God's wrath. The only way is to believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross as the punishment for sin and therefore taking away God's wrath. But if you don't believe in that, God's wrath is still on you.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Let me end this again with the ovarian cancer of my wife.

Ovarian cancer is known as the silent assassin. Why? It's because you will never see any sign or feel any pain until it's on its late stages and usually, it is too late. My wife's cancer is Stage 3c. Only 1 out of 5 women survive Stage 3c ovarian cancer.

Why am I saying this...SIN IS THE SILENT ASSASSIN.

Equate this : The word assassin with sin

You might not see it or feel it but one of these days, suddenly, the wrath of God will fall on you... and the only way to escape that is today...

HOW? BY ACKNOWLEDGING SIN, REPENTING OF SIN AND BELIEVING JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS IS THE PAYMENT FOR SIN.

Before it's too late... that's why the Bible says :

Hebrews 3: 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. 15 As has just been said:

*“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts*

You can ask now pastor, How?

Acts 16:31 31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

By the way, some people claim this promise that if they get saved, their household will be saved... The context of this, is that, if you believe **and if** your household believes in Jesus Christ, they will be saved.

That's why Paul and Silas preached the Word to the entire household.

Why?

Romans 10: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

Next week : Why Daniel was mighty in prayer?

S.G.D.