

I Had A Dream

Daniel 9:20-27

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, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word 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 Place.

²⁵ “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out 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 put to death 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 at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

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A. Daniel the Dreamer

- Daniel had a series of prophetic visions that reveal divine secrets.
- These visions are significant in their depth and frequency, reflecting his close relationship with God.
- Notable visions include:
 - * the statue and tree for Nebuchadnezzar,
 - * writing on the wall, & visions involving animals during Belshazzar's reign.
 - * The vision discussed in Daniel 9, under Darius, occurs after the events of Daniel 5 but before those in Daniel 7.
 - * Daniel’s frequent and intense visions demonstrate his unique role as a vessel for God’s revelations.

B. Daniel Spends Time in Prayer

- Daniel's life is centred on discovering God's will, with prayer and confession of sin becoming his primary focus.
- He passionately seeks God's face confessing both his own sins and those of Israel.
- His prayers reflect deep concern for his people, their dispersion due to sin, and the potential wrath of God on Jerusalem.
- Daniel's intense intercession shows how desperation often precedes deliverance.
- His prayers show a profound longing for God's forgiveness and blessing, emphasizing the power of confession and the need for intercessory prayer.

C. The Arrival of an Angel to Reveal God's Plan

- Angel Gabriel arrives, bringing assurance and revealing God's future plans.
- Gabriel's timing and message emphasize that Daniel is deeply loved by God and that his people's survival is secure.
- Gabriel reveals the mysterious "seventy weeks," a prophetic timetable often debated in its interpretation—whether figurative or literal.
- These seventy weeks encompass events leading to the coming of the Messiah, His death, and the eventual restoration of Israel.
- The prophecy assures believers of God's redemption plan and the hope of a future Kingdom.

D. The Example of Daniel's Prayer

- Daniel's prayer is marked by a heartfelt plea for God to turn away His wrath and restore Jerusalem.
- He intercedes for his people, reminding God that they are His chosen ones.
- Daniel's prayer reflects a deep concern for spiritual revival and the well-being of his nation, demonstrating a model of fervent and selfless intercession.

E. What Would Daniel's Example Do for Us?

- Daniel's example challenges believers to reflect on their own sins, seek spiritual renewal, and strive for revival in their communities.
- His dedication to prayer and confession sets a powerful example for the Church today, urging Christians to take active steps towards spiritual renewal and to live out Kingdom principles.

F. God Is Looking for People Who Will Dare to Be Daniels

- God seeks individuals who will respond to Daniel's example with humility, trust in God's sovereignty, and hope in His promises.
- Christians are called to:
 - * start each day anew,
 - * embrace God's call to faithfulness
 - * and live in the bright future promised by God's Word.