

CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND PRAYER

This is our second lesson in this series. We are studying **Daniels' background** to the prophecy of the 70 Weeks (Dan.9:20-27).

We have divided **Dan.9:1-27** into two studies:

- Dan.9:1-19 Daniel's Prayer regarding 70 Years
- Dan.9:20-27 Daniel's Prophecy regarding 70 Weeks.

We have divided Daniel Prayer (Dan.9:1-19) into two background studies:

- Dan.9:1-3 Circumstances Behind Daniel's Prayer
- Dan.9:4-19 Content of Daniel's Prayer.

Daniel is probably better known for his prophecies than for his prayers. But whenever God is impressed with a believer's prayer, He records it for us to study and learn.

Therefore, I will share with you three things I have learned about the Circumstances Behind this specific prayer of Daniel.

<p>There are always circumstances of life behind our prayers.</p>

1. Our text gives us the first circumstance behind this prayer.

(Dan.9:1) "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans."

This is the beginning of the three-part fulfillment of (Jer.50:17-20) (Israel, Babylon and Assyria).

- Babylon conquered by Medo-Persians (539 BC).
- Daniel was taken captive in first deportation in 605 BC.
- In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia (536), Daniel has been in captivity for 69 years (Dan.10:1) [605 – 536 = 69]

The 5th cycle of Divine Discipline placed upon Judah, dispersed to Babylon occurred in 586 BC and lasted 70 years.

(2 Kings 25; 2 Chron.36:15-21). "**Until** the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until** the land enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept Sabbath **until** seventy years were completed." (2 Chron.36:20b-21)

Biblical history outline (Dan.2:39-43; 7:26-28; 8:20-27)

- 941-722 BC A divided monarchy, the fall of Israel to Assyria
- 941-586 BC The fall of Judah to Babylon
- 586-539 BC The fall of Babylon to Medo-Persia
- 539-332 BC The fall of Persia to the Greeks
- 332-63 BC The fall of the Greeks to the Romans
- 63-70 AD The fall of Judah to the Romans

2. Our text gives us the second circumstance behind this prayer of Daniel.

(Dan.9:2) “In the first year of his reign, Daniel, **observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolation of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.**”

Principle: Consistent daily study of the Scriptures, inhaling and exhaling of the truth of God’s word in your Christian Way of Life (CWL) is absolutely necessary. (2 Tim.2:15; 3:16-17)

Jeremiah sent doctrinal lessons to those in the Babylon captivity (exiles).

(Jer.29:1) “Now these are **the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exiles, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.**”

(Jer.29:10-11) “For thus says the Lord, ‘When **seventy years** have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. **‘For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’**”

Jeremiah told them that the land would be desolate for 70 years because of Sabbath violation (Jer.25:11; Lev.25:1-7; 2 Chron.36:14-21).

(2 Chron.36:14-21) gives three reasons for the 70 years of the 5th cycle:

- Idolatry (2 Chron.36:14)
- Rejection of the directive will of word of God (2 Chron.36:15-20)
- Sabbath violation (2 Chron.36:21).
Note: Pay attention to Cyrus’ decree (2 Chron.36:22-23) [586-516] (Rebuilding of Temple).

3. Our text gives us the third circumstance behind his prayer.

(Dan.9:3) “**So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.**”

Principle: Consistent daily quiet time in the presence of the Lord with prayer regarding your circumstance of life is absolutely necessary.

(Phil.4:6-7) “**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**”

F.A.C.T.S – an acrostic describing **HOW** we should pray.

(Heb.4:14-16) Our confession; Our consolation; and Our confidence

F ather and Son	(addressed to) (Matt.6:9; John 14:13-14)
A sk according to His will	(1 John 5:14-15)
C onfess personal sins	(Mental Attitude Sin, Sin of the tongue, and Overt Sin (1 John 1:9; Ps.66:18) (Lev.26:40-46)
T hanksgiving	(Phil.4:6-7; Eph.5:20)
S pirit intercessor	(Rom.8:26-27; Eph.6:18)