

DANIEL CHAPTER 9-PRAYER

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E'ER YOU LEFT YOUR ROOM THIS MORNING DID YOU THINK TO PRAY?

DARIUS SON OF AHASUERUS

The little known research of Isaac Newton showed that PAUSANIAS copied a mistake of Herodotus that affirmed ASTYAGES son of CYAXERES (AHASUERUS) reigned contemporaneous with ALYATTES king of Lydia. It is not the case. CYAXERES had a son who married ARIENE the daughter of ALYATTES and that son developed a coinage for Medo Persia called the DARIC after his name-DARIUS which coin was of gold and silver shipped from LYDIA which he conquered and made his province. DARIUS used coin that CROESUS actually invented changing its weight and value and re-circulating it in his realm. Newton gives the date of CYAXERES' reign as 600BC to 560BC. He represents the reign of DARIUS as from 559-537BC. He conquered Babylon as JEROME confirms "Babylon was taken by Darius king of the Medes and his brother-in-law Cyrus in 538BC. Thereafter as XENOPHON reports that an old sore of HARPAGUS who helped CYRUS conquer CROESUS for DARIUS revolted and having been sent with an army against CYRUS turned traitor and defected to CYRUS upon which act DARIUS sent another force which was beaten by CYRUS at PERSEPOLIS. DARIUS became a prisoner of CYRUS. Darius was 62 when he took Babylon. Cyrus was 70 when he died in 529BC (Herodotus) so he also was 62 when Babylon fell. He became king of Persia just one year before Darius took Babylon.

DARIUS' ONE AND ONLY REMAINING YEAR 1-2

In the single year [The Hebrew usage is tja which like dj a -the word used for the unity of God in Deuteronomy 6 has the force "the only one of it's kind-hence "FIRST AND LAST"] that belonged to DARIUS the son of AHASUERUS from the seed of the Medes who became king over the kingdom of the CHALDEANS. Daniel is well aware that Darius had reigned over the Medes for 21 years and what he is saying is that this was his first year as king over the Medes and also the Babylonians.

In the "one and only" year of the king I Daniel understood through books Hebrew prophetic literature the number of years when the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet to continue in that count to fulfil[Piel of al m] the seventieth year of the desolation of Jerusalem.

DANIEL'S UNDERSTANDING OF PRAYER 3-4a

And I gave my face to ADONAI ELOHIM to search continually and as a must (imperatively)

(1) Searching prayer-[hlp-t "supplicating" that is "rolling" as in preparing bread-upon God and added to the llp is the t of the cross-for this Hebrew letter was anciently subscribed to a "bill of complaint"-so for us moderns bringing to God a "complaint" associated with "the cross" or the name of the Christ]

(2) Searching by plea for mercy [mymj t "cry for favour or grace" which comes from the root hnj meaning "incline towards" or "pitching a tent"-so grace "inclines" towards need and "comes to abide"]

(3) Searching by fasting [mX - "shut mouth" -not just "nil by mouth" but rather a state where "silence mnd is at the root of the concept. The silence is that of "expectation" and confidence and listening.]

(4) And sackcloth and ashes [qs the thick hair clothing of the corn sack and rpa "ashes" -the white pulverised remains of burnt wood put in a band covering the head. These were added under the normal prayer tent or TALLITH and significant of humility and repentance]

(5) And I will have been "praying"["Rolling" a burden upon] to YAHWEH ELOHI "my God"

(6) And I will have been "confessing" [hdythanking or celebrating by pointing with the hand-thanksgiving involved the hands and Daniel prayed with his hands three times daily.]

(7) And I brought (everything) to light. [rma "I said" Daniel opened his heart to God]

DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER-DAILY HE PRAYED THREE TIMES!

(1) DANIEL'S APPROACH

"O My Lord, The mighty God-The Great wrestling One-the "One who makes me tremble" [ary with fear excitement joy]-the Keeper of The Covenant and "the" covenant desirous love and benevolence or "sure mercies"(Isaiah 55.3) for those that love him [who "delight in " Him-who "breath after" Him] and for those who guard and heed his commandments [rmb as one "guards" a garden or "watches a flock" or "keeps a house"-so the "obedient"]

DANIEL'S CONFESSION 5-6

(1) We have sinned [afj] and done iniquity [mw] and caused guilt and impiety [[vr] and have revolted [drm]and we have become apostate [rws] from your commands and judgments.

(2) Besides we have not listened to your servants the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings our princes our fathers and all the people of the land. Daniel gives us a definition of the Jewish prophet

A PROPHET IS ONE WHO CONTINUALLY SPEAKS TO KINGS PRINCES FAMILY HEADS AND THE ENTIRE POPULACE

Daniel revealed visions but he did not have the mission of a prophet nor proclaim to the whole land of Israel the message God sent. A prophet's calling was a life calling.

DANIEL APPEALS TO THE LORD 7-11

(1) O ADONAI to you righteousness belongs but to us shame of face as at this day-to a man of the tribe of Judah [Daniel himself] and to those who live in Jerusalem and to all who are of Israel near and far in all lands where YOU caused them to be driven because of the treachery or perversity by which they were faithless to YOU.

(2) O YAHWEH to our kings our princes our fathers belongs shame of face-who have sinned against YOU.

(3) To ADONAI ELOHENU belongs the mercies and pardons for we have rebelled against HIM -

(4) And we have not listened to the voice of YAHWEH ELOHENU to walk in HIS laws which he gave to our person by the hand of his servants the prophets.

(5) And ALL ISRAEL have by-passed or transgressed YOUR law and deviated or turned or become apostate [rws] so that they should not listen to YOUR voice and the curse will melt or pour over us and the oath which is written in the law of Moses. (See Leviticus 26.14 & Deuteronomy 27.15,28.15, 29.20&27) the servant of ELOHIM because we have sinned against HIM.

ISRAEL PASSED UNDER THE CURSE WITHOUT APPEAL 12-20

And HE has made HIS word stand which HE continually spoke against us and against our judges who judged us to cause a great calamity to be brought upon us which has not been done under the whole heaven as it has been wrought in Jerusalem. This whole calamity has come upon us as it is written in the law of Moses and yet we did not keep on beseeching or seeking mercy [Piel of hlj] before the face of YAHWEH ELOHENU to turn from our iniquities and become skilled wise and devout in YOUR truth.

So YAHWEH has lain sleepless and watching over calamity and caused it to come upon us because YAHWEH ELOHENU is righteous in respect of all the works he does and we have not obeyed HIS voice.

(1) And now **O** ADONAI ELOHENU YOU who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and has made a name for YOU as at this day-we have sinned -we have done wickedness.

(2) **O** ADONAI according to all your righteousness please let your anger and your hot wrath turn back from the city of Jerusalem YOUR holy hill-because by our sin and by the iniquity of our fathers Jerusalem and YOUR people are become a reproach to all around us.

(3) And NOW ELOHENU Hear the prayer of YOUR SERVANT... *Daniel himself is deeply optimistic that he will turn around the fortunes of Jerusalem-and indeed on account of the decree of Cyrus who by now must have been most respectful of him-a most generous decree was issued in favour of re-settlement of the exiles...and my pleas for grace and let the light of your face be upon the sanctuary of your name for the sake of ADONAI to answer favourably O ADONAI or to continue the testimony O ADONAI.*

(4) ELOHAI incline your ear and listen; open YOUR eyes and see... *The call is for vigilance not drowsiness-perhaps the nearest Daniel got to chiding the LORD...our desolations and look at the city which is called by YOUR name for it is not on account of our acts of righteousness or out of our favouring acts that we fall before your face but because of the greatness of YOUR sure mercies.*

(5) **O** ADONAI listen; **O** ADONAI pardon [hl/s] cause yourself to be sharp and take action; do not get behind in YOUR own affairs **O** ELOHAI (my God) for the city and the people are called by YOUR name. *This from the aged Daniel is one of the most telling and sharp pleas of all scripture. It is enhanced by three powerful appeals and the suggestion that it is credible that the LORD is not listening and that HE is even become lethargic and careless of HIS affairs. The ensuing action lies in scripture to show us as the act itself proved to Daniel that this is far from the case.*

THE CHAPTER OF EIGHT "O's"

I think it was Sidlow Baxter who classed it a tragedy that **the church had forgotten how to say "O" to God.** Our formal prayers carry no appeal. We are well

taught by Daniel who on no less than eight occasions utters his soul's desire with mighty appeals to the LORD.

GABRIEL MEETS WITH DANIEL 21

And still more while I was going on and on speaking and "a man praying and praying"(a husband of continual prayer) and a "man of confessing over and over"(a man of confession) my sin and the sin of my people and down there on my knees making my appeal before the face of YAHWEH ELOHAI on behalf of the holy hill of ELOHAI-Yes while I was continuing to speak in prostrate prayer also the warrior GABRIEL whom I saw in the vision at the first ...*This takes us back to Chapter 8 and some 14 years when Daniel was in his mid sixties whereas he is now in his eighties. He immediately sees the warrior angel whom he previously met. We learn from this that Daniel did not pray with his eyes closed...being caused to go swiftly -even being caused to be weary in a hurry or swiftly struck me at the time of the evening offering of incense or bloodless sacrifice. The word "touch" has within its root the notion of gentle force. The act was not disciplinary nor to distract a man from devotion but to prevent further implicating of the interest of God and to get Daniel on track. There is a sense in which the most devout through ardour some impatience and resolution can err on the side of "implicatory" prayer-i.e. implying some failure on God's part. The Great prayer warriors as Moses David and Daniel may be cited in this respect. In this instance none can face down God's warriors who are close to the throne and know better reason.*

GABRIEL EXPLAINS THE DELAY 22-25

And he made me understand through sustained conversation with me and said "Daniel I have come out to cause you to have the skill of understanding (or) explanation. Gabriel was not just coming to speak of one topic but to totally renovate Daniel's capability in comprehending the eras ahead. At the beginning of your appeal for grace the word came forth and I am come to make you fully aware for you are precious [twcmmj literally "precious vessels" "multi-precious"] so understand by the word and cause you to grasp by the vision. Gabriel was referring to the two part vision of the beasts and the ram and goat and also to the word God sent which he confirmed. Seventy weeks [my[bv SHABUAIM my[byv SHIBHAIM literally "weeks seventy"] are determined & divided [Jtj]-a word with double meaning-both speaking about the period "**determined**" and the period as understood to be "**divided**"] for or over your people and your holy city to restrain or withhold or shut up and close down [alk]the transgression and to seal up or make an end of [mtj-literally "seal with a seal ring" as a completed matter]the sin and to make atonement for iniquity and to cause a righteousness or acquittal or justification of the ages and to seal or finish the vision and prophet [aybn refers to the One who then tells the whole future] and to anoint or appoint and consecrate the Holy of Holies. *This final purpose speaks not of a square area but of the "Holiest one of God".* **And you know and you have skill and intelligence from the going forth of the word or command to turn around and to build Jerusalem** until Messiah the Prince or Leader is **seven weeks and sixty and two weeks**. Daniel knew of the decree of 539-8 but did not live to see those of 519 and 445BC. He was to understand that the current concession and edict in respect of the "holy Place" did not fulfil the reversal of the fall of Jerusalem nor was it the decree heralded by Gabriel.

**WHAT A MAN IS ON HIS KNEES BEFORE GOD THAT A MAN IS-MURRAY
MCHEYNE**

**THE DECREE OF CYRUS & TWO SUBSEQUENT PERSIAN
EDICTS**

*In 539BC (D.J. WISEMAN in the NBD has 539-PHILLIPS of Moody has 538.) Cyrus issued a very early decree -a mandate to rebuild the temple (not the walls cf Ezra 1 1-4 who entered Jerusalem 467BC (NEWTON)) at Jerusalem. This was the start. The 50,000 exiles by May of 536BC [535 NEWTON] (within 3 years) had laid the temple foundation which was not completed till March 516BC. This decree of Cyrus was given whilst Daniel was still in Babylon and he most certainly knew of it. (See above) HYSTASPES in 519BC issued a further decree (Ezra 6.1-12) to promote the help of the exiles. In 445BC Artaxerxes LONGIMANUS issued the terminus ex quo decree (stated by AFRICANUS) which brings us to **Nisan AD32** by the famous calculation of SIR ROBERT ANDERSON ["The Coming Prince" Page 128] (69X7=483 years or 173,880 days) Dr Tim LAHAYE in his "Popular Bible Commentary" indicates that by more accurate calculation Sir ROBERT is seen to be three days off by confusing his Gregorian and Julian "leap years". LAHAYE believes the decree that fulfilled Daniel 9.25 focussing on the "plaza and moat" was an edict in favour of Nehemiah 443 BC to which the AD QUEM date is 30AD.*

THE REBUILDING OF THE STREET ETC 26A

Seven and add sixty and two weeks and it will change and the street shall be built up again or re-built and the trench and in distress or during trouble of the times or perhaps long periods of time. [*myt*] After Sixty Two weeks Messiah shall cause himself to be cut off or "make a covenant" [*Niphal of trk*] and not for Himself and the people of the leader or prince who is coming shall destroy both the city and the sanctuary. *This is a clear reference to the Romans and their leader Titus who became Emperor. He was brutal in the Jewish war and confessed "one sin"-perhaps that of allowing his evil brother Domitian to succeed him. His military campaigns in the East ran at length but his imperial reign endured just 2 years before ill health cut it short.*

THE END OF THE JEWISH SECOND TEMPLE ERA 26B

(1) And the end or harvest will come in an inundation or "sweeping away"[*pfv*]
(2) And until the "event prophesied" or the "cutting down" a war of desolations or astonishing devastations is decided or is what (they themselves) decided. *The Niphal is an indicator that as Josephus points out the city might have surrendered and multiple lives have been saved-but the zealots determined to fight to the death-which decision is reflected in the story of MASADA.*

**THE END OF THE MODERN HUMAN GOVERNMENT ERA
AND THE**

DEVASTATION ENTAILED IN ISRAEL & THE WORLD 27

(1) And he (ROME OR ROME REDIVIVUS shall confirm the covenant with many - or cause a covenant to prevail - [*rbg* "strengthen the covenant"] for a single week
(2) And middle of the week he shall cause the interruption or cessation or restraint or end or removal of **sacrifice and evening incense offering** *The Antichrist will ban critical Jewish religious rites*

(3) And until the removal to distant parts or **the hiding** [pḥk. *The expression relates to "wings"*]. This may refer to the Rapture and also to the departure of large swathes of Jewish population in face of war.

(4) Contaminations [xqṽ] will have laid waste or desolated or astonished [Poel of mmv] to the end or the finish or the languishing.[hl k]

(5) And that determined or active and sharp [xrj carries the sense of "something predetermined" "something bitter" something sharp and decisive" "something that will cut down a latter day harvest like a thresher"]will be poured or "melt upon" [Jtḥ] the desolating or the one who continues to desolate.

This mighty warrior angel is speaking about vials from heaven and of terrible punishment for terrible crime. This latter day war which we may expect the in the lifetime of the rising generation could be little understood except in heaven. What is of interest is that the sanctuary of Israel is the primer and fuse for this great conflict and that because the international community and its latter day leader or "prince"

PRAYER IS THE OFFERING UP OF OUR DESIRES UNTO GOD IN THE NAME OF
CHRIST WITH CONFESSION OF OUR SIN AND THANKFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF ALL HIS MERCIES

FINIS

POSTSCRIPT

The camel kneels at the close of day,
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have its burden lifted off
And rest again.

In the Olympic Year 2012 Yonngi Cho's method of using the petitions of the Lord's prayer as a running track was particularly apt. Take, for instance Petition 2 "Thy kingdom come" and apply it to your family, your neighbourhood, your work or leisure and your mission interests etc. In this way you may extend the life of your intercession using all the petitions.

Prayers in the Psalms. Turn to Psalms 6, 13, 16, 22, 23, 30, 42, 51, 63, 90, 119, 130, 131, 139 and 145 and "teach yourself" to follow David –see especially his last Prayer (Ps 72 10-15)

One could scarce do better than take a turn through Paul's prayers in Acts 22.10, Romans 11.33-36, 2 Cor. 1.3-5, 2 Cor. 13.24, Gal.1.3-4, Ephesians 1.3-10, Eph 3.14-20 Phil.1 3-11, Col.1 9-12, 1Thess3.11-13 & 5.23, 2Thess.2 13-17

Mexican prayer "I am only a spark-make me a fire; only a spring-make me a lyre; only a drop-make me a fountain; only a feather-make me a wing, only a rag-make me a king!"

Lord help me live from day to day in such a self-forgetful way,

That even when I kneel to pray, my prayer shall be for “others”.

Samuel Zwemer said Prayer is the “Highest Exercise”. It exercises the affection in worship; the will in vowing(προσευχω Jesus form of prayer); the memory in thanksgiving; the imagination in intercession and the conscience in confession.

Rutherford’s Prayer suits the last days...

O my Lord, come over the mountains at one stride! O my beloved flee like a roe or young hart upon the mountains of separation. O that He would fold the heavens together like an old cloak and shovel time and days out of the way, and make ready the Lamb’s wife for her husband!

A Liverpool believer scribbled “pray through” on a bank blotter. The next customer was a discouraged Christian business man who whilst transacting his bank business spotted the words and said “That’s just what I need to do!”...Elijah “hammered” 7 times at Carmel.

Spurgeon and five prayer warriors:-

Jacob “And thou saidst, “Surely I will do thee good”

Moses “What wilt thou do for thy great name?”

Jeremiah “Precious sons of Zion, how are they esteemed as pitchers?”

David “Now I am old and grey...do not forsake me!”

And he entreated on Jesus promise “If you ask anything in my name, I will give it you”

Intimacy is precious!

As the elements of Holy Incense were vital so our approach to God matters.

Myrrh - Let my love freely flow Psalm 42.1

Cumin –Let my conscience be purged from dead works -John 15

Calamus- Through my weakness may I learn to comfort-cf. Gethsemane

Cassia –On my face may I fall with Mary. His name is as ointment-so fragrant

Blended with the Oil of the Holy Spirit

LET’S MEET AT THE THRONE!

LOVE IN JESUS-*BOB COFFEY*