

**Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Weeks**  
**(Part 1, Daniel's Prayer):**  
**A Picture of Seeking God in Prayer and Bible Study**  
**Daniel 09:01–19**

**1. Daniel's great hope**  
*for his people and nation:*  
**Seeking answers from God**

- a. He became very hopeful in the first year of Darius' reign (539-538 B.C.)
- b. He sought the LORD through the Scriptures: Learned that Jerusalem, the capital city of his nation, would lie desolate for seventy years (thus the captivity that began in 605 B.C. was almost over), Jer 25:11-13
- c. He sought the LORD through prayer and fasting

**2. Daniel's great prayer:**  
**Seeking God for mercy and forgiveness**

- a. He expressed adoration for the LORD
  - 1) That He is great and awesome
  - 2) That He keeps His covenant of love and mercy

- 1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom —
- 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.
- 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.
- 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

- b. He confessed his sins  
and the sins of his people
- 1) Their wickedness and rebellion
  - 2) Their rejection of God's Word
  - 3) Their failure to listen to the prophets: Those who faithfully proclaimed God's message
  - 4) Their unfaithfulness
    - A terrible shame and evil when contrasted with God's righteousness
    - A terrible evil that covered them with shame and led to their exile
  - 5) Their sin — stubborn, obstinate, hard-hearted — that stood against God and brought shame upon them
- c. He acknowledged the people's ingratitude: They had...
- 1) Spurned God's mercy
  - 2) Rebelled against God
  - 3) Disobeyed God
  - 4) Broken God's laws and commandments
- d. He acknowledged and honoured God's justice: The warnings of judgment in His Holy Word
- 1) The curses of judgment had been poured out on them because of their sin

- 5 we have sinned and done wrong.  
We have been wicked and have rebelled;  
we have turned away  
from your commands and laws.
- 6 We have not listened to your servants  
the prophets, who spoke in your name  
to our kings, our princes and our ancestors,  
and to all the people of the land.
- 7 "Lord, you are righteous,  
but this day we are covered with shame —  
the people of Judah and the inhabitants  
of Jerusalem and all Israel,  
both near and far, in all the countries  
where you have scattered us  
because of our unfaithfulness to you.
- 8 We and our kings,  
our princes and our ancestors  
are covered with shame, LORD,  
because we have sinned against you.
- 9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving,  
even though we have rebelled against him;
- 10 we have not obeyed the LORD our God  
or kept the laws he gave us  
through his servants the prophets.
- 11 All Israel has transgressed your law  
and turned away, refusing to obey you.  
"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments  
written in the Law of Moses,  
the servant of God,  
have been poured out on us,  
because we have sinned against you.

2) God had fulfilled His warning of judgment: Had brought disaster upon them

3) The disaster had come upon them for two reasons

- Because they had not repented by turning from their sins and obeying the truth
- Because the LORD is righteous and must execute justice upon all who disobey Him

e. He asked God for mercy, forgiveness and restoration: All of which had been formerly demonstrated when God delivered His people out of Egypt

1) The first plea: For God to turn His anger and wrath away from Jerusalem, His holy mountain

- Because showing mercy was the very nature of God's righteousness
- Because their sins made them an object of scorn

2) The second plea:  
For God to hear his prayer and look with favour on the destroyed sanctuary

12 You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.

13 Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favour of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.

14 The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

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.

17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary.

3) The third plea:  
For God to see the ruin  
of the city that bears His name

4) The fourth plea:  
For the LORD to know  
that his requests were not based  
on the people's righteousness  
but on God's mercy

5) The fifth plea:  
For God to forgive and act

- Because of God's glory:  
For His sake
- Because the city and people  
bear His Name

18 Give ear, our God, and hear;  
open your eyes and see the desolation  
of the city that bears your Name.  
We do not make requests of you  
because we are righteous,  
but because of your great mercy.

19 Lord, listen! Lord, forgive!  
Lord, hear and act!  
For your sake, my God, do not delay,  
because your city and your people  
bear your Name.”