***DCF 060222*** ***Dan 9:1- 19 Daniel’s Prayer of Repentance for Israel***

***Dan 9:1  In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.***

Daniel studied and heeded the sacred writings. We are blessed to have the sacred word of God provided for us. ***2 Tim 3:16 16All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

We need doctrine. The world has imprinted its doctrine through the media and the community into the minds of people. Doctrine on things like marriage, law, entertainment, or money, need the correction of God’s Holy Word. Reproof or reprimand is vital when no one is watching. Correction is what we pray for. So often we have no idea what is God’s plan, so we ask for Him to shut and open doors, so that we walk correctly. Our God delights in righteousness, so we continually want instruction. People MUST read the Bible to know the heart of God.

Daniel had known about Jeremiah’s prophecy. He would have known the terrible batterings that this prophet had endured, just to speak out the Word of God. Jeremiah was hated for preaching repentance and judgement on Judah. He had prophesied the fall of Jerusalem and been dumped in a mud pit as punishment. ***Jer 38:6 6So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the king’s son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire. So Jeremiah sank in the mire.*** But Daniel discerned that this man spoke out the Word of God. The opinion of the majority did not overrule discernment given to him from God.

The prophecy is in ***Jer 25:12 12‘Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,’ says the Lord; ‘and I will make it a perpetual desolation.***

We have prophecies about end times, that God has given to us, some of which are hard to accept. But if we treasure the Word, we heed the instruction. ***Rev 19:7 7Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.***

***Dan 9:5 3Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments ….***

We do not repent or give thanks to God enough. I suggested a prayer to you, every night, just before you shut your eyes. Thank God for something, repent of something, then one request. How can a relationship develop if the conversation is always one-sided and full of requests? Here's a 4th thing: Ask God for something you can do for Him tomorrow.

Now when Daniel comes with requests, he comes with humility. He comes with ***fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.*** His humility is seen in how he addresses God.  ***O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,…*** Our God is not an equal, and certainly not our slave who has to grant out requests. Have we discovered that God keeps His word, and has mercy? How we address Good should come out of our experience. We need to walk with God, so that we experience His personality. When we thank God each night for something, we refresh our title of Him. For what He has given you last week, you may address Him as: my healer, my provider, my comforter, my joy, my protector… Call out any other titles….

***Dan 9:5  5we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.***

As we confess, we will recall things that we have done wrong. We commit iniquity. Sometimes we just do it as part of the course of the day. Sometimes it is rebellion. That is, we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit telling us do not do it, and we disobey. We know the laws of God and we ignore them. We ***depart from God’s precepts and judgments.*** God has placed in our life, Bible teachers, books, u-tube sermons, worship songs that bring us into His presence, and we have not heeded them.

We represent our families, our community groups, our country before God, and we need to repent. God says in ***Isaiah 66:2 “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.***

Far too often we come to God with not a thought of our own unworthiness. The person who is contrite, regrets the wrong he has done. They are ashamed of their sin. Daniel comes to God, fully aware of his unworthiness. I need to repent for my blindness and thank God for so many things that I have taken for granted. Freedom, prosperity, health, family, safety, friends, comfort, education, the Bible, are just some of these things.

***Dan 9:7  7O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.***

Are we ashamed of our unfaithfulness to God? So many times, I have kept silent instead of speaking, because I did not want to offend a person. So many times, I have not prayed. So many times, I have put comfort, money, food, fun, jokes, and entertainment ahead of God. I would not let someone curse my wife, but I have let them use the name Jesus as a swear word.

The same Hebrew word ‘maal’ for unfaithfulness is used when adultery in marriage is mentioned in the Bible. Our loyalty to God needs to be 100% - as in a marriage. We look for ways to please Him and serve Him and be completely loyal to Him – just like marriage.

There are 2 words to describe the falling away and unfaithfulness of Israel and Judah. Israel was faithless. She had lost her first love, and turned to foreign gods. Judah was unfaithful. She knew the truth and pretended to follow God. Judah had seen Israel fall and not learned the lesson***. Jer 3:8 8Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. 9So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. 10And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,” says the Lord.***

***11Then the Lord said to me, “Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.***

In Australia, in churches in Australia, in Christian families in Australia and in our own lives, we have seen people drift away and refuse to repent. Daniel repents of the unfaithfulness of his people. We need to repent for our nation.

***Dan 9:8 8“O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.***

When we relate to God, there is a constant awareness of our sin. This is a good thing. We need this awareness to appreciate the mercy and forgiveness of God. Paul bursts out with this in ***Rom 7:21 21I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

***So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.***

We cannot be in warfare if we do not see the failings of our own flesh. At the same time, we cannot really worship God, without seeing what we have been rescued from. As Daniel says, we have rebelled against Him, and He still forgives us. Mercy and forgiveness belong to God.

***Dan 9:10 10We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 11Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.***

Paul tells us that the laws are a guide so that we stay on the right path. **Gal 3:24 24Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**

Look at the 10 commandments. Discard all other gods that we have placed before Jesus and God. Our culture has planted seeds to worship property, entertainment, health, education community all before God. Discard any idols you have made that push God to 2nd place. Hobbies are usually encouraged, but they must not take 1st place. Treat the name of Jesus as holy. Understand and appreciate that our heavenly Father created the Sabbath, because He wants us to spend time with Him. Understand that family is extremely important. Human life is precious – especially the innocent unborn lives. Marriage is sacred – so abandon entertainment that seeks to normalize adultery. Theft creates insecurity in the community. Honesty is vital - so look for the part-truths in the media. Be satisfied with all that God has given you.

When these fundamental laws are abandoned – the community suffers.

***Dan 9:12 12And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.***

There is a tendency to ignore the judgement of God. But the balance between mercy and judgement is seen in the history of Jerusalem. If more mercy, results in more evil, judgement has to come. So, Jerusalem was devastated, and needed to be rebuilt. Then 500 years later they crucified the Son of God and were destroyed in 70 A.D. So, your nightly assignment is vital. Every night, before you shut your eyes, thank God for something, repent of something, put your petition before Him, and then ask Him if there is something you can do for Him tomorrow.

The judges in Judah, brought on the disaster. In Australia, we have condoned crimes, with even murderers going free after a few years. Read the punishments in the beginning of the Bible and see that God approves of corporal and capital punishment, to prevent people from reoffending, and protect the innocent.

***Dan 913 13“As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. 14Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. 15And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!***

In Lev 26 God promises blessings to Israel if they obey Him. They will have rain, peace, victory, be fruitful, and know that they belong to Him. But if they disobey Him, he promises terror, defeat, their pride will be broken, wild beasts will kill their children, they will lose battles, they will eat their children, desolation will come to the land. However, if they confess their iniquity and humble their hearts, then He will remember His covenant with Jacob.

Confession is vital for our relationship with God.

***Dan 9:16 16“O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.***

So often we refuse to see the anger of God. Daniel’s plea for forgiveness would be so weak if he did not see God’s anger. It was in Darius’ reign that Daniel was sent to the lions’ den. An angel rescued him then. ***Dan 6:22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him.***

***Dan 9:17  17Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.***

Daniel comes to God, fully aware of his unworthiness, and pleads on the ground that God is merciful. This is why we must be anchored in the Scriptures. If you are stupid like me, you need to read this truth 10,000 times, and tie it in with our sinful life, so that our prayer is real. God is merciful and ***the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.*** Build on the rock of Jesus. I rejoice in the judgement of God, because the judge of all creation, has declared that my sins are paid for by the blood of Jesus.

***Matt 7:24 24“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.***

***Dan 9:19 19O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”***

We need to pray for Australia, for WA, for the hills, for DCF. Who else will cry out for this land if we keep silent?

Final Hymn: **Search me, O God,**

**Search me, O God,  
And know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior,  
Know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be  
Some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin  
And set me free.**

**I praise Thee, Lord,  
For cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill Thy Word,  
And make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire  
Where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire  
To magnify Thy name.**

**Lord, take my life,  
And make it wholly Thine;  
Fill my poor heart  
With Thy great love divine.  
Take all my will,  
My passion, self and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord  
In me abide.**

**O Holy Ghost,  
Revival comes from Thee;  
Send a revival,  
Start the work in me.  
Thy Word declares  
Thou wilt supply our need;  
For blessings now,  
O Lord, I humbly plead.**

**Homework**

1 Read the 10 commandments in Ex 20. Make an easy way to remember them – like we did in Maths classes – like an acronym. The weirder it is, the easier it is to remember.

Give in now Sammy. Please make a simple tasty coffee.

Good I never sleep. Procure masks and slaughter terrible Covid.

Go into new shops prime minister and start trading carefully.

G – God

I – Idols

N – Name

S – Sabbath

P – Parents

M – Murder

A – Adultery

S – Stealing

T – Truth

C - Coveting

2 Read Lev 26 – God’s promise of blessing and retribution.

3 An interesting comment on capital punishment:

The Old Testament law commanded the death penalty for various acts: murder ([Exodus 21:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exod%2021.12)), kidnapping ([Exodus 21:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exod%2021.16)), bestiality ([Exodus 22:19](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exod%2022.19)), adultery ([Leviticus 20:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Lev%2020.10)), homosexuality ([Leviticus 20:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Lev%2020.13)), being a false prophet ([Deuteronomy 13:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2013.5)), prostitution and rape ([Deuteronomy 22:24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2022.24)), and several other crimes. However, God often showed mercy when the death penalty was due. David committed adultery and murder, yet God did not demand his life be taken ([2 Samuel 11:1-5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Sam%2011.1-5), [14-17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Samuel%2011.14-17); [2 Samuel 12:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Sam%2012.13)). Ultimately, every sin we commit should result in the death penalty because the wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%206.23)). Thankfully, God demonstrates His love for us in not condemning us ([Romans 5:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%205.8)).  
  
When the Pharisees brought a woman who was caught in the act of adultery to Jesus and asked Him if she should be stoned, Jesus replied, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her” ([John 8:7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.7)). This should not be used to indicate that Jesus rejected capital punishment in all instances. Jesus was simply exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. The Pharisees wanted to trick Jesus into breaking the Old Testament law; they did not truly care about the woman being stoned (where was the man who was caught in adultery?) God is the One who instituted capital punishment: “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man” ([Genesis 9:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%209.6)). Jesus would support capital punishment in some instances. Jesus also demonstrated grace when capital punishment was due ([John 8:1-11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.1-11)). The apostle Paul definitely recognized the power of the government to institute capital punishment where appropriate ([Romans 13:1-7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2013.1-7)).  
  
How should a Christian view the death penalty? First, we must remember that God has instituted capital punishment in His Word; therefore, it would be presumptuous of us to think that we could institute a higher standard. God has the highest standard of any being; He is perfect. This standard applies not only to us but to Himself. Therefore, He loves to an infinite degree, and He has mercy to an infinite degree. We also see that He has wrath to an infinite degree, and it is all maintained in a perfect balance.  
  
Second, we must recognize that God has given government the authority to determine when capital punishment is due ([Genesis 9:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%209.6); [Romans 13:1-7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2013.1-7)). It is unbiblical to claim that God opposes the death penalty in all instances. Christians should never rejoice when the death penalty is employed, but at the same time, Christians should not fight against the government’s right to execute the perpetrators of the most evil of crimes. God commands killing sometimes in the Bible ( Joshua 8:26; 9:10,11)