



Series: Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

Passage: Daniel 9:1-23

Title: The Power of Aligning Prayers with God's Word

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 09/15/2024

Discussion Starter – How is your prayer life? What have you learned from this passage that could be an excerpt from his prayer journal? How does the context of our prayers, (why we pray) affect the characteristics of our prayers, (what and how we pray)?

Read Daniel 9:1-2

- 1) How long has Daniel been captive in Babylon at this point of his life?
- 2) What evidences have we seen previously in the book of Daniel that testify that he has been consistent in prayer throughout his life? What is the specific trigger you see for this prayer recorded in Chapter 9?
 - a) What three benefits will you gain from a consistent and persistent study of God's Word? What risks are you facing if you neglect the study of God's Word? How much time and passion are you putting into your study, prayer, meditation and application of God's Word in your life?
 - b) What is the purpose of fasting? How often do you fast and what are the reasons for fasting?
- 3) What did Daniel learn from his study of Jeremiah 29? Why was the nation in captivity for 70 years? What was the improper response of the leaders? What was God's purpose in their captivity?
 - c) What practices of the Israelites do you see being repeated in our current culture today?
 - d) How did Daniel's understanding of God's word serve to conform His prayer to be effectively aligned in God's will?

Read Daniel 9:3-15

- 4) What do we learn from the text that illustrates Daniel's earnestness as he seeks God in this matter?
- 5) What is the primary characteristics of the opening of Daniel's prayer? Where does Daniel assign as the cause or fault for their captivity?
 - e) What would it take for you to confess "shame of face" for the sins of our country as Daniel does in verse 8?

Read Daniel 9:16-19

- 6) What is Daniel's specific request to God in these verses?
- 7) What is significant about Daniel's use of "**You and Your**" in these verses?
 - f) What lessons can you learn from Daniel's example of prayer and how can you apply it to your prayer life?

Read Daniel 9:20-23

- 8) How did Daniel perceive the timing of God's response? When did God's answer actually arrive to Daniel?
- 9) What is significant about the time that the angel Gabriel came to Daniel in a vision? What comforting message did Gabriel relay to Daniel from God in response to his prayer?