

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – August 6 - 11
Doing Life Together – Thriving in Babylon – An US Prayer

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:1-2

OBSERVATION: When you study the character of Daniel in the Bible, you find that he's one of the only men in Scripture about whom nothing bad is ever said. That doesn't mean he was sinless, but he never did anything that brought reproach to the name of the Lord. His life was a remarkable display of faith and prayer and devotion and holiness and steadiness and maturity. And yet, here he is, composing one of the most powerful prayers of confession in the Bible. He was confessing the sins of the Jewish people and interceding for them.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:3

OBSERVATION: There are many different kinds of prayers in the Bible. There are prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of praise, prayers of petition, prayers of intercession. But there are a few prayers that are prayers of confession. And there are two types of confessional prayers. The first is a personal confession for personal sin, and the greatest example of that is Psalm 51, which is a heart-throbbing confession offered by King David after he had sinned in his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. But there is also corporate confession, and perhaps the greatest illustration of that is here in Daniel 9.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9: 4-11

OBSERVATION: And now, we realize that Daniel had studied the writings of Moses as well as the writings of Jeremiah. Daniel had become as astute student of all the Scriptures he had. By this time he had very much of the Bible. He had very much of the Old Testament. And he was a student of the Old Testament. And here's something important. He wasn't a student of the Scriptures because he needed to prepare sermons. He wasn't a preacher. So far as we know, he wasn't a teacher. He was a politician. He was a statesman.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:12-17

OBSERVATION: As Daniel studied the writings of Moses, he realized Moses had warned the people many hundreds of years earlier. Moses had said, in effect: "God is going to give you a special land, but if you rebel against Him and disregard Him and sin against Him, He will drive you out and make you exiles from the Promised Land." That's exactly what had happened. But then Jeremiah had preached, "When the Lord drives you out of the Promised Land, it will be for seventy years. Then He will open the door for you to return."

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:18-23

OBSERVATION: We can feel the intensity of Daniel's prayer. He was earnest. He was intense. He was sincere. Well, this is a prayer that really got God's attention. In fact, while Daniel was still praying, the Lord sent Gabriel with a message—the famous message about the seventy sevens, which is the foundation stone of biblical prophecy.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:1-23

OBSERVATION: Chronic disobedience is extremely self-destructive. Our nation has been head-over-heels in chronic disobedience for many years. In our own lives, we can experience areas of chronic disobedience. But Jesus came and died on the cross to forgive our disobedience and give us restoration. And the secret is to do as Daniel did. As we pour into the Scriptures and as we study the Bible, it leads us to confession. We see how far we've fallen, or we see something we've failed to do, or we see something we've done that we need to confession. And as we confess, the Lord hears, and He answers, and He restores.

Thank you to Robert Morgan for many of the words contained in our study this week.