

Jeremiah was a contemporary of Daniel. His ministry was based in Jerusalem before the first Babylonian conquest of Judah and stretched into the early years of captivity when the last remnants of the land fled to Egypt. In each subsequent war, more people were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. At some point, there must have been a copy or copies of Jeremiah's prophecies that were taken to Babylon for the exiles. It is to these that Daniel refers.

Daniel had incredible faith, was wise and trusted God with his life, yet he still knew he had more to learn from God's Word. He knew that God still wanted to speak with him and give him the wisdom he needed. It was this attitude that shaped Daniel's prayer life even in the midst of a nation in crisis. These words also impact us in how we respond to our own situations.

What would a crisis be for you? Are there situations at the moment that you are going through that people could help with?

Read Daniel 9:1-23

1. Throughout all the intrigue in the kingdoms and amidst his own personal struggles, Daniel is always focused on what will happen to Jerusalem. Why is this so?
2. Noticed how Daniel studied (v13 also) God's word and then applied it. What efforts do you take to not just read the Bible, but study it also? How can studying the Bible help us in times of need?

3. Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9 is insightful. Reread the prayer. Have you ever prayed like this? How does fasting connect with prayer? Read also Matthew 6:16-18
4. Why does Daniel frequently use the term 'we' or 'our' while talking with God? What does this show you about his attitude and understanding in his prayer life?
5. We live in a very 'I' culture, how does praying 'we' more often shape our outlook?
6. Read through Daniel's prayer again. What else do you notice? Read also Proverbs 28:13. How is God described in this prayer?
7. When we fall, the road back to restoration can be challenging. What can we learn from Daniel's prayer in helping to find our way back to God?
8. What can we learn from Daniel's prayer that can help us when we face a crucial moment in our lives?
9. From this passage we see that Daniel lived in Babylon, but he lived for Jerusalem. Would you like something similar said about you? Is there anything you need to do so that you and everyone else are clear on what you are living for?

Prayer Points

Please pray for the Children and Youth work in the church. Pray for Karline and the other leaders, the children and young people. Pray for those who do not yet know Jesus in a personal way.

Political instability, conflict in neighbouring Sudan and climate change all put pressure on Chad's fragile healthcare system. In a country of great medical need, BMS World Mission provides practical hope by sending medical professionals to support Chadian staff at Bardaï and Guinebor II hospitals. Please pray for the hospitals and their staff as they serve.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

November 17th 2024

Daniel - Defiant Faith:

How to Pray in a Crisis: Daniel 9:1-23

The book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is - His character, His purposes, His way of working in the world for the good of His people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is sometimes assumed *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God, even when the world seems against you.* How do we remain faithful to God, especially in an age where it seems a great deal is moving in a different direction? What does it look like to trust in God when our world is turned upside down? Daniel remained faithful and God used him to great effect, how can God use us in the fiery challenges of life?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001