

Daniel 9:14

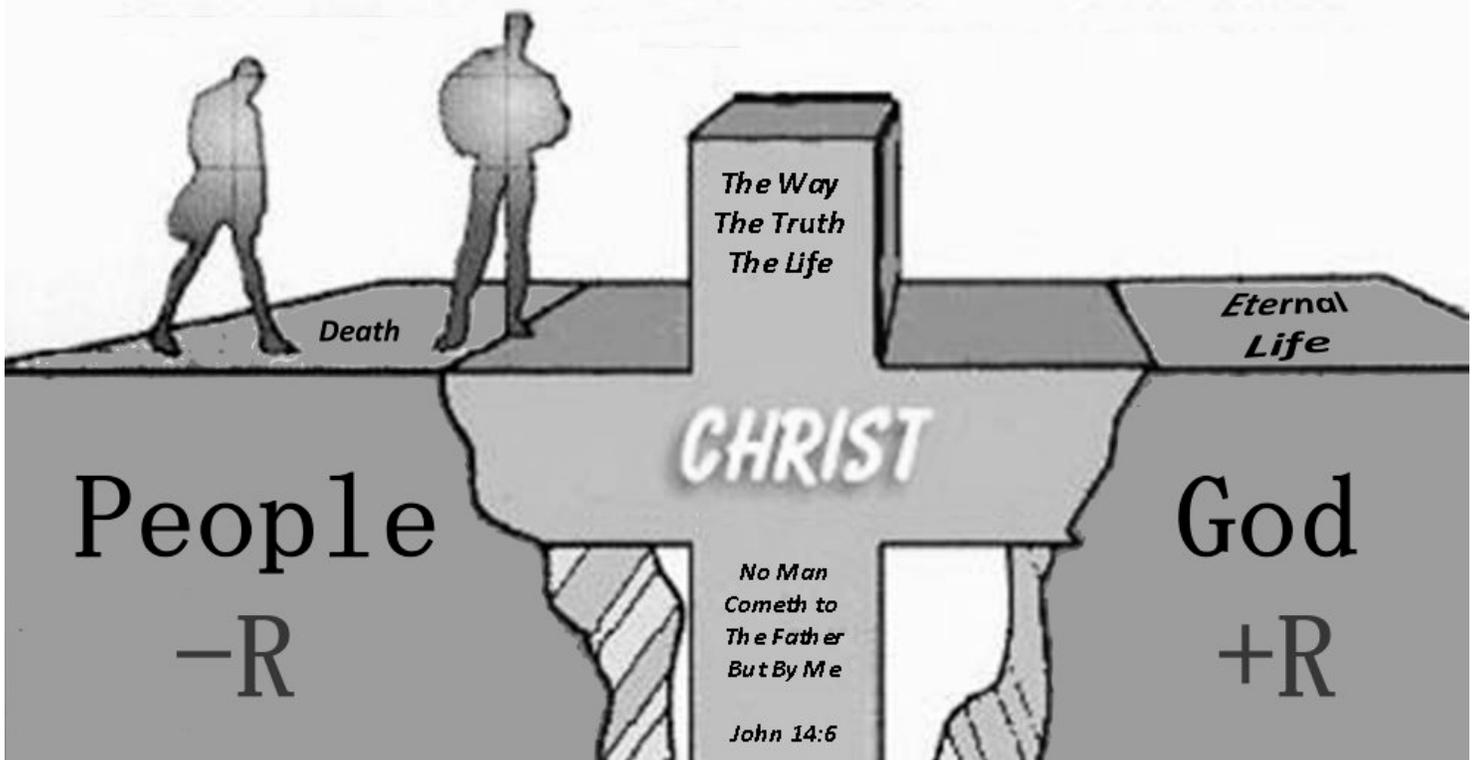
Daniel's Prayer

Daniel's Prayer

is one of the clearest presentations
on the +R (Perfect Righteousness) of God
in all of the bible.

God Has Provided The Only Way

Each Person Must Make A Choice



MANY PEOPLE desire to make very little out of the +R of God

They say “He loves and approves of everyone.

And everyone is going to be eternally saved.”

SOME claim that on the cross JESUS CHRIST took away all sins,

and that by just forgiving of all sins

means that God is not wrathful any longer to anyone.

STILL OTHERS preach a God who is full of wrath and He is out to get everyone.

He can with no mercy or compassion.

They claim you have to earn

God’s love,

God’s grace and

God’s compassion.

**It is so difficult to grasp
a correct – truthful understanding of God’s essence;
of His +R,
and His love.**

So ***MANY*** just like to teach there is no hell;
There is no God, who would condemn anyone
to eternal lake of fire.

While ***OTHERS*** teach you have to earn your way to heaven
and that if you live a certain lifestyle,
such as homosexuality,
you cannot go to heaven.

Well, in the 6th century bc we have a man named Daniel who understood the +R of God and the Mercy of God and where the Messiah solves the trouble about the Grace and Mercy of God.

In fact,

a correct understanding

of the first book of the bible to be written... [Job]

reveals a man who understood these issues from the beginning.

And because there were no books written it took him some time to learn these complicated issues about

God's +R...

and His Holiness... and His Love

and His Mercy... and His Grace.

We now are seeing in Daniel 9 how Daniel correctly understood the administration of God's wrath and God's Holiness. We do not have to live in fear of God's wrath and we should abide by Faith in His Holiness and Love. In this section of the prayer we learn of Daniel's acknowledgement of Divine Justice and it's Fairness and it's Objective.

Not an objective of punishment,
but of His Grace objective to get us where He wants us to be.

Daniel had already read Abraham's words in Genesis 18:25

25... shall not the judge of all the earth do justice?"

And Job 8:3

***3 "Does God pervert justice?
Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?"***

Many are the Christians who claim to know God and love Him, but turn around and judge Him—when they are under suffering or tribulation.

When you lose something, like a loved one, or property or even health, you should go on trusting Him for He knows and can only do what is right.

14 Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

14 ...Calamity

This is a Hebrew adjective meaning bad or evil. Context determines the meaning, and here it refers to calamity of all sorts...

- economic calamity in the agriculture and in the farming;
- military calamity such as when Babylon came into the city of Jerusalem or
- the calamity caused by Antiochus IV.

Again, Daniel speaks of the **+R of God**. God brings **Divine Discipline** because of **His +R** in response to their sinful lives.

To deny God's wrath, to deny God's judgment is to deny **God's +R**

14 ...Kept the calamity in store and brought it on us

Almost everyone says of this verse that God is storing up their sins to bring calamity on them.

But this is not what is going on with our God.

Remember last week we noted that in **His Grace**, He sends **His Word**.

But if you do not heed **His Word**, in **His Holiness**, He sends **Divine Discipline**.

And if you do not return to Him, He sends *OPEN SHAME*.

Well this phrase: *keep the calamity in store*

means that God is not keeping score on your sins and then comes to get you. This means that He withholds **His Discipline**, giving you time to recover, and to return to **His Word**, but if you do not, then He brings **Discipline, Calamity, Wrath** on you!

God is waiting to deliver them and bless them,

He does not wish to bestow **His wrath**.

This is the God that Daniel knows and

he knows this about God from his reading in Isaiah.

Isaiah 30: 18

18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;

How blessed are all those who long for Him.

This is the God to Whom Daniel now prays: Isaiah 48:9

9 “For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And for My praise I restrain it for you, In order not to cut you off.

Daniel 9:14

14 ...For the Lord our God is righteous

Do you see it? Do you see Daniel’s orientation to God?

He says **our God!** Even in Discipline **God is still their God.**

And this is so comforting, when I was a child and my mother disciplined me, I knew she was still my mother and I was still her son, and I knew that night I was going to get a warm meal, and a kiss good night!

So it should be with our God, even in discipline or calamity – He is still our God and we are still His child.

Our God is Righteous

most people would want to put in **Love**... Our **God is Love**... **He is**,
but He never sets aside **His + R** for **His Love**
with respect to all **His deeds** which He has done.

It is so difficult for people to understand the **Wisdom**, the **Love** behind the **Discipline**, the curse from God.

God is RIGHTEOUS when He saves or delivers and **He is RIGHTEOUS** when He Disciplines.

God gives us a beautiful picture of "deeds which He has done" in comparing good figs with bad.

1 ***After Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had carried away captive Jeconiah, the son of Jehoiakim, King of Judah, and the officials of Judah along with the craftsmen and the smiths from Jerusalem and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me: behold, two baskets of figs set before the temple of the LORD!***

2 ***One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, and the other basket had very bad figs which could not be eaten due to rottenness.***

3 ***Then the LORD said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” and I said, “Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad figs, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rottenness.”***

4 ***Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,***

5 ***“Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans.***

6 *'For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land (after 70 years captivity); and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.*

7 *'I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.*

8 *'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness—indeed, thus says the LORD—so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land and the ones who dwell in the land of Egypt.*

9 *'I will make them a terror and an evil for all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all places where I will scatter them. open shame*

10 *'I will send the sword, the famine and the pestilence upon them until they are destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their forefathers.'* ”

Daniel 9:14

14 ...but we have not obeyed His voice!

Verse 13

13 ...not giving attention to your truth

Verse 14

14 ...not obeyed His voice—**His Word**

God wants so much for all to listen to His Word, and yet today, so many are turning away from His Word, and refuse to even listen to **the** teaching of His Word.

SUFFERING

There are so many reasons why **Christians suffer!**
There are so many reasons why **non-Christian suffers.**

- 1 All suffering in some way is related to man's original fall in **the** garden.
- 2 Refusing to listen—respond to the Gospel - refusal to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. And if they die in this state, they will suffer for all eternity.
- 3 Christians suffer for refusing to listen to the Word of God. Not listen to His instructions of morality and spirituality.

- 4 Christians suffer for refusing to obey **the** Word of God, refusing to live by Faith.
- 5 (ironically) Christians also suffer because they listen, because they are identified with JESUS CHRIST in a world that hates JESUS CHRIST
- 6 Christians often suffer as a witness to unbelievers and believers and even to angels.
- 7 All, unbeliever's and believer's can suffer due to Divine Discipline to a rebellious nation. (All Israel at Babylon's invasion)
- 8 Believers often suffer by continual association with unbelievers or with believers rebellious to God's Word.
- 9 All suffering is fair and in accordance with His +R and motivated by His Love.

15 **Daniel** cites a precedent:

15 ...and now, O Lord our God who have brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for yourself as it is today we have sinned, we have been wicked

From the reading of Jeremiah 24 you should understand this verse and the **Grace and Love of God** in taking the Children of Israel to Egypt, with the Plan of bringing them back to the Promise Land.

Which He did in 1440 bc.

So Daniel now bases his petition on the **ESSENCE OF GOD** and how God has acted in the past.

Daniel's prayer is in line with the **ESSENCE OF GOD** and how God acts.

The Jews were delivered from Egypt
by the mighty hand of God,
and God received all the glory.

Daniel s Prayer

- 1 God raised up a new race of people--the Jews in Egypt.
- 2 Then God miraculously brought them out of Egypt into **the** Promise land.
- 3 God attached His Glory to those people and that land.
- 4 But His chosen people and His chosen land now lay desolate.
- 5 **Daniel** cares about God's Glory—so he prays that God will restore His chosen city, Jerusalem. In John 17 JESUS CHRIST prayed for **the** glory of God as being demonstrated in His Son. Those who are esteemed by God are those who care about His Glory.
- 6 **It is by Redemption of the sinner that God gains glory for Himself.** this is the lesson of verse 15 in redeeming Israel out of Egypt. This is the lesson in the Lord's prayer of John 17 in God's redeeming of mankind by sending the Redeemer.

16 Petition Read the prayer petition verses 16-19

16 O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.

17 So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary.

18 O 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 are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.

19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

1	Noting all through the petition--the basis of God answering the petition— His Righteousness.
2	Daniel prays for the glory of God to be known throughout the world.
3	Note that there is no mention of Mosiac Law or on God’s answering this prayer because of him or these people
4	Note from the beginning (verse 15 to the end verse 19) it is all about God’s Glory —God started with the race, nation of Israel that the world might know His glory -- and Satan knows this, and this is why there is so much anti-Semitism in the world.-Supernatural hatred!

16 ...O Lord in accordance with all your righteous acts,

called wrath, curse, Divine Discipline

16 ...In accordance with all your +R acts

he does not even think of asking God to act in a way contrary or in contradiction to **His Holiness.**

16 ...let now your anger and your wrath which comes from your +R.

the distinction between **anger** and **wrath**

the +R of God gets angry at those who rebel against **His Word**, anger when we sin, etc. But **Wrath** is when **God's Holiness** goes into action – brings down **Divine Discipline**, physical administration of calamity

**16 ...Let now your anger and wrath
turn away from your city Jerusalem, your Holy
mountain** Zion, where His tabernacle once stood **for
because of our sins and the iniquities of our
fathers, Jerusalem and your people have
become a reproach to all those around us**

OPEN SHAME

The city of Jerusalem, Zion, was chosen by God to be a testimony to His glory is now a reproach—right now God is not glorified

**17 ... “So now, our God, listen to the prayer of
Your servant and to his supplications, and
for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on
Your desolate sanctuary.**

17 **...Listen**

Ah, now things are reversed; note back in verse 6

6 **...We have not listen**

but now **Daniel** ask God to listen to His prayer.

*How many times do you hope that God will
listen to you in your prayers?
Now the important question is how often do
you listen to His Word?*

*Ok, God, I am too busy to listen to your Word.
I am too busy to make it to bible study.
But, you, God, you are not too busy
running the world to listen to me!*

17 **...So now, our God, listen to the prayer of
Your servant and to his supplications, and
for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on
Your desolate sanctuary.**

Why is His sanctuary desolate?

Because the people have turned from God, and sinned and rebelled against Him; and in **His + R** He came down in judgment against it and **the** people.

Isaiah 5:16

16 But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.

Note how **Daniel** views himself—a servant of **the** Lord
Basis of God listening:

17 ...for your sake,

You called out this race of people; You selected Jerusalem for Your Glory.

Have you ever wondered why so many people want Jerusalem today?

Not London or New York or San Diego, etc.;

Or Texas with Oil, some other mineral rich city...

NO, they want this little space in the middle of virtually nowhere.

The Muslims want it desperately, the Jews want it, the Christians want it, although I do not know why.

No, they all want, desire this little city – Jerusalem.

Verse 18- basis for God answering his petition.

18 ... “O 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 are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.”

We earn nothing from God.

This is why it is heresy **and** blasphemous to try to earn something from God; to offer God our works.

Cain offered God his own production, while Abel came to God recognizing that he needed a Savior to come to God.

¹⁹ ... ***“O Lord, hear!”***

We want so, for Him to hear us, while we are slow to hear Him

O Lord, forgive!

O Lord, listen

and then **the** main one and

take action!

the basis of God taking action-

¹⁹ ... For Your own sake, O my God,

Now **Daniel** adds something interesting:

¹⁹ ... do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Note what **Daniel** petitioned of God:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | He prayed for God's city Jerusalem! |
| 2 | He did not pray for directly for himself or even his people. |
| 3 | He did not pray for people for all time. |
| 4 | He prayed for the glory of God in the city of Jerusalem. |

Verses 20-27 are very important verses in **Daniel 9**.

First **verses 20-23** God sends an angel, Gabriel, to visit **Daniel** .

Then in **verses 24-27** we have **Daniel** s Seventy Weeks and **the** Messiah.

This raises two questions.

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Why did God send Gabriel to Daniel?
and2 Why does God have Gabriel reveal the 70 weeks and coming of the Messiah to Daniel ? |
|---|

First comes what to some may seem like a shock, **God's answer to Daniel's prayer is *NO***. We have seen how wonderful **Daniel's** prayer was. And he is going to get a **NO answer**. His prayer is not going to be answered positively immediately.

Remember that sometimes—maybe often—God answers your prayer with a no. NO is an answer !

But because **Daniel is highly esteemed** before God, God is going to let **Daniel** know that the petition in his prayer will be answered, but this will be sometime in the far future. To explain all this to Daniel is why Gabriel is sent and why the information in Gabriel's message.

As we will see this is the same foundation for God's sending the angels to John to write the Book of Revelation.

God, out of His love for Daniel, commissions Gabriel to **Daniel**
verses 20-23

²⁰ ... Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, Jerusalem!

While **Daniel** is yet praying, God answers.

And Daniel is ready for this from his understanding of

24 ... Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear”

21 ... while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

21 ... While I was still in prayer

This is absolutely wonderful; this is why you want to learn to pray like **Daniel**.

While he is still praying, God starts responding to his prayer.

Daniel has not even finished his prayer; he has not said ‘amen’ yet...

and yet...God is so taken with his prayer that He says to Gabriel, go!

21 ... the man Gabriel:

Hebrew for **“man of God”** or **“hero of God”**
called **‘man’** here because of his appearance.

Often when angels appeared before humans they appeared as men.
(Genesis 18:2;16, 22 and 19:1 and 5)

Remember, angels are very much a part of **the Spiritual Warfare** in which man is involved. They are all through **the Word of God** from Genesis to Revelation. Only three angels are named in **the Bible**; **Michael, Gabriel** and **Satan**.

Two are mentioned by name in **Daniel**.

Gabriel is mentioned in 8:16, where he appeared to **Daniel** some 13 years earlier to help **Daniel** understand **the** time at the end. And **Gabriel** is mentioned again in Daniel 9:21 where he delivers a message from God.

Michael is mentioned in Daniel 10:13 and 21 and Daniel 12:1 as a defender of Israel. Michael whose name means ‘*who is like God*’ is **the** only angel who is specifically called ‘archangel’

²¹ *...whom I had seen in the vision previously,*
some 13 years earlier in Daniel 8:16.

Daniel gives us this information in chapter 8 at Gabriel’s first visit.

Daniel was in fear, but not this time.

Daniel knows that God is again directly working in his life.

²¹ *...came to me in my extreme weariness
about the time of the evening offering.*

This may give us a hint that **Daniel** has been in the Word--*the books* 9:2 most of the day.

As to the evening offering, these stopped 70 years ago in Jerusalem with the invasions by Nebuchadnezzar.

But **Daniel** now, in his 80s, has not forgotten them and apparently went into prayer each evening where, instead of a sacrifice, he offered evening prayers.

We have noted how Daniel s prayer was for Jerusalem.

He may himself have written **the beautiful Psalm 137:1-9**

1	By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down and wept, When we remembered Zion	
2	Upon the willows in the midst of it We hung our harps	
3	For there our captors demanded of us songs, And our tormentors mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”	
4	How can we sing the LORD’S song In a foreign land?	
5	<i>IF I FORGET YOU, O JERUSALEM, MAY MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER SKILL.</i>	

6	<i>MAY MY TONGUE CLING TO THE ROOF OF MY MOUTH IF I DO NOT REMEMBER YOU, IF I DO NOT EXALT JERUSALEM ABOVE MY CHIEF JOY</i>	
7	Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, “Raze it, raze it To its very foundation.”	
8	O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one, How blessed will be the one who repays you With the recompense with which you have repaid us.	
9	How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones Against the rock.	

***22 ... He gave me instruction and talked with me
and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth
to give you insight with understanding.***

***23 ... “At the beginning of your supplications the
command was issued, and I have come to tell
you***

How far did Gabriel travel?

We are not told but let us just say it was from the third heaven. So in minutes or even seconds he traveled millions if not trillions of miles. This is what it will be like for all us, as believers in JESUS CHRIST in eternity.

23 ... for you are highly esteemed;

The Hebrew refers to one who is desired, one who gives pleasure— **greatly esteemed**. It is used in a good sense as well as a bad sense in the Old Testament. Here it is used for God's attitude toward **Daniel**

And what is so great about Daniel? His CONTINUAL FAITH in God!

Trusting God in great calamity of being taken in exile,
his continually trusting God while living in exile,
and his continual faith when his world is again turned upside down
in old age, and his continual abiding in **the** Word of God
and his continual prayer to God.

<i>live by faith:</i>	in God; Not so that God would do something he asked, but He trusted God no matter what happened.
<i>abide in His Word</i>	Daily
<i>continue to pray</i>	Daily

Wisdom from angel Gabriel

23 ... so give heed to the message

23 ... to give heed

Daniel is accustomed to doing this, this is **the** same word in Daniel 9:2² *in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.*

This word means **to observe**—pay close attention to what you are reading, to have understanding.

23 ... Give heed to the message:

This is Hebrew word for **WORD** (as in **THE WORD** of GOD)

23 ... Pay close attention to the Word

That is **the** Word of God

23 ... and gain understanding of the vision.

23 ... Gain understanding

is the same Hebrew word as just used, interpreted **give heed** and in verse 2 **observed**

Only **give heed** is a simple imperative to observed.

Pay attention, while here it is in the Hiphil which means *be caused to understand* ...and this requires **trusting in the Holy Spirit to give you understanding.**

God sends the angel with the message, Word of God.

But it takes the third member of the God-Head to understand Scripture.

It does not matter what section of Scripture you are abiding in,
it demands being in the power of HOLY SPIRIT and concentrating on the
Word of God.

It does not matter what section of Scripture you are abiding in, be it
history,
prophecy,
poetry,
eschatology –or–
on the life of JESUS CHRIST.

It demands being in the **Power of HOLY SPIRIT** and concentrating on
the Word of God.