

PRELUDE TO THE PROPHECY OF SEVENTY WEEKS

(Daniel 9:1-19)

- I. God's Punishment of ISRAEL and JUDAH (Dan. 9:1-2)
 - A. Occurred during FIRST year of Darius of the Medes
 - 1. After "HANDWRITING on the WALL" in Daniel 5
 - 2. About the time of the night with the LIONS in Daniel 6
 - B. Occurred after Daniel READ the prophecy of JEREMIAH
 - 1. Discovered the DURATION of the "desolations of Jerusalem" would be 70 YEARS (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10-14)
 - 2. Realized that period was NEARLY OVER
 - 3. Began to PRAY earnestly for FULFILLMENT of God's promise
 - C. Three principles are demonstrated
 - 1. Daniel expected a LITERAL FULFILLMENT of prophecy
 - 2. Daniel realized the promise would be fulfilled in answer to PRAYER
 - 3. Daniel understood the need for CONFESSIOIN as prelude

- II. Daniel's Preparation for PRAYER (Dan. 9:3)
 - A. He cleared away DISTRACTIONS—
 - B. He anticipated ANSWERS—
 - C. He addressed THE LORD—
 - D. He demonstrated CONTRITION
 - 1. FASTING to avoid distraction of FOOD

2. SACKCLOTH to demonstrate abject NEED
3. ASHES as symbol of HUMILITY and GRIEF

III. Daniel's Prayer of CONFESSION (Dan. 9:4-14)

- A. He exalted GOD
 1. Praised His MAJESTY and POWER
 2. Praised His FAITHFULNESS to His WORD
- B. He abased HIMSELF as REPRESENTATIVE of Israel
 1. They had committed serious OFFENSES
 2. They had acted UNJUSTLY
 3. They had behaved WICKEDLY
 4. They had rebelled against God's LAW
 5. They had ignored God's MESSAGE
- C. He vindicated GOD
 1. God was always RIGHTEOUS
 2. All Israel had cause for SHAME
 3. God's compassions and forgivenesses were ABUNDANT
 4. God's judgment was DESERVED (cf. Deut. 28:63-67)

IV. Daniel's Petition for FORGIVENESS and RESTORATION (Dan. 9:15-19)

- A. He appealed to God's PATTERN
- B. He appealed to God's RIGHTEOUSNESS
 1. He keeps His PROMISES
 2. He guards His PEOPLE
 3. He protects His NAME/REPUTATION
- C. He appealed to God's COMMAND