

LifeGroup Questions  
Based On: Daniel 9:1-19  
March 18, 2018

### Overview

Daniel was a man out of place. He was a faithful prophet of God living in a polytheistic land. Every day on my drive home I pass by a horse boarding stable. In one of their corrals they have a camel. This camel is surrounded by little ponies. It just seems odd to see an animal meant for a dry arid desert living with ponies in north Maize. I think it would be like me sticking an ostrich in my chicken coup. Sure it is a bird, but it doesn't belong. Daniel has lived almost his entire life in a land that was not his. They didn't believe what he believed. Hold to his morals. Daniel was definitely a man out of place.

Daniel was a godly man living in sin city. Babylon was the Las Vegas of ancient times. Daniel served under four kings during his life. He had to reestablish his reputation each time a new king took over. It was his personal integrity and faithfulness to God that carried him through. Daniel understood that even though he didn't like being in exile there was a reason. In Daniel 9 he both exalts God for His faithfulness and admits the sins of Israel and his own. The sin of Israel had led to Daniel's being exiled to a land he didn't belong, but he still served a purpose.

God carried out punishment on Israel because of their sin. Daniel knew all this was foretold in the prophets. Daniel is relying on God's faithfulness to restore the nation back to their homeland. Throughout the prayer in Daniel 9 he keeps referencing the nation's sin and God's promises for restoration. In Daniel 9:18 he is making the request based on God's mercy not because Israel deserves it. This can be a good example to all of us when we pray. Daniel acknowledges God's holiness and his sinfulness before he makes any request.

### Bible Study: Daniel 9:1-19

1. Read Daniel 9:1-19. Daniel lived in Babylon but didn't become part of Babylon. Do you feel out of place in today's society? Why or why not? How do you live with the secularism of society, but not become part of it?
2. Daniel starts his prayer in Daniel 9:4 by calling God great and awesome. The Hebrew word for awesome is *nôrā'* which means to fear. God's holiness inspires fear. What role does the fear of God have in your relationship with Him?
3. The Hebrew word for sinned is *ḥāṭā'*. It means "missed the mark." Romans 3:23 reads that all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God. All of us have missed the mark. What is the purpose behind confessing your sins to God?
4. Read Daniel 9:5-6. Daniel lists out 6 different ways they have missed the mark. They have sinned, done wrong, been wicked, rebelled, turned away, and not listened. Horizontally with one another we place different levels on sin. Murder is worse than lying. Vertically with God all sin leads to separation. In what ways can our scale for determining how bad a sin is lead us to justify some behaviors?
5. There is a simple format to Daniel's prayer. Daniel 9:4 is praising God. Daniel 9:5-15 is confessing sins and shame. Daniel 9:15-19 is a plea for restoration. How can you model your own prayers after this format? Think of something you regularly pray for and use this format.

6. Read Daniel 9:18. Daniel's prayer is based on God's mercy not his own righteousness. Do you feel you have the right to make petitions to God? Why should prayer begin with acknowledging the greatness of God? This is even done in the Lord's Prayer.
  
7. If you had the power to do so would you have rescued Daniel out of Babylon? Why did God keep him there? Why does God have you in the place, time, and situation you are in now?