



Introduction to “Turning to God”

In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel turns to God in confessional prayer for the people of Israel. It is a chapter filled with humility, passion for God, and longing for the restoration and righteousness only God can provide. Daniel has been studying the word of the Lord given to the prophet Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 25:11-12). The 70 years of exile are coming to an end. God graciously responds not just to Daniel’s “words,” but to Daniel’s heart. In God’s grace and for God’s glory, Daniel is told what lies ahead: 70 weeks or literally, 70 Sevens, a perfect time period of which God has planned to fulfill his purposes. Though the exact nature of the 70 Sevens is widely debated, many understand it as $49 + 434 + 7 = 490$ years, and have been fulfilled in Israel’s History, in Jesus, and in a time period to come at the End Times. Through this chapter we see an amazing example of corporate and confessional prayer, the heart of the Father, and the prophesied importance of Jesus’ work.

Daniel Series Objectives:

Head: To understand the Book of Daniel.

Heart: To face hardship with courage.

Hands: To make choices that glorify God.

Part 9: Turning to God

Text: Daniel 9

Big Idea: Confession enables us to see more of God.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. Daniel's Awareness of the Times (v.1-3)

Understand our lives in light of God's plan.

2. Daniel's Attitude in Prayer (v.4-19)

Practice prayers of confession and faith.

3. Daniel's Prayer is Answered (v.20-27)

The Father's ways and timing are always perfect.

Getting Started

1. What is your favorite Halloween candy?

2. Daniel is aware of the times in which he lived. In a few words, how would you describe the current season of your life?

Digging Deeper

How does God's Word inform our prayer life?

Daniel is praying over the word of the Lord in Jeremiah. What are some ways in which we can utilize Scripture more in our prayer life?

What barriers or excuses do we use to avoid honest and full confession of sin to God?

Daniel explicitly lumps himself in with the rebellious people of Israel. How does this instruct how we should relate to other Christians?

How is God's discipline of his people consistent with his character? How are his mercy and forgiveness consistent with his character?

How does Daniel's identification with the people of Israel point to the gospel and what Christ has done for you?

Live It Out

Pray: Daniel brings his heavy heart to the Lord in this text. Are there any burdens you need to take to God in humility and confidence in his character?

Confess: For personal reflection: are there any areas of life with which you are being dishonest with yourself?

Act: Before the holidays begin, consider fasting. How might practicing fasting help you enjoy and celebrate God more in your feasting?