



## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

### YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Most of the people in this room could explain the basics of biblical prophecies.
2. My prayers typically take longer to get answered than other people's.
3. I agree with all of my church's interpretations of biblical prophecy.
4. Even God's prophets don't really understand the visions they're given.
5. God corrects his truly connected leadership from misapplications of Scripture.

### DIG DEEPER

#### ➤ **READ Daniel 9:1-4** (NIV)

*In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. 3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. 4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:*

« What is the longest amount of time that you have had to wait for God to answer one of your prayers. And, if you don't mind, what was that request?

#### » **Daniel's Ultimate Wish**

• (vs 1) **The first year of Darius** - (ca. 538 B.C.). The events of this chapter transpired approximately twelve years after Daniel's second vision recorded in chap. 8. If taken captive about age fifteen in 605 B.C., he would have been over eighty years of age in 538 B.C.

• (vs 2) **The desolation of Jerusalem would last 70 years** - The prophet Jeremiah had predicted that Judah would go into captivity to Babylon but after 70 years would return to the land (cf. Jer 25:11-12; 29:10). Jeremiah's first prophecy of this 70-year exile was delivered in 605 B.C. (cf. Jer 25:11-12 with 25:1), when Daniel was a young teenage boy. Since 605 B.C. was the year when the first captives were taken to Babylon (Daniel and his friends), and the year the prophecy was first given, Daniel naturally assumes that Jeremiah intended this as the beginning date for the 70-year captivity period.

« If Daniel thought that the end of captivity was imminent, why do you think that he felt it was necessary to plead with God in prayer, fasting, in sackcloth and ashes? Is that something that God desires?

#### ➤ **READ Daniel 9:20-23** (NIV)

*20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. 23 As soon as you*



## DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

*began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:*

« (vs 23) **As soon as you began to pray** - What does this phrase tell you about God?

« Think about a few other elements:

- Daniel spent a considerable amount of time confessing his and Israel's sins.
- "While I was still in prayer" - Daniel is interrupted by Gabriel in the middle of his prayer.
- "Came in swift flight" - Literal words here mean "to make weary."
- "you are highly esteemed" - same word that is used for costly treasure.

« What do each of these elements tell you about God's character?

« (vs 22) **To give you insight and understanding** - What had Daniel been unaware of and misunderstood?

➤ **READ Daniel 9:24** (NIV)

*24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.*

» **Daniel's Misunderstanding**

• (vs 24) **Seventy 'sevens' NOT Seventy years** - Gabriel corrects Daniel and lets him know that he needs to multiply his interpretation by 7 to equal 490 years.

« How many years did God let Daniel misinterpret prophecy? What does it say about God's priorities that he would wait until these types of moments to correct misinterpretations

« What does this whole exchange between God and Daniel tell you about God?

## MY PRAYER...

1. How patient am I with God's timeline in answering my prayers?
2. How willing am I to let God give me corrections to my insights and understanding?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

