

E2E- Part 114a

Daniel 9:1-12

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. Daniel's understanding of the Scriptures is consistent with the other authors. He knows that Biblical texts are not whimsical ideas of humans, but a reflection of God's heart.
2. Because of the nation's flagrant rebellion against God and His ways, Jeremiah foretold that the nation would be captives of Babylon for 70 years. As Daniel studies this prophecy, he realizes that the 70 years are coming to a close, and he is compelled to ask God to take action.
3. Daniel roots himself in God's lovingkindness towards those who love Him and keep His commandments, and he approaches God with his whole attention.
4. Verse 4 reminds us that if we say we love God, there must be evidence if it is authentic. It's not enough to say it without fruit.
5. The prayer modeled by Daniel begins with adoration, followed by confession, and is concluded with petition.
6. It takes a truly mature believer to ask God to intervene on behalf of those who caused you to suffer personally. Daniel is such a man who endured so much loss over the course of his life because of the rebels he's praying for.
7. The primary sin is rebellion against God and this rebellion surfaced in refusing to obey God's clear commands.
8. In Deuteronomy 28, God promised blessings to those who obeyed Him and judgment to those who disobeyed. He carried out judgment for their disobedience through the exile to Babylon, showing that God does not lie.
9. God is the owner and originator of compassion and forgiveness. These elements belong to Him.
10. Because God is the owner of mercy, He offers forgiveness through Jesus, the author of new beginnings.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Graves Into Gardens
Lord I Need You
Trust In God
Who Else

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Daniel was one of the most faithful men in Scripture, yet he prayed, "we have sinned." Why is it often easier to see the sins of others than to identify with the brokenness around us?
- When Daniel saw God's promises in Scripture, his response was prayer. When you encounter something God clearly says in His Word, what usually keeps you from responding with the same urgency?
- Daniel openly acknowledged both God's righteousness and Israel's failures. Why do we often struggle to hold those two truths together when we're facing hardship or disappointment?
- Daniel recognized that Israel's greatest problem wasn't political, economic, or military. It was spiritual. What do you think is the greatest spiritual challenge facing us today?
- Verse 9 says that compassion and forgiveness belong to God, even after Israel's rebellion. When have you experienced mercy from God or from another person that you knew you didn't deserve?
- Have you ever had a season where God used a difficult circumstance to expose something in your heart that needed to change? What did you learn from it?
- If you prayed like Daniel this week, what is one area of your life you might need to honestly confess, surrender, or bring before God?