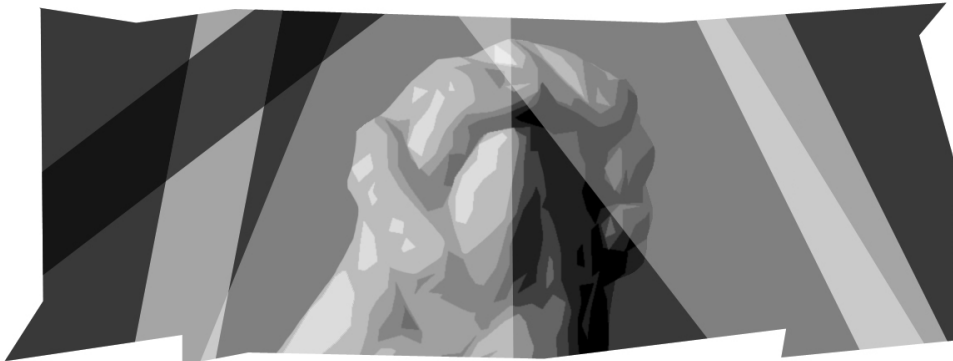


# Daniel 9



**SABBATH—JULY 29**

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Daniel 9:1-23.**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “We have sinned and done what is wrong. We have been evil. We have refused to obey you. We have turned away from your commands and law” (Daniel 9:5, NlrV).

**BEFORE WE CONTINUE, MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE CHARTS WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE PAST FEW WEEKS.** They give a strong foundation (basis) for what we will study next. The important point is that the judgment scene in Daniel 7 and the cleansing of the sanctuary in Daniel 8 are the same event.<sup>1</sup> This event takes place sometime after the 1,260-year period of papal persecution<sup>2</sup> of the saints.

Think about the time frame for the cleansing of the sanctuary, the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. What is the only possible sanctuary that is being cleansed: the sanctuary on earth or the sanctuary in heaven (read Matthew 24:2; Luke 21:6; Hebrews 8:1, 2)? The answer is clear. It is the sanctuary in heaven.

Finally, think about the world empires in Daniel that God has used to teach us about the cleansing of the sanctuary. The history of these empires is easy to understand, so God is not asking us to base our faith on difficult information. Instead, He is framing the great sanctuary truth around world history. This history is a foundation. Clearly, God wants us to believe the sanctuary truth. That is why He makes it easy for us to believe.

This week, we will study Daniel 9. Daniel 9 is the final connection in this amazing series of prophecy and history.

<sup>1</sup>event—thing that happens.

<sup>2</sup>papal persecution—the papacy (having to do with the pope) forcing Christians against their will to obey its religious laws.

**SUNDAY—July 30****UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
(Daniel 9:1)****How is Daniel 9 different from Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Daniel 8 (Daniel 9:1)?**

The answer also explains what we noticed in Daniel 8. Chapters 2 and 7 show Babylon. Chapters 8 and 9 do not. Instead, Daniel begins with Media-Persia. It seems that already, in Daniel 8, God was pointing toward the next kingdom that would arise. This kingdom was Media-Persia.

It is also important to notice something about Daniel 2 and Daniel 7. Daniel 2 was a dream/vision and an explanation of the dream/vision. Everything was explained.

In Daniel 7, we see the same thing: a dream/vision and an explanation of everything Daniel saw.

But, in Daniel 8, a difference arises: There was a dream/vision and an explanation. But not everything was explained.

**Review Daniel 8. What was the one thing not explained to Daniel in this chapter?**

Daniel 8 ends with Daniel saying he did not understand the “vision.” What vision? Clearly, it was the part of the

vision about the 2,300 evenings and mornings of Daniel 8:14. Everything else was explained. In some cases, some of the powers shown in Daniel 8 were even named (Daniel 8:20, 21). In the past visions, Daniel never complained that he did not understand something. Only in Daniel 8 does he say there was something that he did not understand. That is the “vision” of the 2,300 days, the only part of Daniel 8 not already explained.

So, we leave Daniel 8 and enter Daniel 9, with only one thing not clear. This is the vision of the 2,300 days in Daniel 8:14.

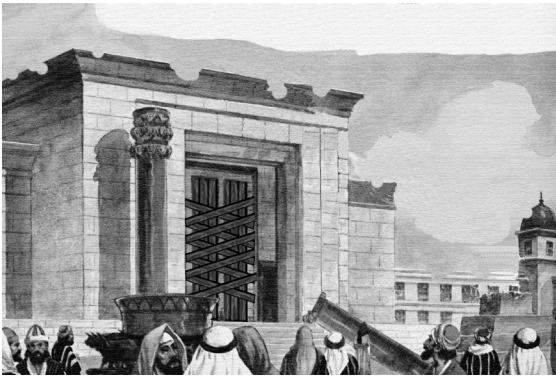
**Daniel did not understand everything in the prophetic dream. What does this teach us that could help us better understand Ellen G. White’s gift of prophecy?****MONDAY—JULY 31****THE EXILE<sup>3</sup> OF THE JEWS  
(Daniel 9:2; Jeremiah 29:10-12)**

As we see, Daniel is now under the rule of the Medes and the Persians. This is a direct fulfillment of the earlier prophecies of Daniel 2, Daniel 7, and Daniel 8.

But there is a great problem for Daniel. His people are still in Babylon. The temple is still in ruins. And his nation has not been restored.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>exile—a period of time during which people are driven out of their country. For example, the Jews were taken as prisoners and forced to live in Babylon for many years.

<sup>4</sup>restored—to have made something as it was in the beginning.



The ruined temple

### What promise and prophecy gives Daniel hope (Daniel 9:2)?

Despite all the hopes of national greatness, the Jewish nation was taken into slavery by a pagan<sup>5</sup> power (Babylon). This should have been the end of the Jews and Judah. But God was not finished with His people. The prophets warned about judgment, doom, and destruction. But the prophets also gave the Jews the hope of freedom and restoration.<sup>6</sup>

### What hope do you believe Daniel got from Jeremiah 29:10-12? (Read Jeremiah 25:11, 12.)

God did restore the people to the land as He promised. Read 2 Chronicles 36:18-23.

### What does 2 Chronicles 36:18-23 tell us about God and His promises?

The fulfillment of those promises was still a few years in the future when the events of Daniel 9 happened. The

70 years began in 605 B.C., when Babylon conquered Jerusalem and forced Daniel and the other Jews into exile. Now the 70-year period was almost over. But nothing was happening. God's people were still in exile. Jerusalem was still in ruins. And the temple had not been rebuilt. Daniel saw the rise of Media-Persia. But more needed to happen. Great events needed to take place that from a human viewpoint would seem impossible. This helps us better understand Daniel's prayer in chapter 9.

**Daniel received hope from God's promise. Which of God's promises are the most meaningful to you? How does prayer keep you going as you wait for these promises to be fulfilled?**



**Let prayer help you as you wait for God's promises to be fulfilled.**

<sup>5</sup>pagan—not believing in God.

<sup>6</sup>restoration—making something as it was in the beginning.

**TUESDAY—AUGUST 1****“WE HAVE SINNED” (Daniel 9:3-19)**

Read Daniel’s prayer in Daniel 9:3-19. Below, write down the important part of what Daniel was praying for.

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Many points stand out in Daniel’s prayer.

1. Daniel admits the sins of his people. He did not try to make their actions seem right. What can we learn from Daniel admitting the sins of his people?
2. Daniel makes it clear that the people’s sin involved turning away from God’s Word (the Bible). What lesson is here for us, as well?
3. Even with all the punishment, sorrow, and judgment, Daniel prays to God for mercy,<sup>7</sup> grace, and restoration. What hope does this offer us when we make mistakes?

One thing is **not** in Daniel’s prayer. He is not asking God, *Why did all this happen to us?* Daniel *knows* why all this happened. The people disobeyed God. Daniel asked no questions in his prayer. He is not asking for light, wisdom, or understanding. Daniel’s prayer shows that he understands what happened. Israel sinned. Israel was punished. Now he prays for

<sup>7</sup>mercy—kindness we do not deserve.

God’s promised restoration.

Daniel is not praying for understanding. The last time he needed understanding was for the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 (read Daniel 8:27).

**What is important in Daniel’s prayer that has special meaning for you in your walk with God?**



**“Lord, please listen! Lord, please forgive us!” (Daniel 9:19, NIV)**

**WEDNESDAY—AUGUST 2****“SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING” (Daniel 9:20-22)**

After Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel appeared to him. This was not Gabriel’s first appearance in Daniel.

**When was the last time Gabriel was seen in the book of Daniel (Daniel 8:16)?**

In Daniel 8, God commanded Gabriel to help Daniel understand the vision. Gabriel did that, except for the part about the 2,300 days.

Now, Gabriel appears again to Daniel. Daniel speaks of Gabriel as the one he (Daniel) had seen “in the vision at the beginning” (Daniel 9:21). Daniel does not say which vision that was. But the only other time Gabriel appears in Daniel is in Daniel 8. So it is clear that this is the vision Daniel is talking about.

### **What does Gabriel say he came to do (Daniel 9:20-23)?**

Nowhere in Daniel’s prayer did he ask for “understanding.” The last time Daniel needed understanding was about the 2,300 days. Now, the same angel says he has come to give Daniel “understanding.” Understanding about what? The 2,300 days. This is the last time Daniel needed any understanding.

The Hebrew verb *bin*, translated “understood” (Daniel 8:27), is the same word that appears in Daniel 9:22. This is when Gabriel says he came to give Daniel skill and “understanding” (*bin*). So, Gabriel comes to Daniel and gives him the “understanding” (*bin*) he did not have at the end of Daniel 8!

Also, notice what kind of prophecy Daniel 8:14 is. It is a time prophecy! Right after Gabriel comes to Daniel to give him understanding, what kind of prophecy does Gabriel give Daniel (Daniel 9:24)? A time prophecy!

Clearly, the vision of Daniel 9 is connected to the 2,300 days in Daniel. Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 have a vision and complete explanation. Daniel 8 has a vision and part of an explanation. In Daniel 9, there is no vision. There is only an explanation of what was not explained in Daniel 8.

## **THURSDAY—AUGUST 3**

### **“UNDERSTAND THE VISION” (Daniel 9:21-23)**

Suppose that the information from the past few days was not enough to connect Daniel 9:24-27 with Daniel 8:14. Then God has given us even more proof to make that connection.

In Daniel 8:1, 2, Daniel speaks three times of the “vision” in chapter 8. Each time, the word *vision* comes from the same Hebrew word, *hazon*. “It was the third year of King Belshazzar’s rule. After the vision [*hazon*] . . . I saw myself in the city of Susa. It [Susa] has high walls around it. It is in the land of Elam. In the vision [*hazon*] I was beside the Ulai Waterway” (Daniel 8:1, 2, NIV).

Daniel then described what he sees in the *hazon* (vision): the ram, the goat, the little horn, and so forth. *Hazon* means the general vision of Daniel 8.

But when Daniel talks about the 2,300 days, Daniel uses a different word for vision, *mareh*. “The vision [*mareh*] of the evenings and mornings that has been given to you is true. . . . I [Daniel] was worn out. I lay

sick for several days. Then I got up and returned to my work for the king. The vision [*mareh*] bewildered [puzzled] me. I couldn't [could not] understand it" (Daniel 8:26, 27, NIrV).

So, we have two words for "vision" in Daniel 8: (1) *hazon* for the whole vision, and (2) *mareh* for Daniel 8:14. *Mareh* is the vision about the 2,300 days and the sanctuary being cleansed. This is the vision Daniel did not understand (Daniel 8:27).

*Mareh* and *hazon* appear again in Daniel 9. This is when Gabriel appears to Daniel. "While I was still praying, Gabriel came to me. I had seen him in my earlier vision [*hazon*]. . . . It was about the time when the evening sacrifice is offered. He helped me understand. He said, 'Daniel, I have come now to give you a good knowledge and understanding of these things. You are highly respected. So as soon as you began to pray, the Lord gave you an answer. I have come to tell you what it is. Here is how you must understand [consider] the vision [*mareh*]' " (Daniel 9:21-23, NIrV).

Consider what *mareh* means. There is only one *mareh* of the 2,300 days that Daniel said he did not understand. The word translated "consider" (Daniel 9:23) comes from *bin*, which also connects this to the *mareh* of Daniel 8:26. Daniel needed understanding (*bin*) about this *mareh* in Daniel 8:26.

Clearly, the explanation of Daniel 9:24-27 is linked to the 2,300 days of Daniel 8. Gabriel came to give Daniel

understanding about the *mareh* of the 2,300 days!

**Review the connection between Daniel 8 and Daniel 9. Be able to defend the position that Daniel 8 and Daniel 9 are tied together.**



Daniel 8 and Daniel 9 are connected to each other.

#### FRIDAY—AUGUST 4

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 345–347; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 553–556.

Daniel 8 ends with the *mareh* (vision) of the 2,300 days not explained. Gabriel, the same angel in Daniel 8, appears in Daniel 9.

Gabriel tells Daniel to understand the *mareh* of Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 8:26. This *mareh* was a time prophecy. Then, quickly after telling Daniel to understand the *mareh*, a time prophecy, what does Gabriel give Daniel? Another time prophecy.

No wonder Adventists see a powerful connection between Daniel 8 and Daniel 9 and the prophecies in these chapters. Other people also see this connection. The following quote comes from a Jewish commentary on the book of Daniel. But this commentary translates the word *mareh* as understanding of the vision. What do these Jews do with the 70-week prophecy?

“This (Daniel 9:2) points to Daniel’s vision in Daniel 8:14. The part which bothered Daniel in Daniel 8:14 is in

verses 16-26 as a *mareh*.”—Adapted from *Daniel, Art Scroll Tanach Series* (Brooklyn, New York: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1988), p. 258.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Review this week’s lessons. Make sure you understand the connections between Daniel 8 and Daniel 9.
2. If you read Daniel’s prayer, you will notice he often used the word *we*. “*We*” have done this. “*We*” have done that. The Bible shows Daniel to be a very faithful, holy person. So why did Daniel include himself as one of those responsible for his people’s exile? What can we learn from Daniel including himself with his people?