

## **Finish Faithful—Notes for Episode 3—Daniel’s Prayer**

Daniel was a very important man in several succeeding empires, yet he was not full on himself. He sought the will of God to come to pass.

He studied the writings of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was persecuted by the king of Judah and his power structure, because he declared that the Babylonian captivity was coming and that those who submitted and were carried away would live and those who resisted and stayed in Judah, would die. Needless to say, the king viewed this as treason. There were false prophets saying the LORD would deliver Judah, as He had done in the days of Isaiah when the Assyrians invaded. The king and the false prophets in Judah wanted a message like Isaiah had brought to King Hezekiah, decades before. This was a different time and different situation and Jeremiah had the prophetic message for his generation. Judah’s iniquity was so full that they and the land would be punished. Are our eyes and ears open to what God has to say to our generation? It is likely that in the end times, there will be false prophets who will deny that God’s judgement is coming and preaching a gospel of false prosperity and saying that a loving God will not bring forth His judgement and wrath.

Daniel knew that the 70 years of captivity in Babylon was coming to an end (Jeremiah 25:11, 12, 29:10). He must have been getting old by now. He knew that the captivity had come upon his people because of their disobedience. Even Moses had foretold it (Leviticus 26:14-45, Deuteronomy 28:15-68), and so had other prophets.

Daniel comes before God in sackcloth and fasting confessing the sins of his people and including himself in their sins. Daniel is one of the few great men in the Bible who has no recorded sins or mistakes. This is a beautiful, intercessory prayer. He is not praying for his own problems. He has sought to know the will of God and is praying for that to come to pass. Gabriel, himself, comes to answer the prayer and tells Daniel he is greatly beloved.

The application for our lives is to be people devoted to understanding God’s Word and to desired for it to come to pass. This takes devotion, prayer and purity. Many of us have a pretty comfortable life now and when the end times draw nearer, our comfort and stability may be gone. Do we long for our Lord to return and judge the earth? Do we long for what He longs for and desire what He desires?

Daniel’s prayer showed his recognition of Israel, as the people through whom God has chosen to bring His plan of redemption to pass. He loves the temple, where God’s presence dwells. He loves Jerusalem and Mt. Zion as the place where Messiah will reign.

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! “ Matthew 23:37**

**' Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life —is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. ' 1 John 2:15-17**