

DANIEL 9

Setting vs.1-2

vs.3-19
Daniel's confessional prayer

vs.20-27
God's response

The theological context of Daniel's visions is revealed in this chapter.

It is the response of God to the transgressions of the chosen nation Israel.

Daniel 9

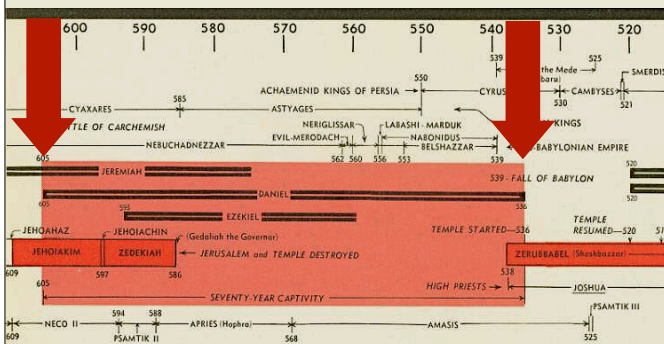
"¹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans — ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was *revealed* as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the **completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.**"

Jeremiah 29:10

"For thus says the Lord, 'When **seventy years have been completed for Babylon**, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'"

✓ **This is perhaps the first reference to accepted (canonized) Scripture.**

✓ **This is an example of a literal fulfilled prophecy made many years before the event.**



Daniel's prayer is sensitive to:

1. God's covenant character - vs.3-4
2. God's covenant justice - vs.5-14
3. God's covenant mercy - vs.15-19

Point #1

Confessional prayer is God centered.

Confession is about MY BEHAVIOR as it relates to GOD's Covenant character, justice, & mercy.

"My name is on the back of my jersey but Jesus' name is on the front."

In this life I represent Him!

Daniel 9

"³ So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek *Him* by prayer and supplications, **with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.** ⁴ I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who **keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,**"

Point #2

Confessional prayer is covenant sensitive.

God's covenant is with the nation Israel and the Body of Christ (the church), not the USA.

2 Chronicles 7:14

"and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Israel, the Church, USA?

The context relates this to the land of Israel whose people bear God's name.

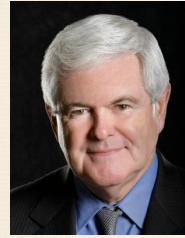
Deuteronomy 7:6

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”

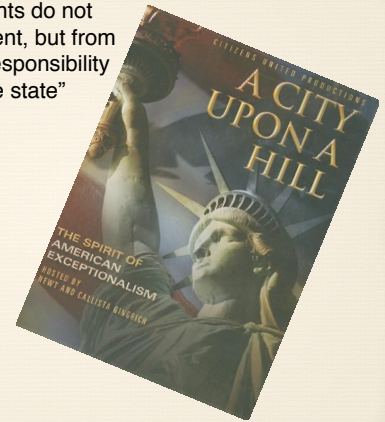
Israel was uniquely chosen by God

God’s covenant with Israel made it exceptional.

“Our exceptionalism is built on the unique belief that our rights do not come from the government, but from God, giving honor and responsibility to the individual – not the state”



Newt Gingrich



Three postures toward the USA

Patriotism	Nationalism	Messianism
“render to Caesar”	“the city on a hill”	“under God”
Pay taxes Salute the flag Honor the officials	Put USA first Defend USA policy Export USA values	USA (OT promises) USA savior of world USA is the new Israel

The USA is not mentioned in Biblical prophecy for a reason - it may not be all that some think it was, is, or will be.

The value of a covenant

- ✓ It gives **purpose** in confusing times.
- ✓ It gives **security** in threatening times.
- ✓ It offers **hope** in hard times.
- ✓ It defines **expectations & limits** in anxious times.

NOTE

God’s covenant gives us a needed perspective for life in a fallen world.

The antichrist spirit of lawlessness

- ✓ We think we gain freedom but in reality have all **limits** of responsibility removed from us. We take on the role of the gods (a bear of a job description).
- ✓ We have no one to thank or appeal to except ourselves.

Life outside the covenant

- ✓ Too much to live with and not enough to live for.
- ✓ No sure **hope** beyond self.
- ✓ Confused **expectations**.
- ✓ No **limits** of responsibility.

Covenant and mental health

Neurotic Covenant Sociopathic

Shame
“It’s all my fault”

No boundaries
Responsible for too much



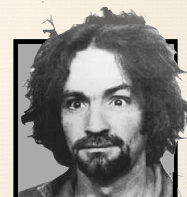
Sensitivity & Security
Clear
Expectations
and Limits

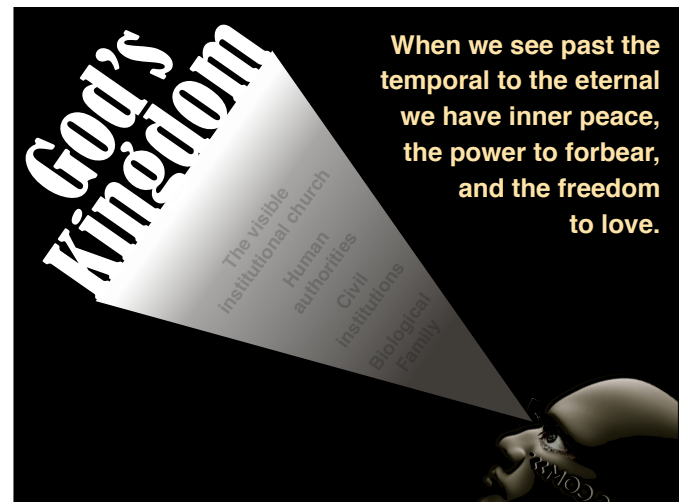
Social contract
with the state

**New Covenant
in Christ**

Blame
“It’s all your fault”

No empathy
Responsible for too little





“7 Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to **us** open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. 8 Open shame belongs to **us**, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because **we** have sinned against You. 9 To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for **we** have rebelled against Him; 10 nor have **we** obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before **us** through His servants the prophets.”



Daniel's confession of sin is remarkable for one reason

✓ **Daniel confessed participation in Israel's sin.**

Point #3

Confessional prayer is community related.

God's people should be sensitive to shared responsibility.

The Godly character of Daniel is seen in his courageous virtue and in his sensitivity to sins that another might not own.

Our gift of discerning and confessing the sins of others too often ignore our participation in them.

Consider	
Others	Myself
stingy	responsible
angry	just
controlling	disciplined
anxious	watchful
worry	concerned
insensitive	principled
lazy	relaxed
obsessed	focused

**The Gospel is the story
of one who endured the
shame of identifying with and
owning the sins of others.**

**Our sins separate us from
the Father and connect us
with the Son.**

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on
our behalf,”

1 Peter 2:24

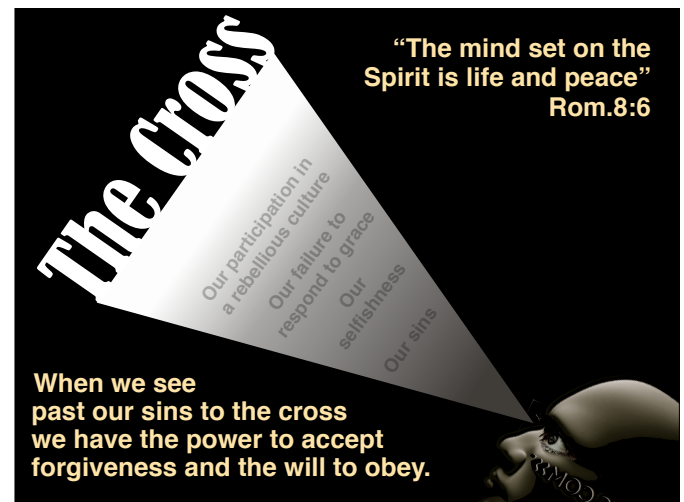
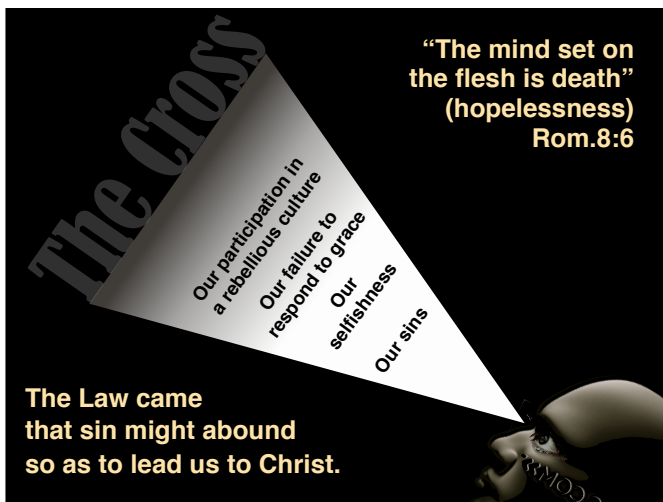
“and He Himself bore our sins in His body on
the cross.”

Matthew 25:40

“Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did
it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the
least of them, you did it to Me.”

Jesus was one with His people

Israel and the Church



Consider refocusing your perspective

1. If you can't forgive or get past your failures or the failures of others.
2. If you feel hopeless, depressed, anxious, and angry.
3. If you can't see opportunities in the midst of bad circumstances.

Some implications for us today.

1. **It is God focused.** If we do not see beyond our circumstances we will not only miss out on the life Christ has won for us, we will also be unpleasant to live with.
2. **It is covenant sensitive.** It is easy for us to take too much or too little responsibility.
3. **It is community related.** While we need not confess other people's sins we can easily overlook our sharing in them.