



PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART

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- Our last class was called, “**We Have Sinned**”
- Daniel is now 84 years old, and he has served under five different monarchies...
- God has blessed him with amazing gifts and miraculous powers, and what is Daniel doing?

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- Bible Study
- Daniel 9 shows that these spiritual privileges in no way diminished Daniel’s dependence on the Scriptures
- He didn’t just study the Prophecies for some kind of Academic Pursuit, he changed his life by what he learned
- Daniel had been studying this project for years, and finally saw his way through it
- He finally has this “**AH HA!**” moment, and look what he does next:
- He takes immediate action:
- He gets right down on his knees!

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- He included himself in the acknowledgement of repentance before God
- Acknowledge your own fault in the problem, and others will accept it much better
- You may think that you haven’t done anything, but look within you to find something that you can bring to the other person in a humble spirit of repentance
- You will open their heart and go a long way to healing any breach

- We also talked about the format of Daniel's prayer

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- We talked about **ACTS** Prayers
- **A**doration
- **C**onfession
- **T**hanksgiving
- **S**upplication
- I find this a very helpful way to remember everything that you want to say when you approach God in prayer, and Daniel's prayer in Chapter 9 followed this type of model exactly

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- Today, we will finish up the book, and look at the last three chapters
- Our title today comes from Chapter 10, and is called, "**A Man Greatly Beloved**"
- We finished Chapter 9 somewhere in 538 BC, with an 84 year old man...
- Daniel 10:1
 - 1) In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.
- Cyrus took control of Persia in about 539, so the third year of his reign would be about 536 BC, making Daniel about 86 at this point
- What was he doing now?
- Daniel 10:2-3
 - 2) In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.
 - 3) I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.
- It's been two years since we saw Daniel last, and since he received his last dream
- And the next time we see him, he is in prayer and mourning
- What was Daniel mourning about?

- More than likely Daniel was mourning about the situation taking place in Jerusalem and the state of his people.
- Cyrus had allowed the Jews to return and Temple construction to begin but by the second year only the foundation was laid, the problem is the people who were living in the land opposed the returning Jews from rebuilding.
- Word of these events would have filtered back to Daniel.

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- It's interesting to figure out **WHEN** Daniel was praying...
- Let's start at the end, and see when it was he finished
- Daniel 10:4

4) And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which *is* Hiddekel; (Tigris)

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- When did he stop? The 24th day of the first month (Abib)

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- How long did he pray and mourn? 21 Days

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- So, he started on Abib 3 and ended on Abib 24, right?

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- What happens from the 14th of Abib to the 21st of Abib?

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- Passover
- Daniel had set aside this 21-day period, to mourn and pray
- This period included Passover week, but Daniel's period preceded Passover by two weeks
- Daniel went above and beyond what God required, because Daniel was someone who sought to understand and know God
- Look at how he goes about drawing himself closer to God...

- *“I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all”*

- Anybody want to translate that into 21st Century American?

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- Daniel 10:3 MESSAGE

- 3) I ate only plain and simple food, no seasoning or meat or wine. I neither bathed nor shaved until the three weeks were up.

- What do we think about bringing ourselves closer to God by denying ourselves some of the finer things in life?

- Was this related specifically to God’s temple not being built? Was he just saying that if God is Homeless, he isn’t going to be comfortable either?

- Or, is there some intrinsic value to asceticism?

- What we do know is that God responded to these actions

- And look at Daniel’s reaction again to what it is like to be in the presence of an angel

- Daniel 10:5-8

- 5) Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins *were* girded with fine gold of Uphaz:

- 6) His body also *was* like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

- 7) And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

- 8) Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

- Again, it seems to be a terrifying occurrence

- It’s so scary that everyone else flees, and he is left alone

- This wasn’t a dream!

- This scene is similar to Paul’s on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:7)

- The appearance of this “Man” drained all of Daniel’s strength he fell prostrate on the ground

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- There is an interesting lesson we can see about this reaction...

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- The Hebrew word translated here ‘comeliness’ in Verse 8 is **Howd** meaning grandeur, splendor, majesty, excellency, glory, goodly, honor...
- What does that tell you?
- Daniel meets this Angel, and his excellency was turned into corruption...

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- Daniel acknowledged his own corruption and sinful nature in the presence of the Angel
- He was aware of his sinful human nature
- This is the proper position for us to hold before God
- Abased, humbled and brought low
- We can't successfully approach God in an semblance of honor or glory
- It is only when we fall face down to the ground, recognizing our own sinfulness and unworthiness that God can begin to work with us
- And look how the Angel does react!
- Daniel 10:9-10

- 9) Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.
- 10) And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and *upon* the palms of my hands.

- The Angel strengthens him, and raises him up
- And look what the Angel says to Daniel!

- Daniel 10:11

- 11) And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

- Like Abraham, like David, like Christ himself, Daniel was much beloved in heaven

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- Daniel was beloved because he was sincere with God and had developed a lasting relationship with his heavenly father

- And God heard Daniel's prayer

- Daniel 10:12

12) Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

- It didn't take three weeks!

- God doesn't "just barely" answer our prayers

- God acts decisively and fully

- Daniel gets reassured of that

- The angel gives us an understanding of the unique quality that made Daniel a man "beloved" in heaven.

- We find from the first day Daniel sought to understand and humble himself before God, his words were heard.

- These same words which apply to Daniel, apply to us.

- Daniel was someone who sought to know and understand God, humbled himself and made himself available.

- We can do the same.

- His relationship to God might have started as a young boy in Jerusalem, from a parent who instructed his son who was being handed over to the Babylonians to seek the Lord with all his heart.

- Daniel first test came when he was to eat meat and drink sacrificed to the idols of Babylon. Under the trail of Babylon we saw Daniel's life blossom, as God worked with him to help his people understand the plan God had for them.

- God is the same today as he was yesterday (Heb. 13:8)

- If we choose to humble ourselves and understand Him, God can use us also!

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- Looking back at some of things we have learned about Daniel over the past classes...

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- 1) Daniel Purposed in His Heart to Do God's Will
- 2) Daniel was Faithful to God, and had Faith that God would be Faithful to him
- 3) Daniel didn't let bad circumstances stop him from thinking that God could use him
- 4) Daniel was calm and composed even though his life was on the line
- 5) Daniel acted with "wisdom and discretion"
- 6) Daniel had the ability in the midst of panic to put people at ease
- 7) Daniel took his Problems to God in Prayer IMMEDIATELY
- 8) Daniel was motivated by compassion for those around him – Even the pagans
- 9) In spite of all his gifts, brilliance, and spiritual maturity, Daniel remained humble
- 10) Daniel knew that he had been used by God for His purposes
- 11) Daniel and his friends were prepared to stand up against the temptation to sin, **WHETHER OR NOT** God were to rescue them
- 12) Daniel's life was predominated by Spiritual things, not Material things