

Weekly Lesson Theme: Staying True In A World Far From God

Lesson Scriptures: Daniel 9:3-10,17-19

Key Lesson Theme: "Confess Wholeheartedly"

Today's Lesson: Thursday, September 28

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Daniel 9:17-19

¹⁷ Therefore, our God, hear the prayer and the petitions of your servant. Make your face shine on your desolate sanctuary for the Lord's sake.

¹⁸ Listen closely, my God, and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations and the city that bears your name. For we are not presenting our petitions before you based on our righteous acts, but based on your abundant compassion.

¹⁹ Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for your own sake, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your name.

Commentary

Daniel appealed for God to hear the prayer and the petitions of your servant. By referring to himself as *your servant*, Daniel was affirming his humility before the Lord, who was his Master. Make your face shine is a Hebraism for "show the favor of Your presence or the favor that comes by Your presence." Daniel's specific focus is on **your** desolate sanctuary, a reference to the temple in Jerusalem, that still lay in ruins. He declared his concerns were for the Lord's sake, meaning in accordance with

God's true self, revealed character, and divine reputation. Bible commentator Stephen Miller wrote: "Not only was the destroyed temple a disgrace for Yahweh's people but for Yahweh himself.

The nations would think that Israel's God was weak and insignificant if He were unable to protect His own sanctuary."

Daniel desired to see God act, not because the people were worthy, but because the Lord Himself was a God of *abundant compassion*.

Do this for your own sake, O my God. Daniel once again prayed on behalf of the Lord's reputation, with a reminder that the city—Jerusalem—and the people bear your name. Daniel was not so much trying to convince God to do something as he was affirming the hope that came from believing that God would do something because that is what He promised. The Lord's action on their behalf to bring about restoration would prove to be a testimony to the greatness and authority of the Lord, who was their God.

What are some lasting truths that come from Daniel 9:17-19?

- Seek the Lord with conviction that He is what we need and with confidence that He will respond.
- Every petition to the Lord is to be for His honor and glory.
- Seek the Lord with an attitude that trusts He knows what is best and will do it—and do it right well.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday