

## **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:** Tuesday, September 26

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

### **Daniel 9:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:  
Ah, Lord—the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands—

<sup>5</sup> we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from your commands and ordinances.

<sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the people of the land.

### **Commentary**

Here is the picture of a man of faith in the midst of a critical period in history praying to the Lord—the One he was confident had history in His hands and could direct the course of what was about to unfold. His praying was accompanied by fasting, sackcloth, and ashes, all of which denote a spirit of humility.

Daniel began his prayer with a confession of praise. Next, Daniel confessed God's faithfulness in keeping his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands. The recipients of His faithfulness and love are *those who love (ahab) him*, with such *love* being demonstrated by their commitment to keep—meaning guard, observe, and obey—*his commands*. Daniel apparently, at least in some sense, counted himself—and others for whom he spoke—as having met that condition of faithful obedience to some degree; thus, he felt confident in asking God to act in accordance with His covenant promises.

Daniel's confession of the greatness and faithfulness of God led to confession and admission of sin. Any time we are in the presence of the righteous, holy Lord we become aware of our own unrighteousness and sinfulness. Verses 5-6 contain five or six different words that describe the broken relationship between God and His people. These words are not unique to Daniel, but appear often in the Old Testament, particularly in the psalms. Also note that in these verses Daniel transitioned to using the first-person plural pronoun *we*; thus, including himself in the confession, even though in reality, the events he described as reason for the people's exile predated him.

God had called out faithful individuals to declare His divine instruction, to warn the people of their failings, to plead for repentance, but also to share a word of hope. The message of these *servants* of the Lord, His *prophets*, had fallen on unhearing ears. The people did not hear, not because they could not, but because they would not. The refusal to hear this word that had been spoken in the Lord's name—meaning by His authority—was widespread: kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the people of the land.

### **What are some lasting truths from Daniel 9:3-6?**

- God reveals Himself, His promises, and His will through His Word; thus, we do well to spend time studying and obeying it.

- In times of despair, we need to seek the Lord through prayer, demonstrating our humility and rendering our praise to Him as the awesome God.
- God is faithful to His promises to us; we ought to be faithful to ours to Him.
- From the Old Testament through the New Testament is a common thread that declares all humankind has sinned.

Until tomorrow Saints...  
Every day is Sunday