

## Daniel 9:11-19 – God’s Unstoppable Kingdom Requires Confession of Sins: Three More Bases for Forgiveness

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: From the last time you might remember that: 1. We examined the need for Judah’s confession – sin was a hindrance 阻碍物 to Judah’s return and for the ultimate spread of Christ’s kingdom. 2. We saw what Judah’s confession looked like: He took full responsibility for his sins and did not make any excuses. And 3, we then examined 1 basis for expecting repentance – that God was a merciful God. Today we will finish off this 3<sup>rd</sup> point and examine 3 more bases for Daniel’s prayer of repentance.

Our headings are: 1. Basis for Forgiveness: We see that we are sinners. 2. Basis for Forgiveness: Your name will be Great among the nations, and 3. Basis for Forgiveness: We will glorify you after you forgive us.

Our goals are: That you will see, that in order for God to forgive your sins, you need to have a proper relationship with God and a proper view of him.

### Basis for Forgiveness: We see that we are Sinners

11 "Yes, all Israel has transgressed 侵越 Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.

1. Daniel did not try to make excuses for Israel’s sins, as is natural to do. He did not say: “The times were hard, so the people had to work for 7 days instead of 6.” He did not say: “Our parents are the guilty ones, not us.” He did not say: “We know we have to be kind to widows, orphans, and foreigners, but we needed cheap labor to turn a profit.” He did not say: “We prayed to idols, but we were thinking about you, Lord.” Daniel wanted forgiveness and change. The Jews didn’t want to be cold iron anymore. They wanted God’s hammer to change their shape. And isn’t it time the church today stop making excuses for sin as well. We need to stop saying: “I can’t help the poor...my pay isn’t enough. I don’t have time to teach my children, I need to work or study more. I can’t be involved with social issues, I am too busy.” Like Daniel, you need to stop making excuses. I know that in Canada today we are not in full captivity now, but we are heading there. You need to avoid falling into this kind of situation. The wicked stand on slippery ground. And sometimes the wicked are in the church. Look at how quickly Hitler started using normal German people to destroy other Germans and Jews! Look at how in the last century many nations force sterilized many innocent people...an idea first implemented in the USA and copied by Europe... something that gave rise to the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. Look how quickly things changed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW and Japanese were in internment camps. Christianity might have been great for 200 years in NA, but that doesn’t mean it will continue if we continue in sin and fail to live godly lives.

2. Daniel then acknowledged that God’s judgment on them was justified. The people made an oath to God and then they broke that oath. What was that oath?

Exodus 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

They were promised much but fail to take advantage of God’s provisions of help to keep that oath. They had sloughed off 抛弃 their own blessings...much like we are doing...getting rid of God from our thoughts, talk, courts, schools, and other obligations 义务. Look at what we should have been like...

Deut. 26:19...He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken."

Daniel came clean, like Nehemiah did later on: “Lord, we are wrong and you are right!”

Nehemiah 1:5... O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6...I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. 7 "We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances 法令 which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8 "Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; 9 ‘but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’

Notice how smoothly Nehemiah moved to plead for restoration: Justice required death, but God’s covenant faithfulness moved him to show pity and restore his wayward people.

12 "And **He has confirmed His words**, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven **such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem**.<sup>13</sup> "As **it is written in the Law of Moses**, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.

**3. Daniel then acknowledged that God threatened judgment many times before.** God had multiple witnesses against them.

This threat to confess sins started with **Adam and Cain**. It was codified **编纂变成法典** in **Moses**, and continued through the time of **the judges** and throughout the lives of the prophets, like **Isaiah** and **Amos**. Even some **kings** gave a warning to repent. This multiple warning not only shows the degree of Judah's guilt but also God's patience!

**4. Daniel confirmed that to the time in which he lived, there was no greater fall in history than the fall of God's Bride.**

14 "Therefore **the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us**; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice.

**5. Verse 14 is a double witness – repetition for effect. God was right to do what he did.**

### **Basis for Forgiveness: Your Name will be Great among the nations**

15 "And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, **and made Yourself a name**, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

16 "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury **愤怒** be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and **Your people are a reproach** to all those around us.

**1. Daniel then argued from history that God's desire to maintain his great name among the nations was a basis for asking for forgiveness.** When God brought Israel out of Egypt with great miracles and power, men heard of it and feared Jehovah. God opened up the waters of the Red Sea and drowned Pharaoh's army but kept Israel alive. God's name put fear in the Canaanites – like Rahab, who lived on the city walls.

**Joshua 2:8** Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: **"I know that the LORD has given you the land**, that the **terror of you has fallen on us**, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 "For we have heard how the **LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea** for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 "And as soon as we heard these things, **our hearts melted**; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, **He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath**.

**2. Daniel was in essence saying: "Lord, do you want to lose credit for what you did? Lord, don't you want to preserve your great name?"** Notice how Daniel did not appeal to the goodness of the people or argue that they deserve forgiveness. The Jews had ignored God's great name. They had broken covenant. And because God had sent Judah into captivity, God's name was **mocked by their neighbors**. The Jews were the most cherished **珍爱** people on the earth. No God ever **spoke so lovingly about his people, carrying them** on his wings like eagles. No God displayed more awesome power, and yet, they were disparaged beyond belief in Daniel's day because of their sins. Ps 79.

**Daniel 36:22** "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned **渎神的; 褻瀆的** among the nations wherever you went.

Daniel did not want anyone to say: "Jehovah is shamed by his people."

**Jeremiah 16:14** "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 15 "but, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

**So when you, the church, or the nation sins, it is not simply a personal injury. Others are hurt...** This is why people often say: "You are a Christian and you did that?" Or they say: "You married a non-believer and your church did nothing? Or they say: "Canada is a Christian country and it allows homosexual marriages?" **Because you belong to the Lord, you are shaming the name or your Redeemer.** This must be an important ground for confessing your sins.

### **Basis for Forgiveness: We will glorify you after you forgive us**

17 "Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications **祷告**, and for the Lord's sake cause **Your face to shine on Your sanctuary**, which is desolate. 18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations **荒凉**, and the city which is called by Your name; for **we do not present our supplications before** You because of **our righteous**

deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! **Do not delay for Your own sake**, my God, for Your city and **Your people are called by Your name**."

1. A third basis of confessing the sins of Judah was that once Judah was forgiven, he would begin to glorify God again. We can say that **Daniel asked for forgiveness with the view to God's glory.** God's glory was preeminent 超群绝伦 in Daniel's life. Forgiven men cannot help but praise God. And notice how Daniel described, almost with pain, how the sanctuary was desolate 荒凉—left empty. There was no one there to worship and he longed for worship again in God's house. He pleaded that God would not delay. Read the Psalms of Ascents: Ps 120-134, and Psalm 102:13-14. Psalm 80:3 Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!  
Psalm 119:94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.  
Do you see how applicable this is to you today as well? Doesn't it pain you that there can be 20,000 people to watch a hockey game and root for overpaid cry-babies, but so few are in churches on Sundays? I have heard some of the most amazing reasons why people don't gather for worship... That shows either that they don't know they are supposed to worship each Sabbath, or that they don't value their salvation and the work of Jesus. This is why they treat the house of God as an "If I Have Time" venue? If you have erred this way, pray for forgiveness.

2. In the conclusion of the prayer, Daniel then appealed to God's senses: His ear, his eye...his heart...and then his hand: "Hear our confession, see our need, see your desire to make the nations and your people glorify you, and cleanse our hearts." This was exactly how Hezekiah appealed to God for help when Sennacherib sent his emissaries 使者 to threaten the people of God in Judah earlier. 2Kings 19:16 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and **see**; and **hear** the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. 17 "Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 "and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. 19 "Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, **save** us from his hand, that all the **kingdoms of the earth may know** that You are the LORD God, You alone."  
Daniel appealed for urgency! Sin is a reproach. It must be removed quickly. Who wants to stay one more night with the frogs as the wicked Pharaoh did. Pharaoh wanted to try to see if God were uninvolved in the life of the Jews so he asked Moses to wait overnight. You should urgently 迫切地 call for help.

### **Conclusion:**

Daniel's confession of his nation's sins was right and good. And he had good ground to confess his sins:  
a. God forgave Judah because he was merciful. (We saw that last week.) b. God forgave Judah because he acknowledged that he was guilty. c. God forgave Judah because he wanted to make his name great among the nations so they might fear him. d. God forgave Judah because he wanted Judah to worship him again. With Judah forgiven, they could be restored to Jerusalem and they could then be used by God to advance his kingdom...that unstoppable kingdom.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The fact is, Judah rightly deserved to be destroyed and sent to hell. So on what basis were his sins forgiven? Judah was forgiven because God's justice was met in his Son, Jesus Christ when he willingly died on the cross. **How foolish man would be if he did not plead for forgiveness through his Covenant Keeper!** And then what? With your sins forgiven, you are then usable. So work to advance your Covenant Keeper's kingdom among the nations! Work for his glory. Praise him...everywhere...at home, at work, among your family and friends... Let the world know that God has forgiven you through Jesus Christ.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you need to lay aside all conceit, thinking how important you are or how good you are. You need to come with a full consciousness of your sins, confess them, and receive what God offers you through Jesus Christ – eternal life. 1John 1:9.