

Daniel 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Analysis

Daniel's study of Scripture leads to prayer: 'In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.' Daniel studied 'books' (plural, possibly Jeremiah and other prophets) understanding that Jeremiah's seventy-year prophecy (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10) was nearing completion. This demonstrates that biblical prophecy isn't fatalistic—understanding God's promises led Daniel to prayer, not passive waiting. Scripture study prompted intercession for prophecy's fulfillment.

Historical Context

Jerusalem fell in 586 BC; seventy years later (516 BC) the temple was rebuilt, though debate exists whether counting from 605 BC (first deportation) reaches 539 BC (Babylon's fall) or 538 BC (Cyrus's decree allowing return). Daniel, deported in 605 BC, had lived almost the entire seventy years in exile. Jeremiah's scrolls evidently circulated among exiles (Jeremiah 29 was a letter to exiles). Daniel's access to prophetic writings shows Scripture's importance in exile for maintaining faith and hope.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's example teach that understanding biblical prophecy should lead to prayer rather than passive speculation?
2. What does his Scripture study during exile teach about the Bible's role sustaining faith and hope in difficult circumstances?

Interlinear Text

שנה:	אחת	מלך ו	אני	דני אל	בין תי	בנספר ים
of the years	In the first	of his reign	H589	I Daniel	understood	by books
H8141	H259	H4427	H1940	H005		H5612

אל	יהיה	דבר	בְּנֵי הָאָשָׁר	שְׁתָה:	מִסְפֵּר	the number	of the years	H834	H1961	whereof the word	of the LORD	H413
								H4557	H2143	H1607	H2069	

לפָרָב וְתַלְמִי הַנּוּבֵּר יְאֵר יְרֵמִי הַלְמִל אֹתָהָרִים

שְׁתָה: שְׁבָע יָמִים יְרוּשָׁלָם
of Jerusalem seventy of the years

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:10 (Word): For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

2 Chronicles 36:21 (Word): To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Zechariah 7:5 (Parallel theme): Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

Revelation 1:3 (Word): Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Ezra 1:1 (Kingdom): Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Micah 3:12 (References Jerusalem): Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

Isaiah 64:10 (References Jerusalem): Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

Acts 8:34 (Prophecy): And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Psalms 119:24 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Jeremiah 27:7 (Kingdom): And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.