

# PRAYING TO A RIGHTEOUS GOD

GOD'S WILL AND GOD'S WAY

BY ROBERT COOPER

MARCH 14, 2021

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## WHO IS DANIEL?

- Daniel was about 15 years old when he was taken captive in 605 B.C.
- Chapter 9 begins in the first year of King Darius. History records this as 538 B.C.
- This means that Israel was in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of captivity. This means that he was about 82 years old when Darius assumed the throne.
- Daniel was among the princes (1:3) who were taken to be trained in the way of the Chaldeans (Babylonian soothsayers and wise men)



## DANIEL'S PRAYER - GOD'S ANSWER

- Daniel prayed for the deliverance of his people from their captivity
- Daniel prayed for God to be merciful upon his people and forgive their transgressions
- Daniel confessed God's righteousness in His judgement of Judah's sins
- God responds by telling Daniel of the deliverance of his people from their sins.
- God responded by telling Daniel of His mercy to deliver them from the very presence of sin
- God responds by telling him of greater judgments to come

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## SERMON APPLICATION

*Inform our prayers*

*How God answers prayer*

*Live in light of prophecy*

*Be a witness where you are*

*Look forward to freedom*



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**be** | **informed**

# PRAYING WITH KNOWLEDGE

- Daniel prayed with knowledge – he had been reading the Prophet Jeremiah
  - Verse 2 references Jeremiah 25:8-12
  - Verse 8 references Jeremiah 7:19

**11** And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

**12** And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.



# PRAYING WITH KNOWLEDGE

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  - Verse 2 references Jeremiah 25:8-12
  - Verse 8 references Jeremiah 7:19

19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the Lord: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

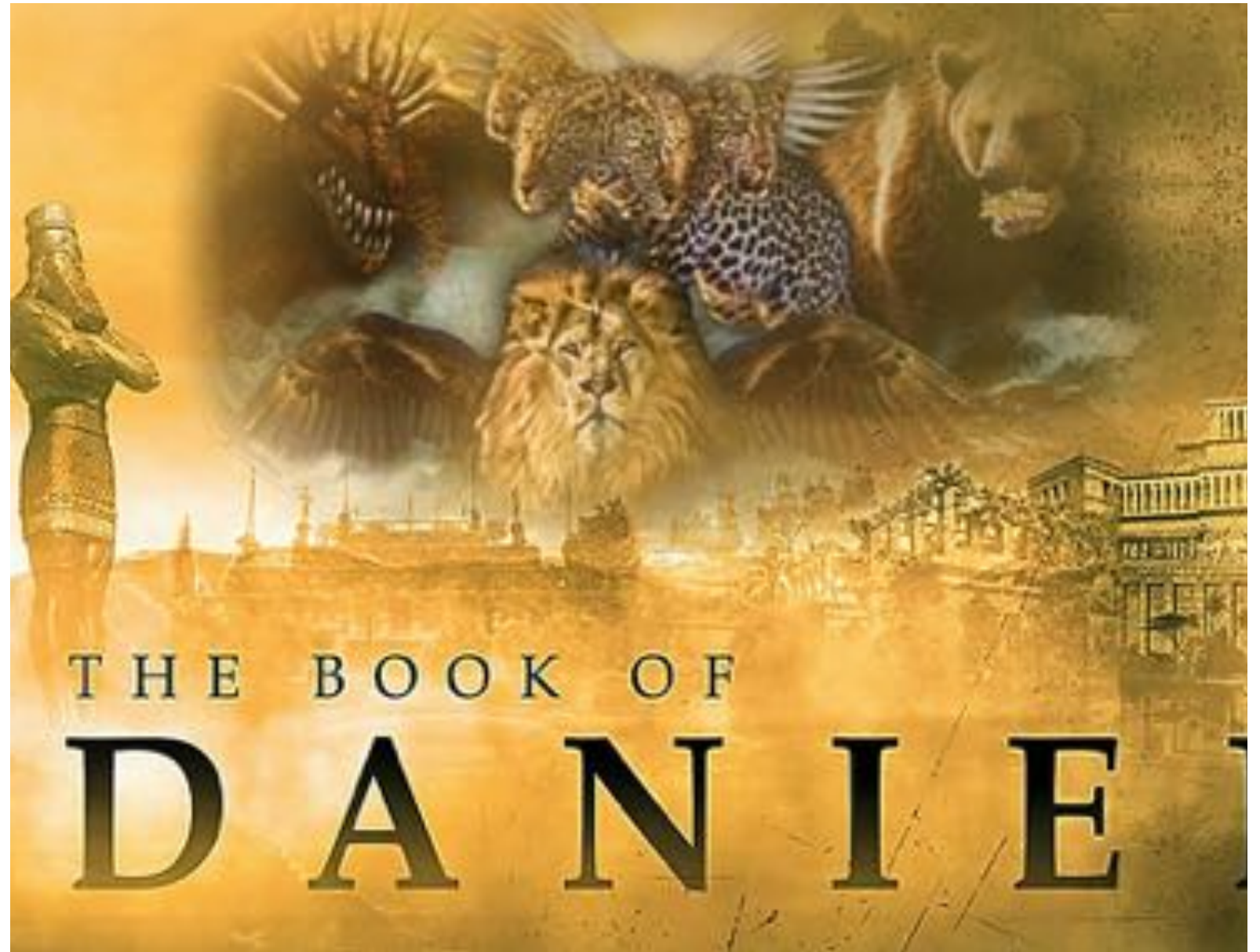
# JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY FULFILLS GOD'S PROMISE

- In **Leviticus 25:1-4**, Israel was commanded to give the land a sabbath year continually
  - Six years of sowing and reaping and one year of rest
  - God would bless their harvest the sixth year so that they would have food for three years (**Leviticus 25:20-22**)
- Israel was warned that they would be enslaved for as many sabbath years as they neglected in **Leviticus 26:14-17, 32-35**
- Israel had neglected the Sabbath year for the land for 490 years
  - **2 Chronicles 36:15-21** (esp. 20-21)
- God required these years of rest be provided to the land and this was His reasoning behind determining their captivity would be 70 years (v21)



# DANIEL'S VIEW OF PROPHECY

- Daniel believed in
  - the literal and exact fulfilment of prophecy
  - the accuracy of Scripture (historical, grammatical, prophetic, miraculous)
- Daniel prayed with hope
  - Knowing the timing given by the prophecy, Daniel prayed for God to fulfill His promise of deliverance
- 2 Chronicles 36:15-23 (esp. 22-23)





Sabbath

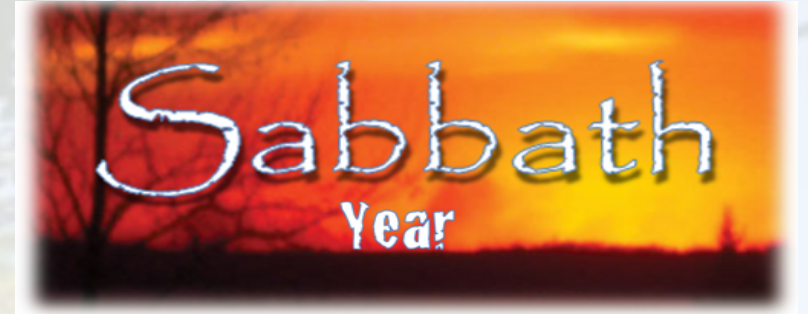
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# IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH YEAR



- **Leviticus 25:8**

And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbath of years shall be unto the forty and nine years

- **Leviticus 25:11**

A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.

The Jews never observed the sabbath year, henceforth they never observed the Year of Jubilee

# IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH YEAR

- The sabbath year would accomplish the following:
  - The land would be renewed
  - The Jews belief in God would be bolstered by His abundant provision
  - They would be reminded by the land going fallow that they are “strangers and sojourners with [God]” on the Earth – **Leviticus 25:23**
- The Year of Jubilee would accomplish renewing of the people
  - Their relationship with God would be blessed
  - Society would be blessed
  - God mentions In **Leviticus 25:14** and again in **Leviticus 25:17** that the people “shall not oppress one another”



# IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH YEAR

- When were the Jews were to begin observing the sabbath year? From **Lev 25:2b**:  
When ye shall come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD
- If this is so, why were the Jews only responsible for 490 years of delinquency?
- Joshua brought the people into the Promised Land before his death in 1375 B.C.
- This translates to **110 sabbath** years that were missed

The following timeline provides understanding





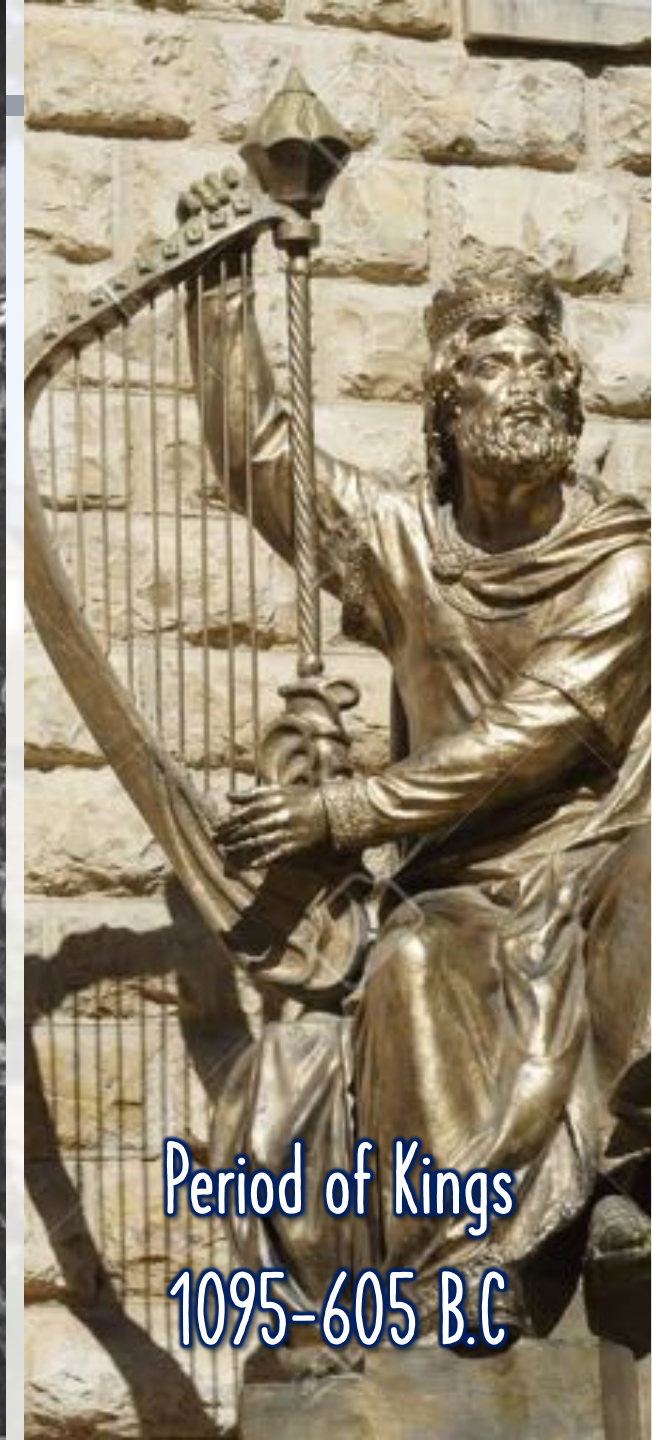
Death of Moses  
1400 B.C.



Death of Joshua  
1375 B.C



Period of Judges  
1375-1050 B.C



Period of Kings  
1095-605 B.C



# OBSERVING THE SABBATH YEAR

- Samuel was the final judge. He judged Israel from about 1095 B.C. to 1014 B.C.
- Samuel anointed Saul as the first king in Israel around 1052 B.C.
- It was not possible for Israel to observe the sabbath year during the tumultuous time of the judges
- Israel was in a cycle of rebellion, discipline and deliverance until Samuel became judge
- Lack of stability would have made it impossible to observe the sabbath year

It appears that once Samuel became judge, Israel was stable enough to observe this command

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The Jews have never observed

the sabbath year

or

the Year of Jubilee



**WHAT IS THE  
YEAR OF**

*Jubilee?*



# GOD DID NOT EXACT PAYMENT FOR THE JUBILEE YEARS

- God has much to say about the Year of Jubilee in Leviticus
- We come to understand there were, at least, six goals to be accomplished in its observance
- The goals may be broadly categorized as renewal of relationships with man and renewal of relationship with God. They are as follows:

- |    |             |                   |
|----|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Obedience   | Leviticus 25:18   |
| 2. | Repentance  | Leviticus 25:17   |
| 3. | Mercy       | Leviticus 25:35   |
| 4. | Restoration | Leviticus 25:29   |
| 5. | Blessings   | Leviticus 26:2-6  |
| 6. | Glory       | Leviticus 26:7-12 |

*Why weren't they held accountable for the Jubilee years that were missed?*





# ISRAEL NO LONGER HAD A WITNESS

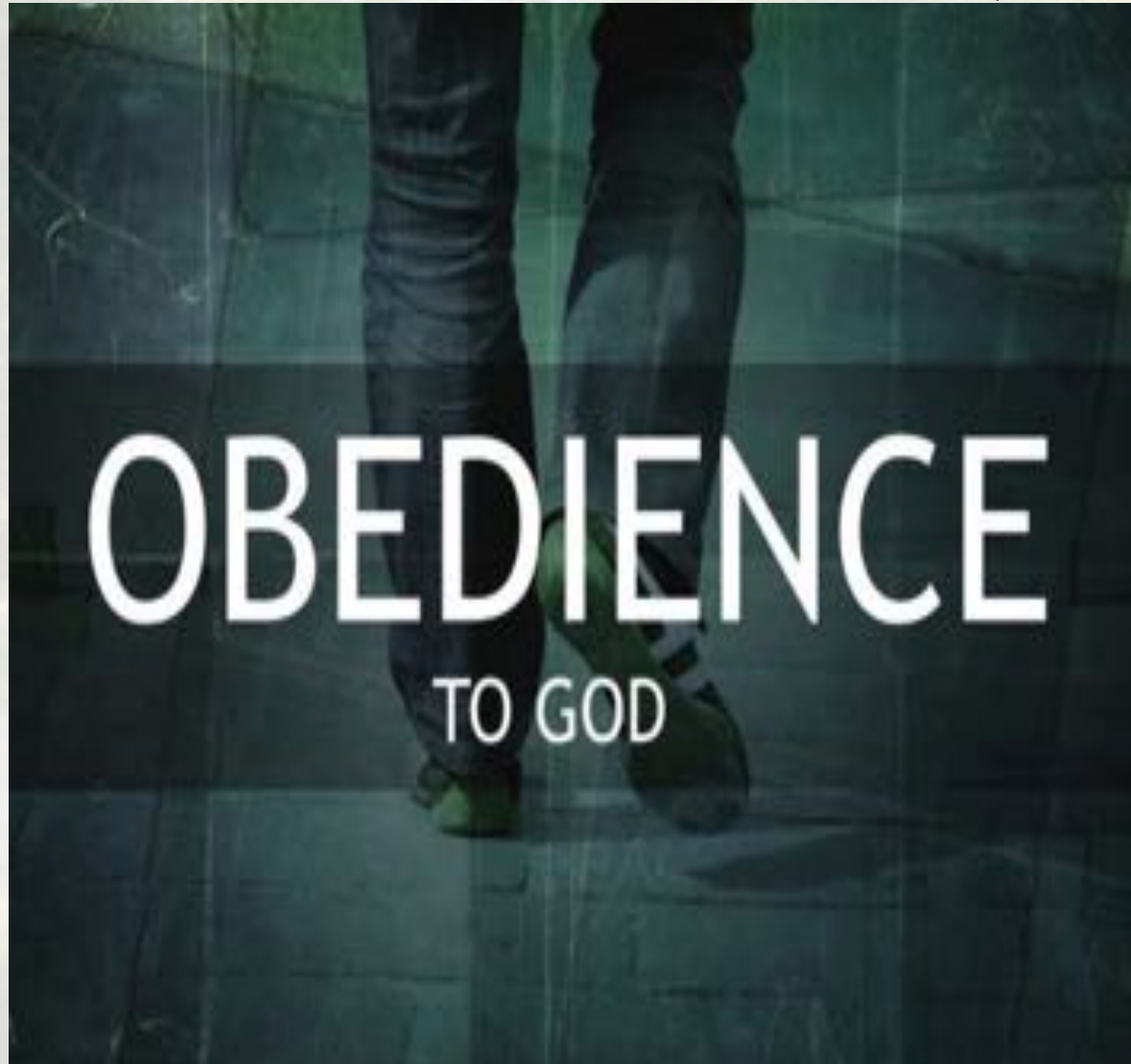
- By not keeping the sabbath years and never observing the Year of Jubilee, Israel devolved into grave sin
- By the time Judah is taken into captivity (Israel was overtaken by the Assyrians almost 120 years earlier), there was no difference between them and pagan nations
  - **2 Kings 17:15-17** describes Israel's depravity
  - **Jeremiah 19:3-5** describes Judah's depravity
- They were unable to fulfil the purposes for which God established them. From Isaiah 43, we understand that God created them to be:
  - His praise
  - His glory
  - His witnesses



- Daniel prayed with belief. He believed God's judgement was righteous and God's deliverance was sure
  - God called out the sin of the people
  - God pronounced judgement on their sin
  - God assured the preservation of the people
  - God also declared that Israel would be delivered
  
- Two New Testament examples to consider are Simeon and Anna (**Luke 2:22-38**)



OBEDIENCE YIELDS BLESSINGS, REBELLION YIELDS CURSES





# OBEDIENCE YIELDS BLESSINGS, REBELLION YIELDS CURSES

- If there was three years of captivity remaining, why was Daniel so earnest at this point?
- The people had not listened to the chastening of the Lord and remained in a state of rebellion
  - The people committed iniquity, rebelled, and departed from God's precepts (v5)
  - The people did not listen to the prophets (of old and present) – Verses 6, 10
    - Daniel and Ezekiel were the prophets during the exile
- Daniel prayed that the hearts of the people would turn towards God knowing that God is a **Dan 9:4b** "great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant of mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments"
- See **John 14:15**
- Daniel prayed in accordance with the promise God made in **Jeremiah 29:10-14**





**GOD'S  
JUDGMENT**



# NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS GOD'S INSTRUMENT

*He was used by God to judge God's people*

- Harsh and cruel
- Self aggrandizing
- Pagan
- God calls Nebuchadnezzar His servant ([Jeremiah 25:9](#))
- God did not cause him to sin
- God granted Nebuchadnezzar success in his conquest of the Hebrews  
Read [Jeremiah 29:21-22](#)
- Nebuchadnezzar and those who followed were held responsible for their actions ([Jeremiah 25:15](#))

# Daniel's Seventy Weeks



**An answer to prayer**



# SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL

Daniel 9:24-27

- The word (shabua) translated “weeks” simply means “sevens”
- The context of Chapter 9 makes weeks-of-days and implausible interpretation
- All that we Daniel would have been reading refers to weeks-of-years
- The events in 9:24-25 could not take place in 483 days (summing v25)
  - The commandment to rebuild Jerusalem
  - The coming of the Messiah
  - The rebuilding of the wall and the streets of Jerusalem
  - The death of the Messiah
  - The destruction of Jerusalem

# SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL – *WHAT GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH*

Daniel 9:24

The angel Gabriel states six purposes of God that will be accomplished

1. To finish the transgression
2. To make an end of sins
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity
4. To bring everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up the vision and the prophecy
6. To anoint the most Holy

The timeline given to complete the Lord's work is also seven sevens-of-years totaling 490 years



## GOD DID NOT EXACT PAYMENT FOR THE JUBILEE YEARS

- By not observing the sabbath years during the 490 years that God mentioned, that means they did not observe nine jubilee years
- Yet God does not mention this transgression. Why?



## THE YEAR OF JUBILEE – WILL BECOME A STATE OF JUBILEE

1. To finish the transgression
2. To make an end of sins
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity
4. To bring everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up the vision and the prophecy
6. To anoint the most Holy

1. Obedience
2. Repentance
3. Mercy
4. Restoration
5. Blessings
6. Glory

**What the Year of Jubilee was to accomplish cyclically**

**God will complete finally**