



**Ice breaker:** Share a time when you prayed for something specific, but later realized God was doing something deeper or different than you expected. What did you learn about God through that experience?

**Read and Reflect on Daniel 9:20-27:** *<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— <sup>21</sup> while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup> As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision: <sup>24</sup> “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. <sup>25</sup> “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. <sup>26</sup> After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. <sup>27</sup> He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

**Big Idea:** God answers the prayers of his exiled people with a bigger mercy than they imagined, a longer vision than they expected, and a final hope secured in the finished work of Christ.

### Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:

- 1. God hears his beloved people before they finish praying (Daniel 9:20–23)** God responds to Daniel *while he is still praying*—revealing that prayer is relational, not transactional.
  - What stands out to you about the timing of God’s response in verses 20–23? How does knowing that God hears “as soon as you begin to pray” shape your view of prayer?
  - Pastor Kevin said, “You may feel ordinary, distracted, spiritually weak, or barely holding on—but in Christ, you are beloved.” Why is it significant that Daniel is called “greatly loved” *before* he receives understanding?
  - Think about the illustration of a child waking from a nightmare and being comforted first with, “I’m here, you’re safe, I’ve got you.” How have you experienced God giving reassurance before answers? How does this shape your trust in Him?
- 2. God’s mercy is bigger than immediate relief (Daniel 9:24)** God answers Daniel’s prayer not just by ending exile, but by dealing with sin through atonement and bringing everlasting righteousness.
  - What are the six things God promises to accomplish in verse 24? Which one stands out most to you and why?
  - Why is dealing with sin a deeper and greater need than simply ending difficult circumstances?



- How does this passage point forward to Jesus and His work on the cross?
  - What is the difference between being forgiven and being given “everlasting righteousness”? Pastor Kevin emphasized that the gospel gives both pardon and righteousness. How does this truth guard us from slipping into performance-based religion?
3. **God’s people can endure troubled history because every evil has a decreed end (Daniel 9:25–27)** History includes trouble, but evil is not ultimate—God has already determined its end.
- How does this passage prepare us to expect suffering rather than avoid it? Why is it important that Scripture is honest about hardship?
  - Verse 25 shows that rebuilding happens “in times of trouble.” Where have you seen something meaningful in your life (faith, relationships, ministry, character) grow in difficult seasons?
  - How does remembering that “hard does not mean abandoned” and “difficulty does not mean God is absent” reshape how you interpret your current challenges?
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**Digging Deeper (Optional):**

- **God Hears and Responds to Prayer.** Daniel is answered before he finishes praying (Daniel 9:23). How does this connect with passages like **Isaiah 65:24** and **1 John 5:14–15**? What do these verses teach about God’s attentiveness and your confidence in prayer?
  - **Atonement: God Deals with Sin at the Root.** Daniel 9:24 points to finishing transgression and atoning for wickedness. How do **Isaiah 53:5–6** and **Hebrews 9:26–28** deepen your understanding of how God ultimately answered this in Christ? Why is atonement essential beyond just improving circumstances?
  - **Righteousness Given, Not Earned.** God promises “everlasting righteousness” (Daniel 9:24). How does this connect with **2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Philippians 3:8–9**? How does receiving righteousness as a gift reshape how you relate to God daily?
  - **Living Faithfully in Troubled Times.** Daniel 9:25–26 shows rebuilding happening “in times of trouble.” How do **John 16:33** and **1 Peter 4:12–13** prepare believers to expect and endure hardship? How can these truths help you interpret difficulty in your own life?
  - **God’s Sovereignty and the End of Evil.** Daniel 9:27 reminds us that evil has a decreed end. How does this theme connect with **Romans 8:28**, **Revelation 21:3–5**, and **1 Corinthians 15:24–26**? How does knowing the end of the story shape your hope and perseverance today?
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**Closing Prayer:** God, thank You that You hear us even before we finish praying and that we are deeply loved in Christ. Help us trust Your greater mercy when Your answers are bigger and slower than we expect. Strengthen our hope as we live in a troubled world, knowing You have already secured the final victory in Jesus.

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**Faith in Action:**

- May 10 – Mother’s Day, (Sanctuary, Photo Station, Treats and Prayer for all women)
- June 7 – Vison Day & Picnic, COS Campus
- June 14 – Annual Business Meeting, 11:45 AM, Sanctuary