



26 November

Daniel 9:1-14



<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%209:1-14&version=NKJV>

## Prayer of repentance of an “innocent”



We find ourselves again at the time of the reign of Cyrus and Darius, the Mede. Daniel reads the Prophet Jeremiah, and comes across a 70-year old prophecy: Nebuchadnezzar would take the people into captivity; they would serve him for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11). Daniel has experienced it for himself that the first part of this prophecy was fulfilled (chapter 1:1-7). Now 70 years have gone past – the end of the captivity is near!

What about Daniel? Does he now get excited and calls his people to return to their land? No, you read the prayer of repentance of a broken man of God: He personally has no part in the sin that has caused the people to be taken captive. But he identifies himself with it. He knows that the return to the land doesn't come automatically after 70 years, but that repentance is necessary. That's why he asks God for grace.



36. Which two opposite characteristics of God does Daniel emphasize in his prayer (vv4-19)?



The fulfilment of both Jeremiah's and also Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 44:28) really did take place when some time later a remnant of the people returned from Babylon to Jerusalem. God worked in such a way that Cyrus made this possible for every Jew who wanted to go. The Jews returned in several phases and slowly rebuilt the temple, city and walls. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah as well as the prophets Haggai and Zechariah deal with this (Lightkeeper 2011).



**Repentance is the way to blessing.**




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36. Righteousness (vv7+14+16) and mercy (vv9+18). On the one hand Daniel recognises that the judgment the people experienced (captivity in Babylon) is righteous, because the people had always sinned and proved themselves before the prophets to be unwilling to learn. On the other hand he is aware of the prophecy that God will be gracious after 70 years and builds on God's mercy. The way to forgiveness is to confess the sin and to repent.