

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **January 4, 2015 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Seventies." Please read the sermon passage (Daniel 9) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

AS WE LOOK AHEAD . . .

1. **Consider the preparation God desires** (1-2)
 - a. Daniel has continued to study and meditate on the Scriptures into his 80s.
 - b. He is still learning and growing.
 - c. The Word of God prepares people for coming trials and struggles.
2. **Consider the prayer that God honors** (3-19)
 - a. The prayer is based on the Word of God and starts with WORSHIP (3-4)
 - b. The prayer is based on the Word of God and moves to CONFESSION (5-13)
 - c. The prayer is based on the Word of God and pleads for MERCY for God's people (14-19)
3. **Consider the promise that God makes** (20-27)
 - a. After 490 (70 x 7) years, sin will end (24).
 - b. The six "to-dos" (God at work, 24)
 - c. The three divisions (God at work in troubling times) (25)
 - d. The Anointed One (25-26, Matthew 24:15)
 - e. The "prince" of this world (26-27). He has 7 years.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What have you learned about God, his world or his ways through personal Bible study in the past 6 months? As it relates to Bible study, would you characterize yourself as a "running stream"? Or a "stagnant pond"?
2. Based on #1, above: How has God's Word prepared you for your future?
3. Based on #2, above: As an 80 year-old man who had lived a very difficult life (taken from his family, forced to acclimate to a new culture, his religion and prayer life stymied, etc.), Daniel begins his prayer with worship (3-4). Do you begin your prayer times like that?
4. Based on #2, above: When you begin your prayer time with worship, you become acutely aware of his holiness and your own sinfulness (5-13). Discuss.
5. Based on #2, above: God is not bound to answer prayers because we have earned it (18). He responds to his children's cries because he is merciful. Have you ever appealed to God based on your own merit and work? Discuss your motives.
6. Based on #3, above: God will bring history to his appointed end, but according to these verses, we *must* pass through hard times. How does this truth impact your effort (it matters!), your anxiety (God is in control!) and your faith (don't let hard times make you think God is apathetic toward you or his world)?