

Monday, December 2

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Daniel 9:1 - 11:1

9 1 It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians. **2** During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years. **3** So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes. **4** I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. **5** But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. **6** We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land. **7** "Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. **8** O LORD, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. **9** But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. **10** We have not obeyed the LORD our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice. "So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured down on us because of our sin. **12** You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem. **13** Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the LORD our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth. **14** Therefore, the LORD has brought upon us the disaster he prepared. The LORD our God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him. **15** "O Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by rescuing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. But we have sinned and are full of wickedness. **16** In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors. **17** "O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary. **18** "O my God, lean down and listen to

me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy. **19** “O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name.” **20** I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. **21** As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He explained to me, “Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. **23** The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision. **24** “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. **25** Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One —comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. **26** “After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. **27** The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”

10 1 In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) had another vision. He understood that the vision concerned events certain to happen in the future—times of war and great hardship. **2** When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three whole weeks. **3** All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed. **4** On April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River, **5** I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. **6** His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people. **7** Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. **8** So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. **9** Then I heard the man speak, and when I heard the sound of his voice, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. **10** Just then a hand

touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. **11** And the man said to me, "Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. **12** Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. **13** But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. **14** Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." **15** While he was speaking to me, I looked down at the ground, unable to say a word. **16** Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, "I am filled with anguish because of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. **17** How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe." **18** Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. **19** "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!" As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me." **20** He replied, "Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come. **21** Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince.

11 1 I have been standing beside Michael to support and strengthen him since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede.)

1 John 2:18 - 3:6

2 18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. **19** These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us. **20** But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth. **21** So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. **22** And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. **23** Anyone who denies the Son

doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. **24** So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. **25** And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us. **26** I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. **27** But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. **28** And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. **29** Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

3 1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. **2** Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. **3** And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. **4** Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. **5** And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. **6** Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.

Psalms 121:1 - 8

121 1 I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? **2** My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth! **3** He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. **4** Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. **5** The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade. **6** The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. **7** The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. **8** The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

Proverbs 28:27 - 28

28 27 Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to poverty will be cursed. 28 When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding. When the wicked meet disaster, the godly flourish.