

Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Weeks

(Part 1, Daniel's Prayer)



DANIEL 9:1-19

TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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DIVISION III

The History and Destiny of Israel: Five Prophecies or Pictures Clearly Seen in Daniel's Visions, [Daniel 8:1–12:13](#)

Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Weeks (Part 1, Daniel's Prayer): A Picture of Seeking God in Prayer and Bible Study, [Daniel 9:1-19](#)

[\(Daniel 9:1-19\)](#) **Introduction:** prophecy is a fascinating subject. Most people would like to know what is in store for them in the future. What lies ahead for them? What is their destiny? Is there *some* way to change their lives? People spend fortunes annually seeking the help or opinion of the “**experts,**” that is, the astrologers, mediums, fortune-tellers, palm-readers, psychics, and others who claim to be able to look into the future to predict or change people's destiny.

But the reality of the situation is something entirely different. There is only **One Being** who can truthfully and honestly see into the future: **God Himself**. And God reveals what *He chooses* to reveal—the prophecy—through His divinely appointed prophet. It is the prophet, then, who reveals to man what God has shown him.

This is the case in the present Scripture. God gives the reader a phenomenal look into the future through His prophet Daniel. In fact, God gave Daniel a picture of Israel's future and actually revealed to him His own calendar or timeframe for certain key events.

This passage opens with Daniel deeply concerned about the future of his dear people and their painful suffering under Babylonian rule. For over seventy years the Jews had been exiled in Babylon. Throughout the years Daniel had seen his people broken, discouraged, suffering, and at times overcome by a spirit of hopelessness. Now, as an aged man, he did the only thing he could do to help them: he turned to the LORD. He sought answers concerning his people and begged God for comfort through the Scriptures and prayer.

This is, *Daniel's Vision of the Seventy Weeks (Part 1, Daniel's Prayer): A Picture of Seeking God in Prayer and Bible Study, [Daniel 9:1-19](#).*

1. **Daniel's great hope for his people and nation: seeking answers from God (vv.1-3).**
2. **Daniel's great prayer: seeking God for mercy and forgiveness (vv.4-19).**

1. (Daniel 9:1-3) Seeking, of God, in the Bible and Prayer—Prayer, Example of, Claiming God’s Promises—Fasting, Example of, Daniel—Scriptures, Example of Studying, Daniel—Jeremiah, Prophecy of Judah’s Seventy-Year Desolation, Understood by Daniel—Daniel, Study of Scriptures, Understood Jeremiah’s Seventy-Year Prophecy—Darius, Son of Xerxes or Ahasuerus.

Daniel was filled with great hope for his people and nation. This hope involved one of the most phenomenal experiences of Daniel’s life, and it took place during the reign of Darius, the new Persian ruler of Babylon (539–538 B.C.).

Note the Scripture and outline: Daniel was studying the Scriptures in the first year of Darius’s reign, reading Jeremiah 25:1-14, which explains why the Jews had been exiled to Babylon.

Suddenly, Daniel’s attention focused upon Jeremiah 25:11-13, which says the following:

Jeremiah 25:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ ‘This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

¹² ‘Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,’ declares the Lord, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.

¹³ ‘I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations.’”

These verses are very specific in their prediction: the Jews were to be held in captivity by Babylon for seventy years. After the seventy years, Babylon was to fall as a nation. Considering Daniel’s understanding of Scripture, it is fair to assume that he was aware of Isaiah’s prophecies concerning King Cyrus. Isaiah had predicted the *very name of the Persian king* who would conquer Babylon and set God’s people free:

Isaiah 44:21 (NASB)

²¹ ‘Remember these things, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me.’”

Isaiah 44:28 (NASB)

²⁸ ‘It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ And of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’”

Sometime earlier, when Daniel first heard about the young Cyrus taking the throne of Persia and uniting the Medo-Persian Empires, his heart was bound to be stirred with hope. The LORD had already shown him that the Medo-Persian Empire would conquer Babylon. This fact was made perfectly clear in Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the huge statue, when the head of **gold (Babylon)** was to be *replaced by the chest and arms of silver*, which *represented Medo-Persia* ([Daniel 2:37-39^a](#)).

Furthermore, the prophet had additional evidence in the vision that God had given to him personally, the vision in which the **bear (Medo-Persia)** destroyed the lion that represented Babylon ([Daniel 7:4-5](#)).

Now that King Cyrus of Persia had conquered Babylon, the only question left to be answered concerned the *seventy years*. From what event was the seventy-year exile to be measured? Three facts in Scripture point strongly to the year **605 B.C.** as the beginning of the exile.

Jeremiah gave his prediction of the seventy-year captivity in **605 B.C.** (see below—[Deeper Study # 1—Jeremiah 25:1-14](#), esp. pt.1, for more discussion).

DEEPER STUDY # 1

(Jeremiah 25:1-14) Indictments, Against God's People, Spiritually Deaf—Charges, Against God's People, Spiritually Deaf; Rejecting God's Word—Judgment, Caused by, Rejecting God's Word; Spiritual Deafness—God, Sovereignty of, Uses Nations As His Agents—Babylon, Appointed by God, Agent of Judgment—Judah, Judgment of, Seventy-Year Captivity—Seventy-Year Captivity, of Judah, to Babylon—Prophecy, Concerning Israel, Seventy-Year Captivity: down through the years, three separate indictments and warnings were issued to the people of Judah. These indictments were delivered by Jeremiah and the other prophets as well as by the LORD Himself. Due to the people's *spiritual deafness*, their refusal to listen to the Word of God, God's hand of judgment would fall upon them. They would be conquered by Babylon and suffer a 70-year captivity, being exiled throughout the Babylonian Empire. The Scripture and outline clearly spell out the three separate indictments and the consequence of the people's rejecting God's Word:

1. This message of Jeremiah is precisely dated because of its importance. It was preached in the fourth year of King Jehoiakim's reign and the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's, or **605 B.C.** ([y.1](#); see below [DEEPER STUDY # 2—Jer. 25:1](#) for more discussion). This was an important year in world history as it was the year the Babylonian army defeated a coalition of Egyptian and Assyrian forces at Carchemish. Babylon then became the dominant world power. In the same year, Nebuchadnezzar launched an invasion of Judah and made it a *vassal state*

of Babylon. But even more important than these events was the fact that Nebuchadnezzar initiated one of the most important periods in the history of God's plan of salvation and redemption, "**the times of the Gentiles**" (see below [Deeper Study # 3—Luke 21:24](#) for more discussion).

DEEPER STUDY # 2

(Jeremiah 25:1) Babylon, Prophecy Concerning: note that Babylon is the first of four kingdoms that Daniel predicted would conquer most of the known world and build worldwide empires (**Daniel, chapters 2, 7**). Also note this fact: Daniel said that Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign (**Daniel 1:1**). Daniel was simply using the Babylonian's method of counting the years of a king's rule, which was to begin with the first full year that followed his ascension to the throne. Although a king might be crowned in the middle of a year, his rule was dated from the first *regnal*, or *non-ascension*, year after his crowning. Therefore, although Jehoiakim succeeded his brother in mid-year, Daniel did not begin counting the years of his reign until the following full year. Thus, according to Babylon's reckoning of a king's reign, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in the third year of King Jehoiakim's rule. Jeremiah, however, included the *ascension year* in counting the years of Jehoiakim's reign, which meant that Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign.

DEEPER STUDY # 3

(Luke 21:24) Gentiles, Times of: the sign of Jerusalem being surrounded will be a time numbered by the Gentiles. The Jewish nation was to be scattered and Jerusalem trodden down until "**the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**"

Note two things.

1. The word "fulfilled" (*plērōthōsin*) means that God is in control of the times. There is a purpose to "**the times of the Gentiles**" and to what has happened and is yet to happen to Israel. God is in control of history.

Mark 1:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Galatians 4:4-6 (NASB)

**“⁴ But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,
⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

⁶ Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Ephesians 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ With a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him"

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB)

⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the man* Christ Jesus,

⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time."

Titus 1:2-3 (NASB)

² In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

³ but at the proper time manifested, *even* His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior."

2. There is to be an end to the Jews' captivity and to Jerusalem being trodden down. The nation will be restored to its land. When? When "**the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**" (See [Romans 11:25-36.](#))

Romans 11:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

²⁷ This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

The first Babylonian invasion of Judah and the first exile of the Jews took place in **605 B.C.** Daniel himself, as a young boy of 15-16 years old, was included in this first exile by Babylon.

In God's sovereign power to work all things out for good, He obviously arranged these events so Daniel would understand Jeremiah's prophecy and know that the Jews were soon to be set free from their captivity. The LORD would use Daniel's understanding of the Scripture to encourage His dear people who had been held captive for so long. Their day of liberation was right over the horizon. To prepare the people, God was driving home the truth of His Holy Word to the heart of His dear prophet Daniel.

Daniel knew the great promise of Isaiah:

Isaiah 45:1 (NASB)

“¹ Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut.”

Isaiah 45:13 (NASB)

“¹³ I have aroused him in righteousness And I will make all his ways smooth; He will build My city and will let My exiles go free, Without any payment or reward,” says the Lord of hosts.”

These were the wonderful promises that Daniel could claim. He could lay hold of the LORD in behalf of the Jews, God’s very own people. As Daniel says, he began to plead with the LORD through prayer and fasting. What he prayed is thoroughly covered in the next point.

Thought 1. What a lesson for us on prayer and Bible study! The Bible is, beyond all questions, God’s Holy Word. Therefore, believers should be exceedingly diligent in studying Scripture, carefully examining the prophecies that offer us so much hope and encouragement. Imagine how *alive* believers would be if they spent quality time in God’s Word each day. Imagine how *motivated* they would be to share the plan of salvation if they counted the cost of not doing so. This was Daniel’s heart!

Listen to what God says about His Holy Word:

John 15:3 (NASB)

“³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

John 17:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

“¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NASB)

“¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

[Psalms 19:8 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

[Psalms 119:9 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.”

[Psalms 119:47 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁴⁷ I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love.”

[Psalms 119:97 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁹⁷ O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”

[Psalms 119:105 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

[Psalms 119:130 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹³⁰ The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

[Psalms 119:140 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁴⁰ Your word is very pure, Therefore Your servant loves it.”

[Proverbs 6:23 \(NASB\)](#)

“²³ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.”

[Jeremiah 15:16 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹⁶ Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

[Jeremiah 23:29 \(NASB\)](#)

“²⁹ Is not My word like fire?” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

2. [\(Daniel 9:4-19\) Prayer, Example of, Daniel’s Great Prayer—Mercy, Seeking of, Daniel—Forgiveness, Seeking of, Daniel: Daniel was stirred to seek the face of the LORD, laying claim to the wonderful promises of God.](#)

Mercy, forgiveness, and restoration of the nation—these were the marvelous promises God had given to Israel. And these were the promises that were the focus of Daniel’s fervent, heart-moving prayer. In the Hebrew the word *prayed* is emphatic, which stresses a deep, intense fervency. Daniel must pray; he could do nothing else but pray. His soul was reaching out to the LORD, pleading for God to fulfill His Word to His dear people.

Five major points can be gleaned from this wonderful prayer of Daniel.

a. First, Daniel expressed adoration for the LORD ([Daniel 9:4](#)). The word “LORD” is the Hebrew word *Yahweh* (**Jehovah**), the very special name for God that Israel used. God Himself gave the name of *Yahweh* or *LORD* to His people to use in addressing Him. *LORD* or *Yahweh* was the covenant name of God, the name that stressed the fact that the LORD would keep the covenant and promises He had given to His people. He was the God of the covenant, the God of redemption and deliverance (see [Deeper Study # 4—Exodus 6:1-9](#) see page # 14 for more discussion).

In expressing adoration for the LORD, Daniel praised God for the fact that He is *awesome*, meaning that God is to be feared, revered, and held in awe because of His incomprehensible greatness. In particular, He is awesome because He keeps His covenant of love and mercy with His people, those who love the LORD and obey His commandments. It is genuine believers who receive the promises of God.

b. Second, Daniel confessed his sins and the sins of the Jewish people ([Daniel 9:5-8](#)).

He spelled out five sins in particular:

1) He confessed their wickedness and rebellion ([Daniel 9:5^b](#)). Their very lifestyle was wicked and their hearts were rebellious.

2) He confessed their rejection of God’s Holy Word ([Daniel 9:5^c](#)). They were guilty of turning away from God’s commandments and law.

3) He confessed their failure to listen to the prophets, those who had faithfully proclaimed God’s message. Down through the centuries the LORD’s prophets had warned both the leadership and the citizens of God’s coming judgment if they continued to disobey His holy commandments.

4) He confessed their unfaithfulness to the LORD. They had refused to obey God’s Holy Word and to live righteously as a witness before the surrounding nations ([Daniel 9:7](#)). In comparison to the righteousness of God, the people were covered with utter shame, for they were totally depraved. Their righteousness was as nothing but *filthy rags* in the sight of God ([Isaiah 64:6](#)). It had been their unfaithfulness to the LORD, their terrible evil, that had covered them with shame and led to their exile.

5) He confessed their sin of being obstinate and hard-hearted against the LORD ([Daniel 9:8](#)). As a result of their stubborn hearts, they had brought shame upon themselves.

- c. Third, Daniel acknowledged their ingratitude, the fact that they had.....
1. spurned God's mercy
 2. rebelled against God
 3. disobeyed God
 4. broken God's laws and commandments ([Daniel 9:9-10](#))

Daniel further acknowledged that, despite his people's ingratitude, the LORD was merciful and forgiving. He would have mercy and forgive their sins if the people would turn to Him and repent of their sins.

d. Fourth, Daniel acknowledged and honored God's justice. God's Holy Word had forewarned them of His coming judgment ([Daniel 9:11-14](#)). The people were presently suffering the curses of judgment because of their sins against the LORD. The sufferings of the nation in captivity were due to their sins. When they spurned God's mercy and continued to sin, God fulfilled His Word by bringing disaster upon them.

His hand of judgment fell upon them for two reasons:

1. They had not repented by turning from their sins and obeying the truth.
2. The LORD is righteous and must execute justice upon all who disobey Him ([Daniel 9:14](#)).

If the law is broken, justice must be executed. The penalty for violating God's commandments must be paid. This fact Daniel acknowledged, honoring God's justice and the execution of His judgment upon the nation of Israel.

e. Fifth, Daniel asked the LORD for mercy, forgiveness, and restoration ([Daniel 9:15-19](#)). God had formerly poured out all three of these wonderful promises upon the Jews when they were held captive by Egypt. He delivered them out of their bondage. Now Daniel pleaded for the LORD to once again *free* His people, liberating them from their bondage in Babylon.

Daniel made five strong requests, and these pleas are the major thrust of His prayer.

- 1) Daniel pleaded with God to turn His anger and wrath away from Jerusalem ([Daniel 9:16](#)). Jerusalem was the LORD's city, His holy mountain, the very city and mountain He had chosen to bear His Name.

Note that Daniel gave two reasons why God should consider turning His anger and wrath away:

- a. because showing mercy was the very nature of God's righteousness, His justice

- b. because justice had now been served, for the people had already suffered for their sins. Their homeland had been destroyed and they had lost everything. Moreover, they were exiles in a foreign nation, which meant they were objects of scorn among other nationalities.

2) Daniel pleaded with God to hear his prayer and to look with favor on the destroyed sanctuary ([Daniel 9:17](#)). He begged God to restore His people to the Promised Land and to help them rebuild the temple. Note that he was not making this request for the sake of the people, but for the sake of the LORD Himself.

3) Daniel pleaded with God to open His eyes and to look upon the desolation of the city that bore His Name ([Daniel 9:18^a](#)). Ever since the days of the great King David, the LORD had chosen Jerusalem to be His holy city, the city where His holy presence would be symbolized. Thus, the prophet was asking God not to forget Jerusalem.

4) Daniel pleaded with God to know that his requests were not based on the people's righteousness but on God's mercy ([Daniel 9:18^b](#)). Daniel knew the people were not righteous. But God was merciful. Therefore, the prophet begged God to answer his prayer because He was merciful.

5) Daniel pleaded with God to forgive him and the people, and to act—act immediately! ([Daniel 9:19](#)). Note the passion flooding Daniel's heart: "**O LORD, Hear! O LORD, forgive! O LORD, listen and act!**" It was as though his heart were about to burst. He was asking, seeking, knocking, begging, pleading, crying for God to hear and answer his request. Again, he wanted the LORD to answer—answer quickly. The LORD's own honor and reputation were at stake. Every day that the Holy City lay in ruins and the true believers among the Jews were held in bondage was another day that brought more shame to the Name of God. The Holy City and true believers bore His Name, bearing strong testimony that He is the only living and true God, the only Savior of the world. For the sake of God's own reputation, Daniel pleaded for the LORD to hear his prayer.

Thought 1. We should be just as steadfast in prayer as we are in Bible study. We should seek God's holy face through praise and thanksgiving, pleading with Him for the desperate needs of our families, our nation, and the world.

Listen to what God says about prayer, seeking His holy face.

[Matthew 7:7-8 \(NASB\)](#)

“⁷ Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Matthew 26:41 (NASB)

“⁴¹ Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Luke 18:1 (NASB)

“¹ Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.”

John 14:13-14 (NASB)

“¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.”

John 15:7 (NASB)

“⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 16:24 (NASB)

“²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.”

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB)

“⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 4:2-3 (NASB)

“² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;

³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned.”

James 5:13-14 (NASB)

“¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NASB)

“²⁹ But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

1 Chronicles 16:11 (NASB)

“¹¹ Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.”

Psalms 91:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.”

Isaiah 41:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ *The* afflicted and needy are seeking water, but *there* is none, *And* their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the Lord, will answer them Myself, *As* the God of Israel I will not forsake them.”

Thought 2. God will have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. But there is one condition: like Daniel, our hearts must be genuine...genuine enough to truly repent of our sins. Repentance means turning away from sin and turning back to the LORD. No matter how terrible the sin, if a person truly repents and trusts the LORD to forgive His sins, God will have mercy and forgive.

Luke 15:7 (NASB)

“⁷ I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Acts 3:19 (NASB)

“¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

1 John 1:9 (NASB)

“⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Psalms 34:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Psalms 51:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

Proverbs 28:13 (NASB)

“¹³ He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.”

Isaiah 55:7 (NASB)

“⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have

compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”

Jeremiah 3:22 (NASB)

“²² Return, O faithless sons, I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to You; For You are the Lord our God.”

Ezekiel 18:21 (NASB)

“²¹ But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

Joel 2:13 (NASB)

“¹³ And rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.”

Micah 7:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.”

DEEPER STUDY # 4

1. (**Exodus 6:1-5**) **Encouragement— Covenant— Jehovah (*Yahweh*)**: there was God's personal encouragement to His messenger, Moses.

God encouraged Moses by doing four things.

1. God promised to raise His mighty hand against Pharaoh and force Pharaoh to free the people (**Exodus 6:1**). God had already made this promise to His messenger at the burning bush (**Exodus 3:10**). But as with all of us, Moses needed to be reassured of God's promise time and again. He needed to be reminded of God's great promise, that He would force the terrible enslaver to free the people of God.

Thought 1. The Lord will deliver us by His mighty hand. He will deliver us from all our enemies, whether seen or unseen, visible or invisible, physical or spiritual.

2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

2 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation [trials], and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”

Jeremiah 1:8 (NASB)

“⁸ Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”

2 Samuel 22:2 (NASB)

“² He said, The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.”

2. God assured Moses: I am the LORD (**Jehovah, *Yahweh***). The basic meaning of LORD is Savior, Redeemer, and Deliverer. The LORD was able to redeem and deliver the people of God ([Exodus 6:2-3](#)). This was a very special revelation being made to Moses, a very special experience that God was giving to His dear messenger who was so crushed, broken, and desperate.

The great patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—had *experienced* God as God Almighty (**El Shaddai**) not as Jehovah. (See [Genesis 17:1](#).) They had known God as Jehovah, known that He was the great Redeemer and Deliverer, but they had never witnessed the deliverance of God's people. They had the great promises of God, but they had never experienced the fulfillment of those promises.

But now, Moses and Israel were to see the very meaning of God's name fulfilled. They were to be the eye-witnesses of God's name exploding across the pages of human history: they were to see the LORD (**Jehovah, *Yahweh***) redeem and deliver His people in the *great Exodus* from Egypt. God's name as LORD (Jehovah, *Yahweh*), as the great Redeemer and Deliverer, was to be fulfilled in the redemption and deliverance of Israel from slavery to freedom.

Note: the name **Jehovah** or ***Yahweh*** is used some **162 times** in Genesis. People address God as **Jehovah** or ***Yahweh*** in at least **34** of these times. Even Abraham addressed God as ***Yahweh Yireh*** in the experience of offering up Isaac as a sacrifice to God ([Genesis 22:24](#)). In fact, from the very beginning of human history, people called upon the name of **Jehovah** or ***Yahweh*** ([Genesis 4:26](#)).

Note also that God declared His name four times in giving this great encouragement to Moses: "**I am the LORD**" ([Exodus 6:2](#), [6, 7](#), [8](#)). He is able to do anything and all things, even redeem and deliver His people from slavery and set them free.

3. God reviewed His covenant with Moses, reviewed His great promise to give the promised land to His people ([Exodus 6:4](#); [Exodus 2:23-25](#); [Genesis 12:1c](#).)

4. God shared His compassion and concern for the sufferings of His people: He heard their cries and remembered His covenant with them ([Exodus 6:5](#)).

Thought 1. God cares for His people, for all of us, just as He cared for Moses and Israel. No matter how crushed, broken, and desperate we may become, God is concerned. He has great compassion for us, and He will help meet our need. No matter what our problem, sin, or shame is, God longs to help us. God is the LORD, our great Redeemer and Deliverer. He will redeem and deliver us from all our troubles and enslavements to this world.

Psalms 28:7 (NASB)

“⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.”

Psalms 40:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

“¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Psalms 130:7-8 (NASB)

“⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption.
⁸ And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities.”

Isaiah 41:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you, declares the Lord, and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.”

Isaiah 46:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Even to *your* old age I will be the same, And even to *your* graying years I will bear *you!* I have done *it*, and I will carry *you*; And I will bear *you* and I will deliver *you.*”

2. (Exodus 6:6-9) Encouragement— Deliverance— God, Name of— Jehovah— *Yahweh*— Adoption: there was God's personal encouragement to His people. God gave Moses the very message of encouragement He wanted proclaimed to the people. Note how glorious and personal, how joyful and hopeful God's message was.

God declared **five wonderful facts**, facts that are true for us even as for believers of all generations.

1. God is the LORD (**Jehovah, *Yahweh***), the great Redeemer and Deliverer of His people, the God who fulfills the covenant of His great promises (**Exodus 6:6**). The very meaning of God's name, the LORD (**Jehovah, *Yahweh***), was now ready to be fulfilled. God was now going to redeem and deliver His dear people.

Now note how God proclaims seven "**I wills**" in the next three proclamations (pts.2-4).

2. God will deliver His people (**Exodus 6:6**).

- a. I will bring you out: from your burdens.
- b. I will free you: from slavery.
- c. I will redeem you: with power and with mighty acts of judgment.

2 Samuel 22:2 (NASB)

“² He said, The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.”

Jeremiah 1:8 (NASB)

“⁸ Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”

Daniel 6:27 (NASB)

“²⁷ He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

2 Corinthians 1:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ Who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.”

3. God will adopt His people (**Exodus 6:7**).

- a. I will take you to be my own people.
- b. I will be your God.
- c. God's purpose: that His people might know that He is the LORD, their great Deliverer from all burdens.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (NASB)

“² For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

Isaiah 63:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us And Israel does not recognize us. You, O Lord, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.”

John 1:12 (NASB)

“¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.”

Romans 8:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.”

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.
¹⁸ And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.”

4. God will lead His people to the promised land (**Exodus 6:8**).
 - a. I will bring you to the land, the promised land.
 - b. I will give the land to you.

Thought 1. Remember the promised land of Canaan is a symbol, a type, a picture of the promised land of heaven, of the new heavens and earth (see **Genesis 12:1c**).

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NASB)

“⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

¹⁰ for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”

2 Peter 3:10-13 (NASB)

“¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

Isaiah 65:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.”

Again, glance at the above three points and note the seven "I wills" promised by God. What a glorious promise and encouragement this should be to all believers.

5. God is the LORD (**Jehovah, *Yahweh***) (**Exodus 6:8c**). Again, the point is restated because of its importance: God is the great Redeemer and Deliverer of His people, and the time has now come for the very meaning of His name to be fulfilled. The time has now come for Him to redeem and deliver His people from their sufferings.

6. Note that Moses took God's message of encouragement to the people, but they did not listen to him. The idea of being freed was just too incredible, too far-fetched. Their oppression was so cruel and brutal, their suffering so painful, they were just consumed with discouragement. Their minds were so exhausted with the pain of suffering, they could no longer think long enough to hear any message, no matter how hopeful and encouraging it might be. If they were to be delivered, it would not be because of their attention upon God, but because of God's mercy being poured out upon them.

Thought 1. God is able and ready to meet our desperate needs, no matter how crushed and down we may be. No matter how exhausted we may be from suffering and from failing, God will have mercy upon us. He will deliver us if we will only cry out to Him.

Psalms 34:19-20 (NASB)

“¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.”

Psalms 50:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”

Psalms 138:7 (NASB)

“⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.”

Isaiah 43:2 (NASB)

“² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NASB)

“⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

Revelation 21:4 (NASB)

“⁴ And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”