

# “Daniel: Gaining God’s Perspective”

October 22-23, 2016 | Pastor Dave Vasquez | Heroes Series

## INTRODUCTION

This week we begin a new series, Heroes on Mission, in which we will examine the lives several of individuals in the Bible. Each of these individuals can teach us something that we can incorporate into our own lives as we grow in faith and discipleship. This week we will discover what Daniel did to gain God’s perspective and how he applied that perspective to accomplish the mission God had given him.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

When was the last time you had a total change of perspective on something?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Observe the circumstances**

**Q1. Read Daniel 1:1-6; Daniel 9:1; Jeremiah 25:11; 2 Kings 6:15-17**

Chapter 1 of the book of Daniel tells us how Daniel came to be in Babylon. In chapter 9, based on what we know about the rulers of Babylon, we can see how much time had transpired; nearly 70 years. According to Jeremiah 25:11, why was it important for Daniel to recognize he was nearing the 70<sup>th</sup> year of captivity? In 2 Kings 6:15-17 Elisha’s servant saw the circumstances differently than Elisha did. What did Elisha see that his servant didn’t? What is one circumstance in your own life that you would like to observe “beyond the surface” to better understand God’s purpose? How can you change your prayers in this area to seek that deeper revelation?

### **Consult the Scriptures**

**Q2. Read Daniel 9:2; Read Jeremiah 25:8-11; Jeremiah 29:10-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

In Daniel 9:2 we find that Daniel was well acquainted with the scriptures and how they applied in his situation. The prophecies of Jeremiah 25 were very specific to his circumstance. The specific promises of Jeremiah 29 were for captive Israel, but what do you learn generally from these verses about God’s character that can encourage you personally? What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tell us is the purpose of all scripture?

### **Seek the Lord**

**Q3. Read Jeremiah 29:12-14; Daniel 9:3;**

Because Daniel knew that he was living in the days Jeremiah 29:13 prophesied, what was his response? When you read the term “seek me with all your heart” what do you think that might involve? What are some of the occasions and ways that you have sought the Lord with all your heart?

### **Expect a response**

**Q4. Read Daniel 9:21-23; Daniel 10:12; Matthew 7:7-8; James 1:5**

In Daniel 9:21 Daniel receives his answer while he is in prayer. According to verse 23, when was the answer given? In the next chapter Daniel waits 3 weeks before he hears from God. According to Daniel 10:12, when were his words heard? In Matthew 7 Jesus tells us to ask, seek and knock. These are not actions taken once, but diligently, constantly. Is there a specific prayer you have committed to over long time? Has it been answered yet, or are you continuing to ask, seek and knock diligently? Is there a long-term prayer you would like to have your group joining with you to pray?

## Wrap-Up

Daniel found himself captive in Babylon for 70 years! But God had a mission for him to fulfill even there. To gain God’s perspective Daniel was attentive to the circumstances in which he lived. He consulted the scriptures and viewed his life through God’s lens, recognizing there was a purpose underlying his circumstances that could only be revealed by God. As he saw the time of captivity ending, he sought the Lord with all his heart in prayer, petition, fasting and repentance. Daniel trusted God for a response to his prayer, even when that response was delayed. If we want to have God’s perspective we also need to observe our circumstance, consult the scripture, seek God and expect a response.

### **Memory Verse**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. *James 1:5 ESV*

## Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_ (reverse side) \_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge: This week, in one or your items of prayer, try praying for God to reveal His will, His purpose and His plan rather than the outcome you are seeking.*

### Q1

Read Daniel 1:1-6 in your Bible

Daniel 9:1 ESV - 1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—

Jeremiah 25:11 NLT - 11 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

2 Kings 6:15-17 ESV - 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

### Q2

Daniel 9:2 ESV - 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Read Jeremiah 25:8-11 in your Bible

Jeremiah 29:10-11 ESV - 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV - 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

### Q3

Jeremiah 29:12-14 ESV - 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the

LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Daniel 9:3 ESV - 3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

### Q4

Daniel 9:21-23 ESV - 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

Daniel 10:12 ESV - 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

Matthew 7:7-8 ESV - 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

James 1:5 ESV - 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

**Prayers Con't:** \_\_\_\_\_

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