

# Seeing as God Sees

- **Day One. Seeing and “seeing”**

Read Matthew 13:11-13

Think about what Jesus was doing with parables. There was a surface level story, but a deeper meaning for those who really looked. Similarly, we can simply observe our circumstances or we can “look beneath the surface” to understand what God is doing and His purposes in what we “see.” Choose a challenging circumstance in your life and think about what God is doing “beneath the surface.”

**Pray.** Ask God to help you see how He is working out His purposes in your current circumstances.

- **Day Two. Bringing light to life**

Read Psalm 119:105, 130; John 1:1-5

The Bible uses the concept of darkness to illustrate ignorance, confusion, or lack of insight. Studying the Bible, we gain an understanding of God’s purposes, methodologies, etc. It “shines a light” on our experience. We begin to see the world the way God sees it. How has the Bible changed the way you see your world, your relationships and circumstances?

**Pray.** Ask God to show you how what you read in the Bible applies to your personal experience.

- **Day Three. Answers**

Read Matthew 7:7-8; Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 38:15

God invites us to ask him for help: insight, direction, provision, etc. He uses different means to answer us. Think of a time when you asked God for insight into a situation you were facing? How did He bring the answer? How have you become better at “hearing him.”

**Pray.** Ask God to help you to ask more and hear better.

New Life Lessons  
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## ***Daniel: Gaining God’s Perspective***

*Daniel 9*

**Daniel 9:1-4, 20-24** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. <sup>3</sup> So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed...

<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill— <sup>21</sup> while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup> As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

<sup>24</sup> “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

## ***How can we gain God’s perspective?***

### ***1. Observe the circumstances***

**Daniel 9:1** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—

**Daniel 1:1-6** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand... <sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— <sup>4</sup> ... He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> ...They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. <sup>6</sup> Among these were some from Judah: Daniel...

**Luke 12:54-56** (NIV) <sup>54</sup> He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. <sup>55</sup> And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. <sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

Matthew 16:1-3

## 2. Consult the Scriptures

**Daniel 9:2** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

**Jeremiah 25:8-9** (NIV) <sup>8</sup> Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, <sup>9</sup> I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations..."

**Jeremiah 25:11** (NIV) <sup>11</sup> This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. <sup>12</sup> "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever."

**Jeremiah 29:10-11** (NIV) <sup>10</sup> This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## 3. Seek the Lord

**Jeremiah 29:12-13** (NIV) <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**Daniel 9:3** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

## 4. Expect a response

**Daniel 9:21-23** (NIV) <sup>21</sup> while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup> As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you..."

**Daniel 9:24** (NIV) <sup>24</sup> "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy."

**2Chronicles 36:20-21** (NIV) <sup>20</sup> He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. <sup>21</sup> The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.