

REFORMATION SONG

Text, Tim Chester; music, Bob Kauflin.
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VERSE 1

Your Word alone is solid ground,
The mighty rock on which we build;
In every line the truth is found
And every page with glory filled.

VERSE 2

Through faith alone we come to You;
We have no merit we can claim.
Sure that Your promises are true,
We place our hope in Jesus' name.

REFRAIN

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone;
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

VERSE 3

In Christ alone we're justified;
His righteousness is all our plea;
Your law's demands are satisfied;
His perfect work has set us free.

VERSE 4

By grace alone we have been saved;
All that we are has come from You.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
Now by Your pow'r have been made new.



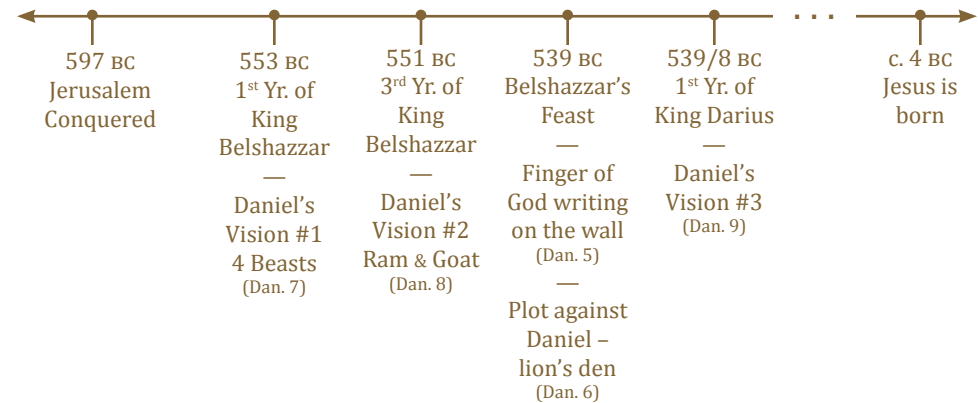
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A SOVEREIGN GOD PROMISES DELIVERANCE

A STUDY OF DANIEL 9, PART 2

Scripture Reading: Mark 24:3-16



Daniel is focused on the Jew's deliverance from Babylonian captivity – their return to Jerusalem (Dan. 9:2).

Daniel's prayer is –

- God-centered, confession oriented, and a cry for God's great mercy (9:20)
- interrupted by visitation from the angel Gabriel (9:21).

Daniel is given assurance, insight, and understanding (9:22).

THE MESSAGE TO DANIEL is God's desire to share with Daniel a greater deliverance than being delivered from a foreign power — being delivered from the bondage of sin. This deliverance will be accomplished through both Christ's first coming and the final release from bondage at His second coming.

THE MESSAGE TO US is God offers a Plan, a Promise, and a Performance so we might trust His Providence.

1. SIX ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS PLAN

- a. Three actions regarding man's unrighteous bondage:
 - i. transgression (9:11)
 - ii. sin (9:11b)
 - iii. iniquity (9:13b)
- b. Three actions establishing a right-standing before God:
 - i. to bring in – everlasting righteousness
 - ii. to seal both – vision and prophet
 - iii. to anoint the most holy place

2. THREE TRUTHS REGARDING RESTRAINT ARE HIS PROMISES

- a. The fact of a final restraint to close up sin
- b. The degree of restraint to put an end to sin
- c. The method of restraint in covering and atoning

Reference to the first coming of Christ – Luke 2:31

3. THREE ACTIONS OF POSITIVE EFFECT IS HIS PERFORMANCE

- a. To bring in everlasting righteousness
- b. To seal up both vision and prophet
- c. To anoint a holy of holies consecrating to worshipful service the place where the Holy One dwells.

Reference to the second coming of Christ – Luke 2:32-33

Directly a God-given prayer is uttered, the commandment goes forth. There is a sense, indeed, in which true prayer is the anticipation in the human heart of the Divine intention: "Before they call I will answer; and whilst they are yet speaking I will hear" (Isa 65:24). Does it seem as though your prayer were like a ship lost at sea, which brings no cargo home? Dare to believe that the commandment did go forth, though as yet it has not reached you. It is operating; and before long you shall see the result. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye have received them." The answer may not have come to hand, but it has been granted. Even if you do not live to see the answer, dare to believe that it is assured.

What a tender address is this – "greatly beloved"! And the margin says very precious. Is it really so, that we are very precious to God? To those who believe, Christ is precious; but how wonderful that they should be amongst his jewels, who were born of the first Adam, and have cost so much pain and sorrow by their sins! There is no accounting for love. Directly love begins to enumerate the reasons for its attachment, it ceases to be true love. Love knows no law except the drawing of an inward affinity. So Jesus draws near to us. We are very precious to Him. To have our love well compensates Him for all his bitter sorrow. Let us be very careful not to hurt Him, or give Him needless grief. And when we pray, let it be with the assurance that He bends over us and says, "Thou art greatly beloved; ask what thou wilt." As soon as the child of God says "Father," the whole Godhead is quick to hear his request.

– F. B. Meyer, "Our Daily Homily" on Daniel 9:23

TRUE PRAYER IS

- » In response to God's Word, grounded in God's will (Daniel 9:2)
- » Characterized by fervency (Daniel 9:3)
- » Characterized by self-denial (Daniel 9:4)
- » Identified unselfishly with God's people (Daniel 9:5)
- » Strengthened by confession (Daniel 9:5-15)
- » Dependent on God's character (Daniel 9:4,7,9,15)
- » Has as its goal God's glory (Daniel 9:16, 17, 18, 19)