

Intercession the Key

Every time I read the Bible I am fascinated by the depth of revelation that lies underneath the words. I have read the Bible quite a number of times, but every time, there is something that I have missed earlier and which suddenly pops up.

Only yesterday the faith of Darius struck me. And today as I was reading the 9th chapter of Daniel, there was something which never struck me till today and I think this is very very important.

This verse is a verse we all know and would like to claim for our prayer lives.

Daniel 9:23 (NKJV) ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved;

We would like all our prayers to be answered even as we start praying. But what is very very important is the nature of Daniel's prayer.

Daniel was not a full time minister of God. He was a very highly placed government officer, yet his heart was so much fine tuned to the heart of God.

He was constantly praying and reading the Word. In the land of exile there may not have been a synagogue, but Daniel consistently was in touch with God's purposes.

The very first verse of this chapter reads thus

Daniel 9:1-2 (NKJV) ¹In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ²in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel was constantly concerned about Jerusalem his native country. Not only that he was reading the prophecies concerning Jerusalem. When Jeremiah prophesied no one believed him during his lifetime, but all his

words were accurately fulfilled. Not only that, God ordered Jeremiah to write down all the prophecies. The first book was burnt by the king and so Jeremiah dictated the whole book with additions to his scribe Baruch.

Jeremiah 36:27-28 (NKJV) ²⁷Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written ²⁸at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: ²⁸Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

And Daniel had a copy of this book and now sitting in exile you have no other choice to look to the prophecy about the end of exile. And Daniel found that the exile was decreed for 70 years.

Jeremiah 29:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

Daniel who is also a government official would have known accurately the year in which Nebuchadnezzar razed down Jerusalem. Calculating the years he was excited that the exile is now coming to an end.

If the prophecy of exile had been so accurate, then the ending of the exile should also be accurate.

But there was something else that had to be done.

A key is needed to open the door to freedom and that key is intercession.

The rest of the verses in Daniel chapter 9 is Daniel's prayer of national confession and intercession. This is strikingly similar to the prayer of Nehemiah chapter 1. It's almost verbatim. Cross check.

He was the one man who stood in the gap of his nation.

It was this prayer that got the answer even at the very beginning of his prayer.

What really struck me, was that even for the good things that the Lord has in store for a nation, He expects a person to stand in the gap and release the freedom, the revival.

It was as though heavens were waiting eagerly for the intercession of one saint so that the long exile may be ended. And so when Daniel started to pray the answer was well on its way. Isn't that amazing!

Are we called to stand in the gap and pray? Somehow this insight today gave me a big hope that even if I, an inconspicuous single person would start interceding on behalf of the nation, according to the plans of God then the doors will be opened. Revival would break out.

Some years back when I first read Wesley Duewel's *Revival Fire* and Leonard Ravenhill's *Why Revival Tarries?* I used to pray with so much faith and burden. But these days my prayers have become very crippled. The radius of my prayer has narrowed down to a very small circle, almost a point.

I pray that we get a national/international vision and start praying for revival. Though there are many prophecies regarding revival in India, let us pray till the heavens open. Let us pray for everyone not just our land alone, but for every place.

I stumble upon this video in youtube today and it is quite disturbing(not for the weak hearted) but it is good material for prayer. I pray that our eyes will be opened to the need around us.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsUH8llvTZo&feature=related>

God bless.