



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

God's Discipline Can Lead to Repenting January 21, 2018 Daniel 9:4-19

“Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth” (Daniel 9:13).

When Paul wrote to the Church in Rome, he explained one of the benefits of Old Testament study, writing, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). For example, we can apply Daniel’s situation and prayer to our lives and say, “If believers do not seek the favor of the Lord, turn from sinning, and give attention to the truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures, they will eventually suffer the discipline of the Lord.” When Daniel prayed his prayer, the Jews had been suffering exile in Babylon for almost 70 years. Today, those who call themselves Christians, and nations that were once considered a part of Christendom, can suffer the consequences of turning away from the truth of the Lord and the behavior God’s truth demands. What they or their nation are suffering may be God’s discipline to turn them back to faith in the Lord and obedience to the Scriptures. During a time of suffering God’s discipline, believers can also be encouraged to pray and remember this: “The Lord, the great and awesome God, keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments” (Daniel 9:4). Not all personal suffering is God’s discipline, but during a time of local, national, or international suffering, believers can do as Paul wrote: pray, persevere, and turn to the Scriptures for encouragement that they might have hope.

Thinking Further

1. Why did Daniel feel confident that God would hear his prayers when he prayed to God?
2. Do people today, both inside and outside the church, think of sinning against God as acting wrong, acting wickedly, acting rebelliously, and acting treacherously? Why or why not?
3. What can happen when people stop studying the Bible and listening to God’s Word?
4. What does the word “shame” mean? Why does sin bring shame upon God and God’s people as well as the sinner?
5. Why do you think God thought it important to state clearly in the Bible the consequences if His people rebelled against Him as an individual and as a group?

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