

# Fasting

## Part 13

*“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: “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands,<sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.<sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.<sup>7</sup> “Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.<sup>8</sup> O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.<sup>9</sup> The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;<sup>10</sup> we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets.<sup>11</sup> All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. “Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.<sup>12</sup> You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.<sup>13</sup> Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.<sup>14</sup> The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.<sup>15</sup> “Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.<sup>16</sup> O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.<sup>17</sup> “Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.<sup>18</sup> Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.<sup>19</sup> O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.” (Daniel 9:1-19)*

Prayer and Fasting should be based on the understanding of the Scripture and what the word of God declares. Here in the above situation, we found Daniel started to pray and fast, interceding and pleading with God to forgive, pardon and to restore His people the Israelites who sinned against Him. Daniel knew from the Scripture that their exile in Babylon will last seventy years and they need to suffer through the seventy years the consequences of their sins. Although Daniel knew that God is loving and forgiving God, he knew also from the word of God that the Lord forgive if people repent of their sins. Daniel he knew also that even if the people repent then they need to bear the consequences of all their sins. As the people broke the law of the Sabbath of the land and did not give rest for it a year every seven year, then Lord counted how many Sabbath year they forbid the land from rest and it was equal to seventy.

Therefore the Lord took His people away from the Land for seventy years so it will be rested from them.

So we found here that Daniel his prayer and fasting was in line with the word of God. He would not ask God to remove the consequences and bring His people back to Jerusalem and restored them before they had finished paying the consequences of their sins. Daniel prayer and fasting was pleasant to the Lord and its purpose to acknowledge that God is righteous and had done what is just and right. His prayer and fasting was to plead with God to fulfill what he had promised in His word to restore His people and the city of Jerusalem as they had repented and humbled themselves and disciplined well for what they had done.

In the same way our prayer and fasting must be in line with the Scripture and the doctrine of God, and sure the Lord will do to us what He had promised in His word. Daniel as He prayed and fast according to the Scripture the Lord gave him revelation about what will be happening in the future and what God will do for His people as we can read here: <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.<sup>25</sup> “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.<sup>26</sup> After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.<sup>27</sup> He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” (Daniel 9:20-26)* This revelation speaks about the coming of the Messiah and His suffering and death. It speaks also about the end times and the second coming of Christ. Therefore prayer and fasting when are in line with the Scripture will enable us to receive revelation about the future and what God is about to do for us and His people who delight in Him to follow all His ways.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Apply what you read in your life today. Observe what is going on around you. Don't be drown by your emotions and feelings. But pray and fast. Be led by the Holy Spirit and instructed by the Scripture that declare to us the mind and the will of God.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I confess to you my sins and the sins of your people \_\_\_\_\_ . Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.<sup>18</sup> Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.<sup>19</sup> O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name, in Jesus name, Amen.*