

Introduction:

1. We're in our 3rd week of our series (**PP**) "**CONTROL** in **CHAOS**." // the 2nd half of the book of Daniel.
 1. 1st 6 chaps: center upon the life of Daniel, his friends, & God's sovereignty.
 2. 2nd 6 chaps: the visions & prophecy's given to Daniel — some past, some fulfilled, ... some... yet to be
2. Life can seem & even at times genuinely be **CHAOTIC** out of our **CONTROL** & we often desire **CONTROL**
 1. *But, it's not our **GOAL** to be in **CONTROL** but to have **SELF CONTROL** b/c we know/trust **WHO** is **IN CONTROL**.*
 2. It's like what Paul told Titus: (**PP**) ¹¹ *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with **wisdom, righteousness, and devotion** to God, ¹³ while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.*
 3. (**PP**) Gal 5: ²² *The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control**.*
 4. We can live **SELF CONTROLLED** because we know & trust — **GOD** — **HE** is **IN CONTROL**
3. God is in control.
 1. That's Daniel CH 7-12; we'll be in chapter 9 / a tremendous chapter of prayer/prophecy... it's SO POWERFUL,
 2. This chapter gets 2 Sundays — today, the **PRAYER** of Daniel, next time the **PROPHECY** given to Daniel
4. Here's how we'll spend our time in the text this morning.
 1. Seek to understand what it's saying, ultimately, how it points us to **JESUS**.
 2. And, how it applies to living a life of **CONTROL** in the midst of **CHAOS**
 1. Now over the past couple of weeks, we've looked at the text, context, historicity, & application to us...
 2. However this morning, we'll tackle it a bit differently
 3. Today, we'll center our time on what God is speaking to us on the area of prayer
 1. As we do, we'll see 4 key points of prayer
 2. And I considered greatly about how to communicate them effectively ... make 'em rhyme.
 4. But, I want to use terms that are Bible-e... not *Christian-ease*, you know that language right?
 1. *Praying for traveling mercies ... God, put a hedge of protection around them ... plead the blood*
 2. But, I will be using churchy words, b/c they're used in church
 3. B/c they come directly from the WORD — **Praise, Confession, Intercession, Glory**
5. Jesus said something very specific about prayer.
 1. My house shall be called a house of ... PRAYER? **Illus:** Many of us think of prayer like a mist...
 2. But I want us to think of prayer, liking building a house.
 3. As you build a house of prayer... block by block; you're building a house of prayer that reaches heaven.
 4. You're building a life that's **CONTROLLED** in the midst of **CHAOS**.
6. Let's set the stage by looking at v1-4 (**Living CONTROLLED**)
7. Let's **PRAY**

Daniel 9.1-4

1. We find Daniel once again ... praying...
 1. We know exactly when it happened, v1 "in the 1st yr of Darius" // 538 BC, when Babylon fell to Medo-Persians
 2. This is how it worked, the king wasn't Darius — the king was a guy named Cyrus (he's Persian)
 1. He brought Media & Persia together, strengthening his kingdom.
 2. He made Darius his viceroy, over the realm of Babylon.
2. Chapter 6 & 9 are parallel accounts in terms of chronology // both happened at the same time // same time that Daniel was in the lions' den was the same general year that he prayed this prayer.
3. What's interesting is that Daniel had been reading his Bible.
 1. New English Translation says: "*I was reading the Scriptures & reflecting.*"
 1. Daniel had the scrolls of the Torah & Prophets in captivity in Babylon.
 2. And as he's reading, something catches his attention.
 2. Wouldn't you like to know what passage Daniel was meditating on?
 3. We actually do know — It says he was reading through the prophet Jeremiah.
 4. Jeremiah 25 & 29 speak to the 70yr time frame that Daniel's referring to.
 1. Listen to just Jeremiah 29:10 — a famous portion of Scripture, some of which you know.
 1. But listen to it this way; now, picture Daniel he's reading the scroll: "*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, Jerusalem. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"
 2. The context of that glorious promise "to give you a future and a hope"
 1. Was all about the Babylonian captivity for 70yrs
 2. But at the end of that God would bring them back to fulfill his good purpose.
 2. Listen to this: it's 538 BC
 1. Daniel was taken captive at 605 BC
 2. That means it's been 67 years of the 70 // time's almost up.
 3. He's reading that and goes, "WHOA! God said 70 years? Time's almost up! — I've gotta pray about this."
4. And so he prayed — Daniel's prayer was driven by what he **read**.
 1. You see here's a key to remember: *the prayer that God **accepts** is the prayer that God **directs**.*
 2. George Whitfield... Famous Bible preacher of generations past
 1. Said he'd read his Bible every day on his knees so that when he came to something that he felt the Lord was speaking to his heart, he'd use that to prompt his communication back to God.
 2. It was a 2-way communication.
 3. It wasn't a monologue, it was a dialogue. "God is speaking to me, I am speaking to him." That's a relationship with a person.
 4. So important to have our **NOSE** in the book & **KNEES** on the floor.
 3. Now, you might ask yourself a very basic question If God made a promise in Jeremiah that the captivity would last 70 years, why does Daniel need to pray about that?

4. It's going to happen. Why didn't Daniel read that & go, "Oh, cool. It's going to happen, give me a rocking chair. I'll just watch." ... Why did he enter into this lengthy prayer of chapter 9?

1. Two things to consider:

1. Prayer is really a cooperation w/ God — it's an aligning of my will with God's will — Through prayer Daniel is saying, "I want to be a part of this. God I want to enter into cooperate with you."

1. And God invites us in to do that.

2. Think of the book of Revelation — It's about the 2nd coming of Jesus.

1. We know he's coming, but how does John end the book?

2. With a prayer: "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

3. **Daniel enters in to the purpose of God thru prayer to God.**

2. Here's the second reason.

1. As Daniel prayed about what he read God, God gives him further insight, further revelation by giving him the Daniel 70 weeks prophecy toward the end.

2. How hungry for God are you? How much do you want?

3. To Daniel knowing God was everything And God gave him more revelation.

4. Daniel prayed... Not lackadaisically, but w/ passion, "*pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes.*"

2. How did he begin? He began w/ **PRAISE...** *⁴I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.*

5. Praise — Daniel praises God for His attributes.

1. Great: magnificent, wonderful, majestic

2. Awesome: it's this idea of terror, kjv 'dreadful' awe-some.

3. Faithful: keep your covenant and your promises.

4. Unfailing Love: God you are gracious and loving.

1. It's important to remember who you are talking to in prayer, it will really set your perspective rightly.

2. We can forget how BIG God is, we can approach God w/ limited lens: so daunting/big, so overwhelming.

3. Our problems can paralyze us... **Illus**: it's so big.

4. If I begin to push this problem out... it's small in comparison to how big this room is.

5. Here's the reality about PRAISE — **Praise** pushes our problems into the **Proper Perspective**.

6. We should not be spending our time telling our God how big our problems are, but spending our time telling our problems how big our God is.

7. Daniel doesn't approach God w/ his problem, but w/ praise.

8. Jesus gives us similar insight of setting our perspective right in prayer by remembering who God/where He is.

1. Remember what Jesus told his disciples, He said, when you pray

2. Lk 2, MT 6, **Our Father**, who is in **HEAVEN**.

3. He's Dad, and He's in HEAVEN. Heaven's pretty BIG. He's got this!

9. Think of Peter & John preaching powerfully
 1. Commanded to stop preaching in the name of Jesus, what happens to the prayer life of the church?
 2. It's recorded for us in Acts 4.24 — they prayed, Lord, this is a REALLY big problem
 3. No, “²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,
6. **Praise** pushes our problems into the **Proper Perspective**.
 1. The only limit to the scope of your prayer is the size of your God, we have a BIG God / He's good, & He's able.
 2. Start your days w/ praise.
 3. I have found that an attitude & a prayer life of thanksgiving & praise, go hand in hand.
 1. Psalm 100.4: says to enter his gates w/ thanksgiving, courts w/ praise
 2. Gates & Courts of the tabernacle... the presence of God... It begins with thanksgiving & praise.
 4. This is the 1st building block in building — house of prayer that reaches heaven.
 1. A life that's **CONTROLLED** in the midst of **CHAOS**.
 2. It's prayer life of **PRAISE**, it's a lifestyle of **THANKSGIVING**.
7. The 2nd is found in v5-15 // **CONFESSION**

Daniel 9.5-15

1. 2nd building block of a house of prayer that reaches heaven is **Confession**.
 1. Confession always follows Adoration and Praise of God.
 2. The clearer you see your Savior, the greater you sense your sin.
 1. Lk 5 – Jesus & Peter w/ the great catch of fish.⁵ *But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”* ⁶ *And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”*
 2. Isaiah 6 – *woe is me, I am a man of unclean lips.*
 3. The clearer you see your Savior, the greater you sense your sin.
2. Confession is powerful!
 1. **Proverbs 28.13** – *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*
 2. **I John 1.9** – *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Confession brings cleansing.*
 1. I've heard it said b4 that the 6 most POWERFUL words in the universe are, “*I admit, I was wrong.*”
 2. Husbands make that your screen saver on your phone.
 3. One of the most powerful things about this prayer is Daniel's attitude in his confession.
3. There's Identification in his Confession
 1. Daniel identifies w/ his people; like Joshua of the OT, we never have a recorded sin of the prophet Daniel.
 2. 13x Daniel uses the word *w* // 18x, uses the word *our* // 9x, uses the word *us* // there are 40 personal pronouns
 3. Daniel doesn't point at others in prayer, but recognizes that he's a part of the problem too.

4. A key to building a house of prayer that reaches heaven is having **identification** in **prayer**.
 1. Identification is a key to **PASSION!** when anything affects you... your attitude changes (sports, salary, etc)
 2. Saw that in New Orleans... Elevator, crowded, at the bottom... missing Leyla... A mother, said I saw her standing there... I thought I wonder if I should tell the parents! — Yes! Tell us...
5. There's a 3rd thing we see here, that's so key in confession.
4. Shame over Sin
 1. We see this in Daniel
 1. ³ *So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes...* ⁷ *“Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are **covered with shame**. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. ⁸ O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are **covered with shame** because we have sinned against you.*
 2. Can I ask you a question, do you experience a healthy & Biblical level of shame over your sin?
 1. Liam gets this, he's such a tough guy, but also tendered-hearted guy.
 1. Pulling hair, smacking w/ the light saber, screaming
 2. But when he's wrong, hang his head, gives a hug, “dorry”
 2. Do we see that today in the church? — A healthy level of remorse for our sin... this is the proper response to how our sin affects ourselves & others?
 3. Daniel uses the word *shame* (embarrassment, guilt) a word of conscience
 1. In this day and age it's believed that we should not feel guilty
 1. Bad guilt (insecure person who feels guilt about everything)
 2. Good guilt (when people feel guilty because they are guilty)
 2. Good guilt drives you to the Savior to get it taken care of
 4. Even within the life of a believer, there needs to be this understanding that sin destroys.
 1. SIN doesn't give to you, SIN takes from you! Here's the reality of sin:
 2. **(PP)** Sin always **takes** you farther than you wanted to go, sin always **keeps** you longer than you wanted to stay, sin always **costs** you more than you wanted to pay.
 5. There must be a sense of ownership, & good shame that leads to repentance that leads to life.
5. Confession — Owning it — Owning sin... realizing that it **takes, keeps, and costs**.
 1. Biblical confession of sin, well that's the 2nd building block in building
 1. A house of prayer that reaches heaven. A life that's CONTROLLED in the midst of CHAOS.
 2. It's prayer that honest about sin, a lifestyle that shuns it.
 2. We've considered **Praise & Confession** Let's look at **Intercession**
 1. Praying on behalf of others. He makes his request known to God, very specifically.
 2. Notice something about the intercession of Daniel — He's extremely specific
 3. Look at his words through the lens of his specificity.

1. Intercession — ¹⁶ *In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, **please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors.*** ¹⁷ *“O our God, **hear your servant’s prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.*** ¹⁸ *“O my God, **lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.*** ¹⁹ *“O Lord, **hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name.**”*
2. Sometimes our prayers can be like a ... Mist... Weak or vague... Bless everyone, everywhere with everything
3. In a restaurant: We don't say "I have an unspoken food need, bless me"... We're specific... We know what we want, and how we want it prepared — Let's pray specifically.
4. His prayer was also sympathetic (for others) ... I've heard it said that intercessory prayer is the hardest form of prayer
 1. Worship is easy.... Personal petition is easy; Paul said that intercessory prayer is labor (see Colossians 4:12)
 2. If you don't include intercession to your life ... You will become more & more self-absorbed ...
 3. Like a couch potato... you'll become a pew potato
 1. But a prayer list helps! **ILLUS** church list
 2. Praying for OTHERS (intercession) releases us from the prison of self-absorption
 3. Builds the house of prayer that brings **CONTROL** in **CHAOS** of life
5. 10 steps to defeating spiritual depression — do 1x thing nice for someone else (no expectations) & Repeat 9x
6. Well... as we close... let's consider, our 4th & final building block to the house of prayer comes from the same set of verses we just read... but it has everything to do w/ the **GLORY** of God ... v16-19 ¹⁶ *In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from **your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors.*** ¹⁷ *“O our God, hear **your servant’s prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.*** ¹⁸ *“O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how **your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.*** ¹⁹ *“O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! **For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name.**”*
 1. Daniel was consumed with the GLORY of God.
 2. It's about HIM. It's about HIM. It's about HIM.
 1. Just as Jesus taught us to pray, Yours is the kingdom, & the power, and the glory forever.
 2. The greatest building block of a house of prayer that reaches heaven is prayer that is for God's glory!

CONCLUSION:

1. Daniel 9 we are given this POWERFUL prayer of Daniel of **PRAISE... CONFESSION... INTERCESSION... GLORY...**
2. When we choose to lead lives of prayer that center upon *praise, confession, intercession*, and the *glory* of God... we can live **Controlled** in the midst of **Chaos**.
 1. We pray **upwards, inwards, outwards, & upwards.**
 2. That's how we live in **CONTROL** b/c we know & trust who is in **CONTROL.**