

GABRIEL'S PREDICTION OF FORGIVENESS

Our heavenly Father, the Father of nations, punishes sin. God punishes sin in this world and has prepared Hell for the next world. There is no clearer illustration of God's punishment of sin than the ancient Israelites. God gave the Israelites the land of Canaan as a home. After Moses had led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery Joshua led them into the Promised Land. But did the people remain faithful to Jehovah? No. They sinned. They worshiped idols. And God rewarded their sin with another imprisonment. Ten of the tribes of Israel were deported and scattered from their homes by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. 136 years later, in 586 B.C., the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the people captive to the land of Babylon. God punishes sin! That's right! Well, I have sinned. You have sinned. Is there any hope for us? Can we escape God's ultimate punishment of our sin?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ.

Daniel was a young Israelite teenager when he was led captive to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King, followed the practice of many ancient civilizations. When the Babylonians overran a country they removed from the country some of the finest young people who could be trained to serve the Babylonian King. Daniel, of course, knew the Hebrew language. When he arrived in Babylon Daniel was taught the language and the customs of the Babylonians. Even as a teenager, Daniel was introduced into the council of wise men who served as advisors to Nebuchadnezzar. The young Jewish man Daniel was blessed by God in such a way that he became a leader among the council of wise men. Daniel was noted for his wisdom and his God-given ability to interpret dreams.

After several decades the Babylonians were defeated and overrun by a coalition of Medes and Persians. The Medes of the coalition were the ones who provided the kings of the Persian empire. A Mede by the name Cyrus was the one who conquered Babylon. That conquest was predicted by a Jewish prophet 200 years before it happened. In fact, that Hebrew prophet called Cyrus by name. That's right. Isaiah predicted that Cyrus would be raised up as God's anointed king. "Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, [Isaiah wrote] whose right hand I

have grasped, to subdue nations before him" ([Isa 45:1](#)) Isaiah 45:1 was written 200 years before Cyrus was born! That's right! What was God's reason for recording Cyrus' name in Isaiah's book? Isaiah heard God give the reason: "For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, so that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other." ([Isaiah 45:4-6](#))

Daniel saw Isaiah's prophecy come to pass. And Daniel became an advisor to Cyrus and to other Persian kings that followed Cyrus.

By reading his Bible, Daniel became aware that the time of Israel's captivity would soon be up. You see, Jeremiah had predicted that the captivity would last for 70 years. And so Daniel calculated the years and realized that God would soon fulfill His promise to His people Israel. Daniel began to prepare with prayer.

Daniel wrote, "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. 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. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, [shame on] the men of Judah, [shame on] the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and [shame on] all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them.... To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets." ([Daniel 9:3-10](#)) And so Daniel prayed and confessed his sins and the sins of the people. Why was Daniel praying? Because he knew God to be full of mercy and forgiveness! "To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness...."

But while Daniel was praying, his prayer was suddenly interrupted! A man literally flew into his presence. Daniel recognized him as someone he had seen before in a vision. The man was actually an angel. His name was Gabriel. "O Daniel," Gabriel said, "I have now come out to give you insight and understanding." (Daniel 9:22) Gabriel then revealed to Daniel a time schedule as to when God was going to show His mercy and forgive sin. There was coming a day in which the God of mercy and forgiveness would act on behalf of **all** mankind with forgiveness, not just the Israelites. Gabriel predicted that a man was being sent by God to bring about the redemption of all mankind. It does not matter what nation you live in; it does not matter whether you are rich or poor; it doesn't matter in what race you were born; by that man whom God chose God would send forgiveness to the world. The God who punishes sin was sending forgiveness to the world.

Daniel heard this and recorded what he heard in his book about 500 years before it would happen. Just as God had told Isaiah the name of Cyrus 200 years ahead of time, God also told Daniel about the forgiveness of sin 500 years before it happened. God's wonderful forgiveness of sin would be justified by the crucifixion of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

You can read what Gabriel told Daniel in Daniel 9, beginning at verse 20. In verse 24 Gabriel said, "Seventy weeks are determined upon your people and upon your holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." (Daniel 9:24)

Notice this list of things that would happen when the appointed time arrived. Transgression would be finished. An end of sins would be made. Those in iniquity would be reconciled to God. An everlasting righteousness would be brought in. Supernatural vision and prophecy would be sealed up; that is, prophecy would be fulfilled. And finally, God's most holy person would be anointed. Friends, all of these things came to pass after the crucifixion of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Now that Christ is crucified the power of transgression over the world has been broken. Satan's perpetual power of sin over humans has ended; in other words, there is a way of escape from the eternal consequences of our sin. An everlasting

righteousness has been brought in. That is, God is **eternally** just/righteous when He forgives sin. You see, the only escape from our sin and transgression is simple forgiveness, pure, sincere, loving, merciful forgiveness! But the only way God could show us this mercy and forgiveness, allowing us to escape our punishment, was for God's justice to be satisfied. Only God's Son could justly relieve us of the consequences of our sin. No other human being could do it! And so Jesus took the sins of humanity upon himself and died in our place. The death Jesus died for us was His separation from God; a separation that our sin deserved. You see, the word "death" means separation. By the crucifixion of His sinless Son, God established His eternal righteousness in forgiving sins.

Gabriel also told Daniel that Christ's crucifixion would seal up vision and prophecy. The "vision" Gabriel speaks of is the way God revealed information about the Savior that God would send. The word "prophecy" refers to the combination, the sum total of all those visions God had given to mankind. So these two things were to be sealed at the crucifixion of Jesus. That means the prophecies that concerned God's great gift of salvation were fulfilled. The crucifixion is the climax of history. God brought a savior into the world for the purpose of justifying God's forgiveness of sin.

But the final thing Gabriel listed as taking place at the crucifixion is that God would then "anoint the most Holy." Anointing Jesus was like crowning a king. It was His coronation! After his crucifixion Jesus was raised from the dead and then 40 days later He ascended to the right hand of the majesty on high. Jesus was "the brightness of [God's] glory, and the exact image of [God's] person. And when Jesus "had by himself purged our sins, [He] sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. ([Hebrews 1:3](#))

Friends, Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Will you bow down before Him? Will you accept his salvation? If you believe in Jesus then you must obey Him. When asked "what shall we do", Jesus apostle Peter commanded, "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did [Peter] testify and exhort them saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.'" Then they

that gladly received his word were baptized. And there were added unto them that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:37-41)

Friends, will you too be saved? Your forgiveness is justified; will you accept God's offer? Find a church of Christ near you so you can begin your obedience to the King, Jesus Christ.