

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**October 30, 2016**

**Daniel 9:1–10:21.** Vision of the Seventy Sevens.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1–17.** Paul teaches about the Day of the Lord and the “lawless one.”

**Job 42:1–9.** Job’s second person personal response to God as a Person.

**COMMENTS.**

**Daniel 9:1–10:21.** Daniel’s study of the Scriptures led him to turn to God and to a prayer of confession (9:3-14) and petition (9:15-19). The answer to Daniel’s prayer was not delayed (cf. “do not delay,” 19). For he was interrupted by the appearance of Gabriel. Daniel was concerned about God’s program for Israel. So, Gabriel was dispatched by God to satisfy Daniel’s desire and to reveal God’s program for His people until its consummation in the covenanted kingdom under Israel’s Messiah. Daniel was first informed that God’s program would be consummated in 70 “sevens” of years, namely 490 years. By the time these 490 years run their course, God will have completed six things for Israel. The first three have to do with sin, and the second three with the kingdom. The basis for the first three was provided in the work of Christ on the cross, but all six will be realized by Israel at the Second Advent of Christ. This sacrifice was offered by Jesus Christ who by His death made payment for all sins that had not been removed in the past (cf. Rom. 3:25). So, His atoning work on the cross has made possible His future “finishing” of Israel’s transgression. In sum, we have two period here. The first period (9:25) consists of 49 years; during this period, the Jews will rebuild the city of Jerusalem in troubled times. The second period (9:26) consists of 483 years. Gabriel affirmed that 483 years are involved from the giving of the decree to the coming of “the Anointed One, the ruler” ( $7 \times 7 = 49$ ;  $7 \times 62 = 434$ ; total = 483). When you count 483 solar years from the year 445, you end up with A.D. 29/30, which brings us to the time of Christ’s ministry on earth. But this Anointed One, the Christ, will not be permitted to rule; for His people cried out, “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15). “We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). The Messiah will be “cut off, but not for himself” (“and will have nothing”). This speaks of His rejection by the Jewish nation (John 1:11; Luke 13:33–35) and His crucifixion as a criminal, turned over to the Roman authorities by His own people and one of His own disciples. But He died for the sins of the world, including the sins of the Jewish nation.

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love.** Note Daniel’s orientation to the Lord. He came to God pleading for mercy and forgiveness for himself and his covenanted people, and that’s the kind of praying the Lord Jehovah wants to hear. In fact, the promise of God’s forgiveness was written right into the covenant of His people. *“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me ... then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land”* (Lev. 26:40–42). Certainly, as Daniel studied the Scriptures and prayed to Jehovah, he had in his mind and heart both the God’s covenant. His rich confession displays his rich life with the Lord. He humbled himself in sackcloth and ashes; he fasted; and he directed his heart and mind to the Lord. Preparation for prayer and worship is as important as prayer

itself, for without a heart that is right with God, our prayers are empty words. Daniel met the conditions for answered prayer set forth in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*" While I would never say that one must "feel sorry" for his sins to be forgiven, an insensitivity to one's sins and sinfulness before God reflects, at best, a very shallow relationship with God, which is certainly not a 2<sup>nd</sup> person personal one. One could no more have a second person love relationship with God and sin with impunity than one could have with a spouse and insult him or her with impunity. One may be able to have a shallow relationship with God or with a loved one on 1<sup>st</sup> (all about "I") and 3<sup>rd</sup> person level (he or she is a "thing" or "tool" rather than a person with which one empathizes with), but it cannot be 2<sup>nd</sup> person as a person. It is indeed very difficult to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> person relationship for there are simply too many things that undermine its requirements of seeking to be closer to the object of love and seeking the good of the object of love regardless of how it affects the subject. Life with God *by proper knowledge and proper love* really is the only way to be close to God and avoid so many of the pernicious effects of our fallenness. It really is all about loving God. It is not only the biggest problem solving device, it is the only true solution to our destructive self-willfulness that imitates Satan and his machinations rather than Jesus Christ and His example for all believers (1 Cor 11:1).

**2 Thessalonians 2:1–17.** The Thessalonians have become excited and over-anxious about the Lord's return. There is a rumor that Jesus has already come back—a rumor linked with something Paul is supposed to have written or said. Paul warns the Thessalonians not to be deceived by such stories. There will be no mistaking the coming of Christ when it happens, so they need have no fear of missing it. In any case, there is to be a great rebellion against God, led by the 'lawless one', before Christ returns. The word Paul uses for 'rebellion' gives us our word 'apostasy'—the rejection of all faith in God. At the end of time there will be a great rebellion against God, leading to the final battle between Christ and Satan. The leader of this rebellion is the 'antichrist.' Paul describes the 'lawless one' setting himself up in God's temple and proclaiming himself to be God. Paul says that the forces of rebellion are held back at present (2:6), so that their power is restricted and their damage limited. But when these dreadful powers are finally unleashed, they will trick people with empty displays of power and ensnare them in all kinds of evil. Those who refuse the truth and love wickedness will have no defense against the powers of evil. God will endorse their rejection of the truth by increasing their delusion.

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love.** What a frightening thought: that God brings dark deception upon those who do not love truth but pleasure in unrighteousness (2:12). God has given us His light to walk in with reference to Himself, the Word of God, fellow believers, the local church, and others. As long as we walk in the light of these truths, we gain more light into the realities of God and the spiritual life. The more we reject these directives, the more we walk in darkness and the less we see of God, His love, and His glory. The brightest light of all is gained by walking with God *by proper knowledge and proper love*. The greatest darkness in life is to reject truth and invite His judgment of divine hardening of our hearts as He gives us what we are seeking: darkness of life without Him: John 3:19 "*And this is the condemnation, that the light has*

*come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.* To be clear, it is not as if God brings darkness to those seeking light, that would be unrighteous. God is simply giving those who prefer darkness the darkness that they prefer and daily seek, like Mammon, see Matt. 6:23-24.

**Job 42:1–9.** Job knew he was beaten. There was no way he could argue his case with God. Quoting God’s very words (3–4), Job humbled himself before the Lord and acknowledged His power and justice in executing His plans (2). Then Job admitted that his words had been wrong and that he had spoken about things he didn’t understand (3). Job withdrew his accusations that God was unjust and not treating him fairly. He realized that whatever God does is right and man must accept Him. Job told God, “I can’t answer Your questions! All I can do is confess my pride, humble myself, and repent.”

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love.** What caused Job to confess his pride, humble himself, and repent? What transformed him from a rebel against God to a servant of God (42:7-9). Before now, Job’s knowledge of God had been indirect and impersonal—improper; but that was changed with 2<sup>nd</sup> person knowledge of God as Person, which he gained from the way God spoke of His interaction with and love of all of creation. Job had finally met God personally and seen himself to be but “dust and ashes” (42:6). He has now finally arrived at *second person proper knowledge and proper love with God*, He is now united experientially with the lover of His soul where he found the only place of true joy, peace, and blessedness.

*Life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love.*

*Pastor Don*