

Undo

- What does the UNDO feature do on a computer?
- When might we want an UNDO feature in life?
- When do you want an UNDO feature in life?
- How could the UNDO feature make things worse?
- What does God do about our failings?

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From Bad to Good
Daniel 9
bib.ly/Da9



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A story of Israel

God's promises fulfilled in David
1010 BC

Then sin and trouble...

Jeremiah's prophecy

God's promises to Abram
2100 BC

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This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says **to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon**: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, **seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile**. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Jeremiah 29:4-7

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This is what the Lord says: “**When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.** For **I know the plans I have for you,”** declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

70 years = a lifetime

Daniel was studying this passage

And he realized he had been in exile for nearly 70 years

What would you do next?

“I have carried you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Jeremiah 29:10-14

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Daniel 9:1-19 Prayer of Confession

1-3: Context: at 70 years, Daniel seriously prayed

4-6: Daniel confessed: self and nation

7-11a: Contrast: God is righteous; Israel shameful

11b-14: Israel's trouble was justly given by God

15-19: Plea: may God show mercy

20-23:

24:

25-27:

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The Big Idea

**In our trouble
we are called to pray in humility
for God's help and mercy**

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Pray

- In humility
 - Confess: personal and group
- For God's glory
- God's promises and sovereign will are designed to come through our prayer
 - God's promises should prompt prayer, not passivity
 - Prayer shapes us
 - God acts in response to our prayers

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Daniel 9:20-27: God's response

- 1-3: Context: at 70 years, Daniel seriously prayed
- 4-6: Daniel confessed: self and nation
- 7-11a: Contrast: God is righteous; Israel shameful
- 11b-14: Israel's trouble was justly given by God
- 15-19: Plea: may God show mercy
- 20-23: Context: God sent Gabriel when Daniel prayed
- 24: Big picture: 70 sevens to full restoration
- 25-27: Detail: $70 = 7 + 62 + 1$

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The Big Idea

God's greatness and love
bring His total victory over time in Christ
even through great troubles
as we humbly pray

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What is a trainer supposed to do?

- Help us grow

Will a trainer make life easier now?

Will a trainer make life easier later?



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What is God's goal for us?

- "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." *Romans 8:29*
- Key sign of spiritual life: we truly want to be like God



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The Big Idea

God's greatness and love
bring His total victory over time in Christ
even through great troubles
as we humbly pray, trust, and persevere

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Application

Trust & Persevere

- “hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” *Romans 8:24b-25*
- Our “flesh” wants ease
- God wants transformation
 - His work includes making us want to be like Christ
 - Even in this: pray, trust, and persevere

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The Big Idea

**God's greatness and love
bring His total victory over time in Christ
even through great troubles
as we humbly pray, trust, and persevere**

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Undo

- **What does God do about our failings?**
 - **We often want to erase our past and move on (undo)**
 - **God wants to transform us and our future**
 - **Using our past to make us more like Jesus**
- **Our life in God**
 - **Scripture, prayer, and transformation**
 - **It takes a courageous assurance in Christ**

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