

# From Bad to Good

Daniel 9

## 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?

## 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



## Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14

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?

## Daniel 9:1-19

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

## The Big Idea

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

## Application: 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

## Daniel 9:20-27

20-23: Context: God sent Gabriel when Daniel prayed

24: Big picture: 70 sevens to full restoration

25-27: Detail:  $70 = 7 + 62 + 1$

## The Big Idea

**God's greatness and love**

**bring His total victory over time in Christ**

**even through great troubles as we humbly pray**



### 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

### 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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### Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Where have you seen God work things together for good that, aside from His work, looked very 'not good'?
2. What practices help you pay attention to God's revelation in Scripture?
3. What practices help you to pray?
4. What practices help you trust God?
5. Scripture and prayer in our lives can be lived out both individually and together with others. What helps you to engage with Scripture and in prayer together with others?
6. What transforming work is God doing in your life today? this year?