- 1. The vision of chapter 9 concerns the program of God for Israel culminating in the coming of their Messiah to the earth to reign.
- 2. Daniel was given the comprehensive program for both the Gentiles and for Israel. The details of the vision are contained in chapter 9 verses 24-27.
- 3. The study of this chapter is important to understanding the prophecies of the last days.
- 4. Chapter 9 begins with Jeremiah's prophecy of seventy years of the desolation of Jerusalem and is advanced by the prayer of Daniel. (Daniel 9:1-2)
- 5. The events of chapter 5 occurred between chapters 8 and 9.
- 6. Daniel also understood from the prophecy of Jeremiah that the desolations of Jerusalem would be fulfilled in seventy years. (Jeremiah 36:23-28)
- 7. Jeremiah himself had been taken captive by Jews rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar and had been carried off to Egypt against his will to be buried in a strange land in a nameless grave.
- 8. Daniel realized that the time was approaching when the children of Israel could return. The seventy years of captivity was about to end.
- 9. The phrase "the desolations of Jerusalem" refer to the period 605 B.C. to 539 B.C. for the judgment on Babylon and the date of 538 B.C. for the return to the land.
- 10. Jeremiah's prophecies are important to understanding Daniel 9. (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10-14)
- 11. Daniel was encouraged by God's intention to restore Jerusalem and he made preparation to present his confessions and petitions to the Lord. (Daniel 9:3-4)
- 12. The word "mercy" in verse 4 speaks not only of God's forgiveness but loyalty in His keeping of the covenant with Israel.
- 13. Daniel having reminded himself of God's covenant and mercy begins his prayer of confession. (Daniel 9:5-14)
- 14. In verse 5 we find a fourfold description of their sin:
 - A. "they have sinned" meaning a serious offense.
 - B. "they have committed iniquity" acted unjustly.
 - C. "they have done wickedly" conducted themselves wickedly.
 - D. "they have rebelled even by departing from your precepts and judgments."
- 15. Notice the progression of their rebellion in verse 6 concerning the warnings of the prophets.
- 16. Notice the contrast between the mercies and forgiveness of God as compared to the sins of Israel in verses 9-10.

- 17. In verses 12-14 Daniel lays out the judgment that God brought upon them as a result of their sin.
- 18. Daniel now turns to the burden of his prayer that God would forgive and restore the people of Israel. (Daniel 9:15-19)
- 19. Ultimately, it was not simply the restoration of Israel which Daniel sought, nor the restoration of Jerusalem or even of the temple but specifically the sanctuary with its altar of sacrifice and its holy of holies.
- 20. Daniel once again urges God to hear, to forgive, to do, to defer not, all for God's own sake, for God's city Jerusalem, for God's people Israel, who are called by the name of the Lord.