

0 (0s):

Well welcome everybody. My name's Matt Wolf. I'm the lead pastor here at Arise Church. We're all about helping people follow Jesus. Meaning we wanna help you follow Jesus and for you in turn to help others follow Jesus. Because following Jesus is the path to the fullest life and the only path to eternal life. Well, welcome. I'm glad you guys are here. A question for you, do you wish you knew how to pray so that your prayers, God answered? Does that sound pretty good? Like how am I supposed to pray so that I know God is going to respond to my prayers? Well, that's what we're gonna talk about today. How God responds to prayers. What is the way we pray and how God actually does that. And I think it, it's in an interesting thing. Christians all over the place are like trying to figure out, I think all people are trying to figure out like how is God gonna answer my prayers?

0 (43s):

And if you go to like each church or each denomination, they pray a little differently. Like they might put their hands up like this, they might fold the fingers in together. You might get on your knees. Some of 'em are like, no, you gotta stand. You gotta put your hands in the air. Some of 'em, you gotta hold the beads. Say this specific prayer, this many times chanting, incantation it. No matter how many churches or denominations you go to, there's a different way to pray, isn't there? Well I'm gonna tell you that the way to get a prayer answered is not by anything like that. Okay? It has nothing to do with the posture of our hands or our body. It has to do with the posture of our heart. And that's what we're gonna see today. It's actually a very simple truth that we're gonna learn today from Daniel chapter nine.

0 (1m 25s):

And it's this, that God responds to repentance, God responds to repentance. Doesn't necessarily matter what your eyes are doing, open our closed, your hands are folded or or how you're sitting or kneeling or standing or dancing or whatever. But if we have a repentant heart, God chooses to respond to that. God responds to repentance. So in today's message, the first half of it, we're going to talk about what does it actually mean to repent? Okay? Like cuz some people are like, am I sorry enough? Like do I have to be sorry or, and like we want, so we're gonna talk about what, what does it actually mean to repent? And then we're gonna talk about how God responds because in this series behind the scenes, God is really giving us a behind the scenes peak.

0 (2m 9s):

Like how do things actually work in the future and in this supernatural? And we're gonna see today how God actually responds to prayer, one of the only places in the Bible where it shows us behind the scenes supernaturally what's going on when we pray. So hope you're ready for that today. God responds to repentance and this message comes outta Daniel chapter nine. If you have your Bible, go ahead and open to that chapter with me, Daniel chapter nine. If you have a smartphone and you can download the users in Bible app and in the app on the bottom right hand corner, there's a button For more you can find our rice Church Denver event and save the scripture, save the notes right there on your phone. So God responds to repentance.

0 (2m 50s):

So I'm gonna start reading in Daniel nine verse one says, in the first year of Darius, son of Xerxes, a mead by descent who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom. Verse two, in the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood from the scriptures, according to the word of the Lord, given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last 70 years. Okay, what's going on here? Let's look at the timeline one more time. So you guys are kind of refreshed O of where we are in history and in the Bible. So where we are is that Daniel was part of the people of God, the Israelites.

0 (3m 31s):

But the Babylonian empire actually came and attacked them, conquered over Israel and took the people that were living there as slaves and moved them to Babylon. Daniel was one of those people, probably moved as a teenager. Can you imagine that as a teenager, forced to leave his land, forced to learn a new language, a new culture in a city far away from home. And there Daniel grew up and that would've been in 605 bc he would, it was a teenager then a, and now sometime later he starts to have this series of visions. So the first half of the book of Daniel is those cool stories we've, we've heard about Daniel and the lions, then shadow Micha and Bengo in the fire, all that good stuff. But now the second half are these visions that he begins to have. And the first one was in five 50 bc, the next one in 548 bc which we looked at last week.

0 (4m 16s):

And now in about 539 bc Daniel actually has, it's not really a vision. You you'll see kinda what happens in this chapter where he begins to pray and we see God's response to his prayer. And this is when the Persian empire actually came in and took out the Babylonian empire and took over all the land that they had controlled, set themselves up. So this is, this had just happened. Darius the mead, cuz it's the mito Persian empire has come in. We've seen that that was in fulfillment of prophecies that God had given to Daniel in those first two visions. Like this is what's gonna happen. And boom, it happens. Seems to happen that way all the time with God. He says something, it happens. God's promises are fulfill fulfilled history is his story as we learned last week.

0 (4m 56s):

So that's happening again and again and again. And finally that happens. So Daniel then gets out his Bible, which would've been scrolls at those times. So he gets out his scroll and he's reading through the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah, which yes, we have that book in our Bible too. It's called Jeremiah in case you are confused. So he's opened up to Jeremiah and he's reading, and for the first time perhaps cuz that's kind of how it's presented here for the first time, he understands this prophecy that God gave through Jeremiah, that Israel would spend a period of 70 years in exile in Babylon, 70 years. And Daniel's like, oh, I wonder if that's what's happening right now cuz it's been about 70 years since Babylon has coming, took over everything.

0 (5m 39s):

And he's like, whoa. Is that's what going on now with Persia coming in to the empire? Is it the Babylonian reigns over? Is it now time that we get to go home? Daniel at this point is probably in his early eighties. He's an old man, he's lived his entire life as a captive in exile in this foreign land. But he's finally thinking, oh my, my gosh, maybe I get to go home. Maybe my people get to be restored. Maybe Jerusalem, maybe the temple can be rebuilt. Maybe it's finally going to be an answer to what we've been longing for. So what does he do? He begins to pray. I wonder, we're not told exactly which passage of scripture, it could be a couple, but I think what David, or I'm sorry, what Daniel would've read would've come from Daniel chapter 29.

0 (6m 21s):

So I want you guys to read this in, in Daniel, I'm sorry, in Jeremiah chapter 29 where it says this, this is what the Lord of the Lord says when 70 years are completed for Babylon, it's like pretty obvious, right? I will come to you and fulfill your promise and bring you back to this place. I point that out. We, we read it and we're like, duh, it's obvious 70 years in Babylon. And yet it seems that this is the first time anybody notices. Oh, 70 years. I say this because people read the Bible all the time and they have no idea what it's talking about over and over again. They read it and then all of a sudden, boom, it makes sense. Maybe you've had this experience in your own life, you've read something over and over again and you read it one time and you're like, oh makes sense For the first time you might have grown up going to church, heard people preach, you read it and, and it doesn't make any sense.

0 (7m 7s):

You might have a PhD in Bible and you still don't get it. This happens all the time, but sometimes it just clicks and it just clicks for Daniel right here, 70 years. And I wanna keep reading in this passage because, because God has given us pro promise and, and and it comes right after that. So in verse 10, he says, 70 years and then you'll get to come back. Look at verse 11. I think, and some of you know this one, some might be some of your life, life verses right, might have this tattooed on your foot in a discrete little place that you could hide if you ever need to, right? Okay, Jeremiah 29 11, this is like one everybody's favorite verse, but it comes right after that promise. 70 bad years. And then 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.

0 (7m 56s):

And I will listen to you. And in verse 14 he says, and bring you back from captivity. Why am I putting that out? Because God gave this amazing promise that a lot of us claim I want prosper, I want, I want to prosper, I want to succeed in all that stuff. God has that plan for my future. But for Jeremiah, for Daniel, for the people of God, they went through 70 years of trial before God prospered them. God does have good plans for our future. He will make things right, but we might have to go through some crap first, right? I got an amen from that one, right? We might, you might even be 70 years of it, God has plans for our good, but he takes us sometimes on a route we wouldn't choose.

0 (8m 41s):

So that's important to know. But he does promise there. He's like, if you pray then I will answer you. I'll respond to your prayer. So, so how is Daniel then going to pray? I think he takes this and he's like, whoa, I better pray. That's what it says in that passage. So I better do it. And in verse three, we begin to see how Daniel prays in a way that God responds to him. Verse three. So I turned, Daniel said to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition in fasting and in sack cloth and ashes. He changes his normal clothes and he puts on sack cloth and rubs ashes.

0 (9m 21s):

This is not, he's not wearing sack cloth cuz it's like the newest trend. Okay? He's not like following someone on Instagram. I'm like, I better get on my sack cloth. Okay? Sack cloth you don't wear cuz you want to. It is not comfortable. Okay? You guys are buying like me undies cuz you want everything to be comfortable, right? He's putting on sackcloth to be uncomfortable because it reminds him as it scratches against his skin that he needs to pray again and again reminded to pray, to pray. It's the same reason he probably fasted. Fasting is a time where you go without something for him going without food. Like that's the most common definition of fasting. And when ever you get a hunger pain, you are reminded to pray your mealtime, you pray. Who in here tried doing a fast during the 21 days of prayer and fasting this year in January?

0 (10m 5s):

It's hard, huh? Some of you are like sh shy to raise your hand up because you barely, maybe you didn't make it through, right? It's hard to fast and you think I, I took it real seriously this year for the first time in a long time. And, and as you're fasting you're thinking, oh, maybe by Day 10, like I'm, I'm gonna be feeling better. No, okay, you're still hungry. You're hungry than you were on day one. It doesn't get easier. It's just this constant reminder, I need to pray, I need to turn to God. So that's what Daniel's doing cuz he's taking it that seriously. Like I better pray. I'm not just gonna assume that God has good plans for my future and just let him take it from there. Now I'm gonna ask him to help. I'm gonna cry out to him because I want him to respond to my prayers. That's what Daniel's thinking.

0 (10m 46s):

So in verse four he writes, I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed this word is gonna be real important and confessed. This is what he says, Lord, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments. And he says this, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled. We have turned away from your commands and laws. He starts praying, but he, before he ever asks God to do something, now he's got a big ask, right? Let's get outta this place, be restored to Jerusalem that we can rebuild everything in the land that you promised to our ancestors in the past.

0 (11m 29s):

I, I want that he has a big request, but before he ever makes the request, he repents, he acknowledges his

own sin. And I think this is amazing cuz Daniel is a pretty amazing dude. He has been faithful for decades to God in spite not seeing things get better. He went at Nene, tries to kill him, then embellishes our tries to kill him. Like over and over all these bad things happen. He gets thrown in the lion's den by the person like he still is faithful. He prays three times a day without fail, even though it gets him thrown into the lion's den. Daniel takes a vegan lifestyle for three years, might be the hardest thing he did. He is faithful to God when many turn away from him.

0 (12m 13s):

And yet still he confesses his own sin. So no matter how good you think you are, you need to repent. You need to confess your sin. You have something wrong in you that you have done that you need to confess to God. You need to confess your sin. You know what they say is that a clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory. I'm serious. A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory. You have done something wrong, you have sinned, you have hurt other people, you've hurt yourself. You might not even be aware of it, but you have sinned and you need to confess that sin.

0 (12m 54s):

I've read a story in the news not too long ago and it was about this family outside of Pittsburgh that had an alarm clock stuck in their wall going off every day at the same time for over 13 years Every night at dinnertime, it was like six 50 or seven 50 depending on it was daylight savings, right? Every night. And they just got used to it for 13 years. They did nothing about it. This alarm clock, the the guy said in this news story, he's like, well, I was trying to like find where to, to put something in the wall. So I thought if I lower it down the alarm clock on a string, then I'll know like where to nail.

0 (13m 35s):

And he dropped it and lost it. Like stuck in his wall 13 years. Every night for a minute they heard that they would've had friends over, people over for dinner. Oh, just ignore it. It's not a big deal. We've learned to live with it. And I'm telling you this because that's what people do with their sin. You're just like, ah, it's not that big of a deal. Like, ah, everybody does that. My my dad did it, my grandpa did it, so of course I'm gonna do it. Like You just get used to this terrible stuff in your life. That story was, was in a new story that when national and, and somebody at an HVAC company saw it and they're like, are you kidding me?

0 (14m 19s):

So they went in for free and removed that after almost 14 years. They're like, let's get rid of this thing. Could have done it a long time ago. Took somebody else coming in and being like, you have a problem. It's enough. Okay, you have sin in your life and you need to confess it, need to examine your heart. Might be bad motives, but you've been doing something. Maybe it's been sitting against yourself, sitting against God. Quit pretending like you have it all together. We need to confess our sins. In Psalm 66 says, if I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

0 (15m 2s):

Did you know that unconfessed sin can prevent your prayers from being answered? If you want God to respond to your prayer, it starts with you and going on in the inside. It's not, you know, the, the way you hold your hands. It's not, am I, am I looking up at my kneeling? Like it, it's, it's not about that stuff. It's about what's going on inside of you. And have you confessed those things? Have I searched my heart? Is there any wicked in ways in it? And how could I confess those things? Even Daniel acknowledged his sin. You better acknowledge yours. You better acknowledge yours. But Daniel takes it a step farther. Not only does he confess his own sins, he confesses the sins of his own people.

0 (15m 45s):

Verse eight, look at this in verse eight it says, we and our kings are princes and our ancestors are covered with shame. Lord, because we have sinned against you in the scriptures, it tells us that that God's th this is an interesting thing. God's people had lived in Israel for about 490 years. And king after king sinned led God's people astray. They worshiped idols, they allowed adultery to happen. They allowed false worship, all this terrible sins to happen again and and God let them do it for 490 years. And then finally he said, enough, enough. And then for a period of 70 years, put them into consequences for their sin.

0 (16m 28s):

So the history of God's people. So that had happened for a long time for generations back, right? And yet Daniel sees all of that and he says, we have sinned. He was a teenager when this happened. Wasn't like he was a leader or a king or had any influence to stop the sin from happening from God's people. But he still confessed our sin. He said, we have done it. Our kings, our people, we have sinned. And I think that's really important for us. We have sinned and we need to own it. We can't just say, well, you know, it goes back generations. It does confess it. And we do that corporately together.

0 (17m 8s):

I think we need to confess the sins of our church that we have done things to hurt people. I believe we need to confess our sins as Christians. Let me tell you, the Christian Church has hurt a lot of people over the generations. A lot of people, we need to confess our sins. We need to confess our sins as a nation. We can't just be like, oh it was the Republicans. Oh it's the Democrats. Oh it's just those right wing people. Oh it's the media, the leftists. I'm like, no, no, no. We need to confess our sins as a people. That's what Daniel did. He teaches us that example. Nehemiah did the same thing. Like they can be like, oh we, we could just blame shift the whole time, put it on our ancestors, put it on the people that came, came before us.

0 (17m 50s):

But that's not the example that's set for us. We need to confess our sins we have done wrong. And this definitely means we can't blame shift or make ourselves the victims. Look at verse 11 with me. Daniel knew his Bible and he says all the stuff they've experienced. He says, therefore the curses and sworn judgements written in the law of Moses, the servant of God have been poured out on us because we have sinned against

you. Do you know what he's saying? He's referencing another part of the scripture. You guys are getting a whole testament lesson, right?

0 (18m 29s):

We got Daniel, we got Jeremiah, now he's going back to Moses in the book of Deuteronomy, the book of Deuteronomy. This was before they had made it into the land, okay? Before God brought them into the promised land and they were gonna live there and they were gonna have the prospering and all that good stuff. He's like, before that, let me tell you some rules. So when he gave him things like the 10 commandments, thou shall not murder, thou shall not commit adultery, he's like, this is how you should live. And in Deuteronomy he gave it to him a second time. That's what the word deuterio means. Second giving of the law. Deuteronomy gives them the law again to remind them. And if you read through Deuteronomy, especially in a chapter like Deuteronomy 28, which is a very, very long chapter, which is why we're not covering it today. But if you read that chapter on your own, there is a series of blessings that God promises for all who follow the law.

0 (19m 14s):

If you do this, good things will happen. If you do this, good things will happen. If you avoid doing that, sin, good things will happen. Blessings. But then at the end of the chapter is a series of curses. If you don't follow the law, these bad things will happen to you. You will have consequences. And there were consequences like I will remove you from the land that you will live as slaves in a foreign nation. This is hundreds of years before Babylon ever existed. God said, what's going to happen in the future? Blessings and curses. And if you choose to disobey, God is saying there will be consequences for your sin. There are consequences.

0 (19m 54s):

And God is is very patient with people 490 years. He let them live without the full extent of their consequences. But then it happened because sin has consequences. I mean it's the law of thermodynamics. If something happens, there's gonna be equal and opposite reaction, right? Every decision we make has consequences. No matter as hard as we try to avoid 'em. Every action we take, every sin we do has a consequence. It might be a delayed consequence, but it's still gonna happen. And I think in the delaying some of us forget, we're like, well my dad got away with it for so long, so I'll be okay. My friend seems to be going fine, living the way they are sleeping around, like it's probably okay for me and we see other people getting away with it, but maybe God just hasn't brought the consequences yet because there always are consequences.

0 (20m 46s):

We teach this to our kids and and if you are a parent, you've gotta know, you've gotta discipline your children. It says in the proverbs, if you don't discipline your kids, you hate them, use whatever discipline manner you want. But we have to discipline them because actions have consequences. We teach our kids you have done something wrong and this is the consequence for it. And here's the truth, if you don't

discipline your kids, someone's gonna discipline 'em. Now later, don't do it now. Someone's gonna do it later. Maybe you get expelled from school, you get fired from a job, you get thrown in prison because sin has consequences. Broken relationships, all the actions we take have consequences. And sin is the same way. So it doesn't matter if you're a teenager and you're like, well my dad did it, my grandparents did it, it's generations in our country.

0 (21m 31s):

No, it doesn't matter. We confess our sins. We don't blame shift to anyone. Our nation right now, our society is so much the victim mindset. Like other people did this to me. Oh, it's the way I was raised. Oh my mom wasn't there. I was in the foster care system. It still doesn't excuse our decisions. We can't blame it on our personality. So many people do this. Oh you know I'm Irish. It's like, no, okay, you can't drink like that. Okay, I'm Italian. Like that does not excuse it. We, we do this about our personality types. Oh, I'm just an Enneagram eight. No, you're a jerk. Okay, we, we have to look at these ex, we cannot excuse our sin for any reason.

0 (22m 12s):

We have to own it and accept that we have sinned and confess it. I say this whenever I do marriage counseling. So if you ever come to me like now you know what you're gonna get, okay? No matter how bad the stuff is that the other person has done and I've sat in some bad doozies of conversations, doesn't matter what they do, I still look at the other person and I say, and how have you contributed? Takes two to tango. Always. It might be 1% and the other person did 99% of evil. But what's your 1% that you can contribute? Couples argue with me. They, they're like, no, no, no. They're the one who cheated on me. They're the one who did this. They're the one who who's wasting all our money on booze. Like, no, no. What did you contribute?

0 (22m 52s):

There's something, even if it's 1%, you've gotta own that 1% and confess it. If you're a couple right now, think about it. Maybe you've loved the kids so much that you've ignored your spouse, that's might be the 1%. But we all have sin in our life and we must confess those things. And we can't blame it on other people. We have to own it. Even from the past. From the past. I can't just say like, oh well sure the Christian Church hurt you, but it wasn't my church. It was like the Roman Catholics that did that stuff. So the Southern Baptists that do it that way, we have to confess our sins in our country.

0 (23m 33s):

We can't just say, oh, all that bad stuff that happened like that was, you know, pre Jim Crow, right? That was pre-civil war. Those were just the southerners who did that. I'm a northerner. Like do we try to do this kind of stuff? I would never do that today. Like no, we confess our sins and the sins that have gone before us. That's what we're called to do. That's what Daniel gives us an example of. We confess our sin and then and only then will we be able to make it past. So I'm telling you guys this, what's your sin? What is it in your life that



you need to confess? I think Taylor Swift got it right on this one.

0 (24m 13s):

It's me. Hi, I'm the problem, it's me, right? Can I get an amen? It's me, I'm the problem. Quit trying to blame it on other people. I'm the problem. It's me. We need to confess our sins. First John one, eight tells us if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. You might be the most righteous person since Daniel. It doesn't matter. You have sin and you need to confess it. You're only deceiving yourself if you think otherwise. Your motives are impure, your thoughts are sinful, your actions definitely are.

0 (24m 57s):

Confess those sins. If you have any trouble with it, just like ask your spouse if you're married, like I'm sure they can find some stuff for you or ask God. It's amazing how much he'll reveal to you when you ask him to reveal that. Confess your sins. And once you've done that, once you've convinced your own sins, confess the sins of our people, of our nation, then we can allow, we can put that request before God. Verse 18, Daniel says, give here our God and here open your eyes. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

0 (25m 38s):

And in verse 19 he says, Lord, listen, Lord forgive Lord hear and act for your sake. My God. Do not delay because your city and your people bear your name. After all that confession, finally Daniel's crying out with his request. Now he's saying, help answer my prayer. I want a response to this thing that I'm longing for. So Daniel's the example of this, right? What's the type of prayer that we need to pray if we wanna response? God responds to repentance. To repentance. And I just love how Daniel cries out here because even after that he's humbled himself, he's repented, he's out, sack cloth, ashes, fasting.

0 (26m 19s):

If after all that he doesn't say, I am such a good repentant follower. So you should answer my prayers. What does he say? He says in your mercy, not because I'm good but because you are good. Mercy is God giving us something that we don't deserve? It's completely undeserved. That's why none of us can be like, well, well I've been going to church faithfully for years now every week, perfect attendance. And when I go, I tithe. Well maybe not fully tithe, but I tip every week. I've been faithful with my giving and I'm serving every other week. God, why haven't you answered my prayer? We have no grounds to say that God owes us nothing but in his mercy He wants to give us everything.

0 (27m 8s):

So even after all that repentance, he's calling on God's favor, on his mercy to help me, help us. We don't deserve it. Still help us. See, God responds to repentance. He responds to repentance. So Daniel gives us that great example of how, how we should repent. But then what's amazing about the second half of the chapter starting in verse 20, is that we get to have this sneak peek behind the scenes now about how God

responds to this prayer of repentance. I don't know if this happens so clearly anywhere else in the entire Bible, but, but here we get to see behind the scenes. And I want you to see this in verse 21 it says, W Daniel Wrights, while I was still in prayer, I'm in the midst of praying.

0 (27m 51s):

While I was still in prayer. Gabriel, the man I had seen in the vision earlier came to me in Swift flight, Gabriel, you might remember from last week, was one of the chief angels. And here he is flying quickly, coming as fast as he can swiftly to answer this prayer. And in verse 22 it says, he instructed me and said to me, Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. In verse 23, as soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you for you are highly esteemed. See that? It's like you prayed and boom, I'm going. God put the word out and I'm bringing it to you. Angels are messengers for God and they come to minister to us.

0 (28m 33s):

God is sending immediately an angel coming and he's flying as fast as he can. He's coming because God has an answer to this prayer immediately. See, God responds swiftly to our prayers. He does. He responds swiftly. There are some prayers that you'll pray that will be answered like that. You want an example? One John one, nine. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purifies from all unrighteousness. When you confess your sins, you're forgiven. You don't have to wait around for it. Immediate, instantaneous. There are other prayers that God sends an angel immediately.

0 (29m 15s):

You might not ever see it. I think this is part in the Bible just so we can see a little glimpse. It tells us in Hebrews chapter 13 that sometimes angels come to us incognito. You're not even aware of it. You might have had an angel encounter this morning and had no idea. God's supernatural beings are out there helping us all the time. And we don't know they're invisible. It's the human eye. It, it might also be something that an is answered quickly. I, I've seen this, I've seen prayers over people and the person is healed like that, that all of a sudden their depression is gone. I I've, I've seen people had said, I, I'm broke. I have no money. God, I need some help. And boom, that day there was money in their bank account.

0 (29m 55s):

God does answer prayers swiftly. He answers them instantaneously. But what I love about this passage is that here it is both swiftly and slowly. And I think that's how it is all the time. I think all the time God hears your prayer immediately and maybe even start something into action. But we might not see the response for a while. Even in the very next chapter, God's gonna send another angel to Daniel and that Daniel is stopped for 21 days. I have to come back next week to find out what happens there. Even angels can encounter opposition. So there are some things, God immediately sends the word out, immediately sends the help.

0 (30m 38s):

But it takes a while for the circumstances to come around. It's like first Domino's getting pushed right when the prayer is asked. But then there's another domino and another one. And sometimes that happens with circumstances, with situations. It seems like it's taking forever. When is this gonna be answered? And sometimes God's response is slow, definitely slower than we want, but it works. And we're gonna see this in just a second. You know, I, I think the amazing thing about God, whether he is acting swiftly or slowly, is that he hears you. He responds to repentance. Has anybody ever tried to call Facebook or any of the big tech companies?

0 (31m 19s):

Seriously? Have you ever done this there? I just read a new story about this. There's no phone number for like any of them. Like they were trying to, YouTube was the only one that even had a phone number, right? You can't find it anywhere. I tried to call Facebook a few years ago cause I needed some help. You should try it. I, I dare you to. Okay. There's no phone number, there's no one to help you. I'm not exaggerating at all. And I, I remember this because in 2020 our church had a different name at the time. Do you remember this? It was called Stapleton Church and it turns out Stapleton was in the kkk, alright? But we were named after the neighborhood after named after the airport and we're like, oh shoot, the neighborhood changes their name. We gotta change our name too. We voted as a church, we're gonna change our name to arise, which I love.

0 (31m 59s):

It's an awesome name, isn't it? And we voted, we changed the name, we changed the name legally and then we tried to change the name on Facebook and we couldn't, I'm not kidding. And I, we tried everything. We tried every channel we're sending messages through every means we possibly can. We were eating on forums. How do we possibly do it? I started like sending messages like daily and they would be like, you guys are racist. There's gonna be violence against our church because you can't, won't let us change our name. Like I was just like hoping maybe it would like get caught in the algorithm and then get like bumped up the cue or something. No response at all. Zero. Like the biggest companies in our world can't respond and answer the phone. There's no phone number.

0 (32m 40s):

Finally, I remembered that I had a friend from high school who works for Facebook. I sent her a private message and within a few hours our name was changed. I'm not kidding because it doesn't matter what you know, it matters who you know matters, who you know. And we know the God of the universe who hears every single prayer and wants to help us and wants to respond to the repentant. So we need to go to him sometimes swiftly, boom, answer. Sometimes he'll set it in motion. But I still think even then it's like very swift and then it's like it's a while before we see the answer and because that's actually what's gonna happen next. Gabriel, this angel is talking to him and in verse 24 he says this, he says, 70 sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

0 (33m 40s):

Now it's not totally clear what's going on here, in fact it's very fuzzy. But it sounds a lot like what happened with Jesus. An end to sin, an atonement for all sin and all things to come and to bring in everlasting righteousness. Well if Daniel was praying this in five 50 bc, do you know when Jesus came zero B ad? Right? Somewhere around there we're not exactly sure when he was born. 33 ad when he died. It's interesting this time period, the the angel's like 70 sevens. We're not sure if that's weeks or years. Most people think it refers to years.

0 (34m 21s):

But then it's like, okay, 77. So is that 77 year period, that's 490 years. It's a lot of people think and a lot of people try to do this math. Exactly. And, and the math doesn't work as well as you hope. Hope it do. But it's interesting because that was almost the same timeframe, 550 BC to 33 80. Some people mark it from when the letter went out from a later Persian emperor that they could go back and rebuild the temple. And it's almost exactly 490 years. Now, I don't know if we're actually supposed to do the math, but it's supposed to. What what God is telling Daniel here is that it's going to be generations. 70 years might be the span of a generation. So we're talking seven generations of people living into old age before everything will be fixed.

0 (35m 4s):

That's a very slow answer to prayer. Daniel in his eighties won't see it. We don't know if he ever got to go back to Jerusalem. The Jews started going back within a few years of this. And then it was a few decades before that, before the temple ever got rebuilt. Daniel May have died without ever seeing the promised land again. It wasn't in his lifetime. But little did he know that God wasn't like, I'm not just gonna reset up the temple. I'm gonna bring an end to sacrifice forever by the final atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He didn't know that. But that's so much better than anything Daniel could have imagined. So when God is slow like he is, he has something even better for us.

0 (35m 49s):

It takes a while, but he answers and his answers are way better than what we could have imagined. Let's keep reading now to one of the most complicated passage in the entire Bible. You ready? I want you guys to focus. This is seriously one of the most confusing passages in the entire Bible. So I want you to focus, I'm gonna read this whole last few verses, verse 25. The angel continues know and understand this from the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the anointed one, the ruler comes, there will be seven sevens and 62 sevens. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench. But in times of trouble, after the 62 sevens, the anointed one will be put to death and will have nothing.

0 (36m 32s):

The people of the ruler who will come, will destroy the city and the sanctuary, the end will come like a flood war will continue into the end and declarations have been decreed. You guys still paying attention? Verse 27,

he will confirm a covenant with many for one seven. You guys got all the sevens. Now in the middle of that seven he will put an end to sacrifice an offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. Okay? You guys have now interpreted all that you can go home and be happy, right? Okay. I studied real hard on this passage guys, and I can tell you that for every commentary you read, there will be a different interpretation.

0 (37m 15s):

You can read 400 Bible scholars with multiple PhDs reading this and there will be 400 different interpretations of what this means. Seriously, one of the most confusing passages in the entire Bible. And I think it's interesting, it's like God is acting swiftly, then he promises I'm gonna act slowly with something even better. And now he says, and my ways are higher than your ways. You're not gonna understand it. You're not gonna figure this all out. You guys can try to do the math. People have, there's charts you can find online and and and seriously there's, there's some people who look at this and they're like, oh, all of this was fulfilled before Jesus came in 167 to 164 BC like we talked about last week with Antiochus Epiphanys coming into the temple, setting up the statue of Zeus.

0 (37m 59s):

Boom. That was it. It's all been fulfilled already. Some people interpret this all happening with Jesus, that Jesus came, died on the cross. He's the one man who dies. And then in 70 AD within one generation the temple is destroyed by the Romans. No more sacrifices for all time. The temple still hasn't been rebuilt. Maybe that's the fulfillment of the prophecy. Some people think, no, actually this hasn't happened yet. It's going to happen in the future when Jesus comes again. Or some combination therein in my guess is it's some kind of a combo that, that it does refer to Jesus. I don't see how this can't refer to Jesus with the atonement and the one who dies like it. It seems pretty obvious that it's Jesus it.

0 (38m 39s):

It seems that that might throw in some of that stuff that happened in 70 AD when the temple got destroyed by the Romans. I also wonder if some of this stuff's gonna happen again at the end. That's my best guess. But I don't know, I don't think anybody knows. People way smarter than me don't know. So why is that passage in the scripture? Well, I think for Daniel and for us, we need to understand that God does respond to repentance, but his ways are always higher than our ways. We might not understand this. Someday we'll look back and we're like, oh cool, God, that's cool how you did those sevens. I didn't see it then, but now I get it. We might look back someday, but right now we just need to know his ways are higher than our ways that his ways are better than our ways that he has a good plan to respond to every single one of our prayers.

0 (39m 29s):

So whatever we ask, we know that his answer is better than even what we could have asked for. I know this because our God is a good father and a good dad knows how to get good gifts to his kids. I can tell you Kanan right now, who's three obsesses about submarines right now. He got way into 'em really quick. He

loves submarines. So Melissa bought him this submarine. He was so excited to get it in the mail. He, he opened it up and, and then within one day that submarine broke every, he's gotten a toy like that. You know what I'm talking about? He was devastated because his submarine broke within one day of playing with it and he was asking for another submarine. He's like, when am I gonna get my my new submarine? Can I get a new one?

0 (40m 9s):

Can I get a new one? Can I get the same? And and he wanted the same submarine again, but we're like, we're not gonna get him the same submarine again. We don't want another one that's gonna break in one day. So we like just wait a little bit. We're gonna look and and find a submarine that's a little bit stronger, more durable and you're gonna have to wait cuz we're gonna have to order it. Even Amazon can't get it to us tomorrow. And we did. And just yesterday we got him a new submarine that that scene is built like a tank. Okay? He's gonna have it 20 years from now. He's gonna bring it to college with him in his, in his dorm. Okay, this, this is indestructible because we don't want him to have another submarine. He's gonna break. There's a church focused on one thing and it's like a minor thing. But I hope that as good parents, like as a good father, that I can get a better gift than what he's asking for.

0 (40m 53s):

I just want another submarine. I want the same one again. Like, no, no, no, let's get a better one. Let me tell you, God has a better submarine for you. He has something better for you than you could ask for. It might not make sense right now. Why can't I get that thing? But he has something even better planned for you. He's the good father. And Daniel would've had no clue that God would love him and God's people so much that he would send his own son to come and walk among him. Not just another prophet, but the prophet who would live the perfect sinless life that none of us could ever do. And still that son of God, Jesus himself, would die and suffer the consequences for sin that we committed talking about owning our sin.

0 (41m 41s):

Jesus did that. He who had no sin became sin in our place so that by him we might become the righteousness of God. And Jesus suffered on the cross. He died in our place as the final atoning sacrifice once for all for our sin. So that when we confess our sins and we receive his gift of his death on the cross, we are forgiven once. And for all Your repentance brings the greatest response you could have ever imagined. God responds to repentance and he offers something so much better than you could have ever imagined.

0 (42m 22s):

That's what he did for Daniel. That's what he did through Jesus Christ and what he's going to do today for you. So today is a day that we need to repent. I'm a sinner, your sinner. We have sinned as a church, as Christians, as a nation, and we need to confess our sins and God will turn, hear from heaven and heal our land. So I want us all to stand right now. We're gonna have a little bit different response than we normally do

because I want us to remember how deep God's love is for us. His mercy that he sees us in our sinful ways and wants to love us, wants to forgive us.

0 (43m 7s):

We watched the Chronicles of Narnia, the line, the witch in the wardrobe last night for the first time with our kids. And Melissa was explaining to McKinley who the lion was. That the lion Aslan represents Jesus. And Edmund, who is the traitor, who lied and sinned and turned on his own family and on Aslan represents us, the sinners. And though Edmund deserves to die, if you've seen the movie or read the books, Aslan Jesus goes in his place offering his life as a sacrifice to atone for his sins so that Edmond the sinner can be forgiven and set free.

0 (43m 47s):

And that's what Jesus did for you on the cross. And that's why we need to repent and humbly cry out for his mercy because he loves us. And in his mercy and in his love, which is so wide and fast, he will forgive you for anything you've done, past, present, or future. He will heal you and he will heal our land. So cry out in confession right now and as we sing, let's remember how deep the fathers love is for us.

3 (44m 39s):

How deep the fathers love for us. How don't that he his treasure, how great chosen one.

0 (45m 40s):

So I want you to take a moment right now, right where you are online and in person and it's time to confess our sins, our individual sins. Search your heart, confess them to God right now,

2 (46m 22s):

Lord

0 (46m 22s):

Jesus, I confess that I'm a sinner. I'm not just the lead pastor of this church, but the lead sinner. And I hope I can be the lead repentant as well. Lord Jesus, I have been way too quick to anger. I confess that forgive me in pride. I have thought of myself way too highly and put myself in your place far too many times. Forgive me. Forgive me for those I've hurt. Lord Jesus, forgive us. We are sinners. And now let's take a moment and confess our sins for the sins of our church and for the sins of Christians in general.

0 (47m 30s):

Jesus, we confess that we as Christians have sinned. Our church has heard people, we have made decisions that have caused people unnecessary pain. And Lord Jesus, as Christians, we have heard way too many people, Lord Jesus, we have heard people of color. We have heard women and children, we confess that Lord Jesus, we confess how we've heard so many in our minorities, Lord Jesus, forgive us now

let's take a moment and confess the sins of our nation.

0 (48m 27s):

Lord, forgive our nation. It wasn't the fault of Republicans or Democrats on the left or the right Lord. We have all sinned. Our our, our nation has suffered so many. We confess our sin of racism, of nationalism, how we've hurt minorities and women in our country that we've heard other nations. Lord Jesus, we confess that we have not treated the unborn like we should. And Lord Jesus, we confess that we have sinned against the immigrants and the refugees. And Lord Jesus, we ask right now, we confess, we turn to you our wicked ways.

0 (49m 8s):

It's not our presidents, it's not our leaders. It's every single one of us. And we confess that we are a sinful nation. Forgive us, turn, hear our voice and come and heal our land. Lord Jesus, we need you. Would your Holy Spirit pour out on this church and in our city? Lord, we're seeing you move in places like Kentucky. We want you to move here. We want to feel your movement in the city of Denver, in a state of Colorado that we might see true repentance, true turning back to you Lord Jesus, that you would come and heal our nation, heal our land Lord Jesus, heal our land, we cry out to you.

0 (49m 57s):

Now I wanna offer an opportunity because I know there are some people in here who are not followers of Jesus. And if you want the grace and mercy and forgiveness of our God, you must make a decision to follow Jesus and make Him your Lord and Savior. So I'm gonna give you the opportunity to respond to this prayer after me. If you're already a follower of Jesus, say this prayer out loud. You have courage to somebody who needs to pray it for the first time. So please repeat after me. Dear God, I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Save me. Forgive me in faith I declare Jesus is Lord, give me the gift of eternal life.

0 (50m 42s):

Fill me with your spirit. Help me to follow you for the rest of my

2 (50m 49s):

Life.

0 (50m 51s):

Now we wanna celebrate with you. So everybody's gonna close their eyes right now, but if you made that decision today for the first time, we wanna see your hand in the air on the count of three to celebrate with you. 1, 2, 3. Put that hand high up in the air. We would love to celebrate with you if you made that decision. If you're online, go to rise Denver slash follow. Lord Jesus, we turn to you and we confess we need you. We will not deceive ourselves. We need the truth. Set us free from our sin in Jesus name. All right, let's keep singing ashamed.



0 (51m 49s):

I hear my

2 (51m 51s):

Marking voice

3 (51m 54s):

Call out among the,

0 (52m 1s):

It was

3 (52m 2s):

My sin that him

2 (52m 8s):

Until it

0 (52m 9s):

Was

3 (52m 10s):

A

2 (52m 11s):

Accomplished

0 (52m 14s):

He's dying

3 (52m 16s):

Breath

0 (52m 16s):

Has brought me life. I know that it

2 (52m 44s):

Is.

0 (52m 51s):

God promises us that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us of all unrighteousness. You are forgiven right now instantaneously in this moment for all your sins, past, present, and future because of Jesus. And we are so grateful that on the cross his last words were, it is finished, it's done, it's accomplished. Go and sin no more let's boast in his cross.

3 (53m 30s):

I will not boast in anything. No gift, snow, power. No. But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resu why I came from his. I can give an

2 (54m 9s):

Answer,

3 (54m 12s):

But this I my

2 (54m 16s):

Heart,

3 (54m 21s):

My why should I came from his

2 (54m 29s):

Reward.

3 (54m 32s):

I cannot

2 (54m 33s):

Give,

3 (54m 38s):

But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have my

2 (54m 51s):

But

3 (54m 52s):

This I know it. Wounds have my.