

A Church in Crisis



Week Seven

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Daniel 9:1–19

A FAULTY CHURCH?

In the twenty-first century, the faults and foibles of the church have made individuals, both within and without the church, jaded and cynical about the church and institutions in general. There is no question that the charlatans and hypocritical leaders have in many ways caused a black eye to the church's reputation. There is the gut reaction to dissociate oneself and move on; after all, we all have our own problems and issues.

We find in Daniel's prayer, however, an example of not dissociating from a church that is messing up. Instead, the first half of Daniel 9 reveals a stunning identification with a church that is in crisis. Rather than moving away and being indifferent to the church in crisis, Daniel moves toward it and identifies with it on a profound level. Daniel's prayer portrays a vivid example of how we can respond to a faulty church.



inScribe

Write out Daniel 9:1–19 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Daniel 9:1–7. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Daniel 9:1–19. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Have you ever been put off by the faults of people in the church?

How does Daniel's prayer impact you with respect to the faults of the church?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/dan7-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Which area of prayer is needed more in your relationship with God?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/dan7-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Zechariah 1:12-17
- Zechariah 7:5
- Jeremiah 25:1-10
- Jeremiah 29:10
- 2 Chronicles 36:20-21
- Matthew 13:24-30
- Revelation 12:13-17



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Daniel 9:1-19?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 9:1-19.



Where do you see Jesus in
Daniel 9:1–19?



What is He saying to you through
these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently
or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



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Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study
of the chapter, what are
personal applications you are
convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in church life
participation and attendance?



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/dan7-7

A large grid of dotted lines for writing answers to the questions above.



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What is the general attitude of culture to the faults of the church?

What is the general attitude of Christians to the faults of the church?

When your local or global church is in crisis, what is your natural response?

What are ways in which we can constructively respond to the faults of God's church?

How do you think that Jesus feels about the faults of the church?

What do you think Jesus' attitude is about our own personal faults?

Why do you think Daniel fasted for His church?

Where did Daniel's love for His church come from?