

SALEM HEIGHTS

# THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION  
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

“Hope comes from understanding God’s promises and trusting those promises. Taking God at His word, when even at times, circumstances seem to be taking one away from that which was promised, is hope. Daniel had that kind of hope. Imagine being a young man and having a powerful foreign army come and take you away. Imagine all you had was God’s word that had originally warned you that they were coming and God’s word telling you how things would all work out. Being warned and then having it happen, should cause a person to then look to what God says is coming next - and Daniel did that. As Daniel grew old, that great person of God was looking forward to every promise being kept. May we have hope like that.” - Pastor Matt MacCollin

“Hope is faith in the future tense.” - Peter Anderson

## Daniel 9:1-19

### Daniel’s Prayer for His People

**9** In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as* the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, *namely*, seventy years. <sup>3</sup>So I gave my attention to the Lord God, to seek *Him by* prayer and pleading, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. <sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed, and said, “Oh, Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and faithfulness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned, we have done wrong, and acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. <sup>6</sup>Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our leaders, our fathers, and all the people of the land. <sup>7</sup>“Righteousness *belongs* to You, Lord, but to us open shame, as *it is* this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. <sup>8</sup>Open shame *belongs* to us, LORD, to our kings, our leaders, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. <sup>9</sup>To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against Him; <sup>10</sup>and we have not obeyed the voice of the

LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup> Indeed, all Israel has violated Your Law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has gushed forth on us, along with the oath which is written in the Law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against Him. <sup>12</sup> So He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great disaster; for under the entire heaven there has not been done *anything* like what was done in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our wrongdoing and giving attention to Your truth. <sup>14</sup> So the LORD has kept the disaster in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice. <sup>15</sup> “And now, Lord, our God, *You* who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and made a name for Yourself, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. <sup>16</sup> Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the wrongdoings of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* an object of taunting to all those around us. <sup>17</sup> So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his pleas, and for Your sake, Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup> My God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our pleas before You based on any merits of our own, but based on Your great compassion. <sup>19</sup> Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?
2. What does it teach us about God?
3. What does it teach us about man?
4. What should we do in light of this passage?