

God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

Chapter 9 — The Vision of Israel's Future — Part I

- I. Daniel's Foundation in the Word of God, 1-2
- II. Daniel's Petition to the God of the Word, 3-19

- III. Daniel's Provision from the God of the Word, 20-27

- A. The Provision of God, 20-23

V 21 — The English phrase "extreme weariness," translated "in swift flight" by some translations, is a Hebrew phrase and the root may either be "to fly" (NIV, KJV, GNB, NKJV, NRSV, Theodotion, Lacocque), or "to be weary or faint" (NASB, BDB { F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* }, Goldingay, Keil). The root word seems best understood as a combination of the preposition "with" or "in" and the word for "weariness, faintness." If correct, the translation would then be "having been wearied with weariness," meaning "in extreme weariness," either referring to the angel being weary from flight (which is impossible) or as a reference to Daniel's condition. While Scripture portrays some angels as having wings and flying, our text says Gabriel appeared to Daniel in the form of a "man," and men do not have wings.

- B. The Prophecy of God, 24-27
 - 1. Six Blessings to Come, 24
 - 2. Seventy Weeks to Completion, 25-27

Pleading the Promises of God

We frequently pray, even citing Scripture, 1 John 5.14-15, ¹⁴ "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

We then sit around wondering if we've prayed "according to His will," and, if we don't receive an answer, well, that's where we think we've probably missed the mark.

A suggestion for prayer is "Pleading the Promises of God." By this is meant, pray for what God has either promised or commanded. He never asks us to do anything He has not enabled us to do, so His commands are certain to those who are obedient to Him. His promises are as certain as God Himself so we can rely on them being fulfilled. The Word of God is filled with God's Promises and God's direction for His blessings in life. Pray, pleading the promises of God, and be prepared for His powerful answers!

Don't miss in this present passage that as soon as Daniel prayed, according to God's Promises, being obedient to what God had commanded, the power of God was unfolding His provision, protection, power, and His perspective to strengthen Daniel, and all who believe!