

Title: Algebra Jesus Style - Daniel 9 1-12

Read:

¹⁻⁴ "Darius, son of Ahasuerus, born a Mede, became king over the land of Babylon. In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, was meditating on the Scriptures that gave, according to the Word of God to the prophet Jeremiah, the number of years that Jerusalem had to lie in ruins, namely, seventy. I turned to the Master God, asking for an answer—praying earnestly, fasting from meals, wearing rough penitential burlap, and kneeling in the ashes. I poured out my heart, baring my soul to God, my God: ⁴⁻⁸ "O Master, great and august God. You never waver in your covenant commitment, never give up on those who love you and do what you say. Yet we have sinned in every way imaginable. We've done evil things, rebelled, dodged and taken detours around your clearly marked paths. We've turned a deaf ear to your servants the prophets, who preached your Word to our kings and leaders, our parents, and all the people in the land. You have done everything right, Master, but all we have to show for our lives is guilt and shame, the whole lot of us—people of Judah, citizens of Jerusalem, Israel at home and Israel in exile in all the places we've been banished to because of our betrayal of you. Oh yes, God, we've been exposed in our shame, all of us—our kings, leaders, parents—before the whole world. And deservedly so, because of our sin. ⁹⁻¹² "Compassion is our only hope, the compassion of you, the Master, our God, since in our rebellion we've forfeited our rights. We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your servants the prophets. All of us in Israel ignored what you said. We defied your instructions and did what we pleased. And now we're paying for it: The solemn curse written out plainly in the revelation to God's servant Moses is now doing its work among us, the wages of our sin against you. You did to us and our rulers what you said you would do: You brought this catastrophic disaster on us, the worst disaster on record—and in Jerusalem!

Think:

So it seems that God warned these people that if they behaved in a certain way the good stuff wasn't going to happen. I guess that also means that if they behaved in another way then good stuff would happen. It doesn't matter what you believe, your actions will have an effect. It doesn't matter if people are Christians or not, it's true that there are consequences to all our actions. Some people call it Karma, others think it's written in the stars, but the reality is everything we do will have some effect. That's why we needed Jesus to come to Earth and die on the cross for us. I don't know about you but I seem to be able to think about how my actions are affecting others for a short while and then one day I forget. The day I forget seems to always be the day that what I do hurts others. That's why Jesus came, so I can say sorry God and know that he will forgive me. You see I make mistakes, you make mistakes, but Jesus is pure forever. God knew, that there were going to be days when we stuff up, God knew that it doesn't matter how hard we try sometimes what we do would hurt others, and he gave us an equation to resolve it. Jesus plus me or you saying sorry equals forgiveness.

Pray:

Father I know what I do affects others, please help me make that a positive effect. Amen.

Action:

Think of a way that you can effect a mate at school or college this week in a positive way and go-ahead and do it. Cheerio.