

# Sermon Notes: May 17, 2026

## Daniel 9 – Stand in the Gap

Scripture Reading: Daniel 9:1–4, 17–19 (NIV)

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### Big Idea

When we see the brokenness of the world, God calls His people not to stand in judgment—but to **stand in the gap through repentance, intercession, and trust in His mercy.**

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## 1. Seeing Clearly: A Spiritual Problem, Not Just a Cultural One

Daniel 9:1–2

Daniel recognizes that Israel's exile is not just political—it is spiritual.

The issue is not only what happened **around them**, but what happened **within them**.

**2 Kings 17:33; Jeremiah 29:10–14**

- God's people didn't abandon Him—they **compromised** with culture.
- Syncretism = blending faith with the values of the world.

### Key Truth:

We don't understand our world correctly until we interpret it through **God's Word**, not the other way around.

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## 2. Right Response: From Awareness to Repentance

Daniel's response is not outrage—but **repentance**.

He turns to God in prayer, fasting, and confession.

**Daniel 9:4–6; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

- Daniel says **"we," not "they."**
- He identifies with the sins of the people.
- He foreshadows Christ—who would ultimately stand in our place.

### Key Truth:

The holiest response to sin is not condemnation—it is **confession and humility before God.**

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## 3. Standing in the Gap: Intercession Over Outrage

Daniel doesn't excuse sin—but he **carries it before God**.

He appeals not to human righteousness, but to God's character.

**Daniel 9:4–19; Luke 19:41–42**

- God is righteous, merciful, and faithful.
- Daniel's confidence is in **who God is**, not who Israel is.
- Like Jesus, he is moved with **compassion**, not disgust.

### Key Truth:

We are called to stand before God **on behalf of others**, not above them in judgment.

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## 4. God's Answer: Bigger Than We Expect

Daniel 9:20–23

God answers Daniel immediately—but not narrowly.

Daniel prays about exile—God speaks about **redemption**.

**Isaiah 55:9**

- God's answers are often **wider and deeper** than our requests.

- What we see as the problem is often only part of the story.

**Key Truth:**

We pray specific prayers—but God answers with **eternal purposes**.

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## 5. The Greater Plan: From Exile to Redemption

### Daniel 9:24–27

God reveals a plan far beyond returning to the land—it is about **dealing with sin completely**.

**Deuteronomy 29:29; Leviticus 25:8; Luke 4:18–19; Matthew 18:22**

- “Seventy sevens” points to completeness and fulfillment.
- This is not just restoration—it is **atonement and righteousness**.
- The “Anointed One” points ultimately to **Jesus**.

**Key Truth:**

God’s plan is not just to fix circumstances—but to **redeem sin and restore all things**.

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## 6. How Should We Live?

- **Recognize Where We Are**

**1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20; John 17:16**

We are **exiles**—this world is not our home.

- **Repent**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

God’s call begins with **His people returning to Him**.

- **Stand in the Gap**

**1 Timothy 2:1–4**

Pray for others—neighbors, leaders, even enemies.

- **Trust God’s Plan**

- The “Anointed One” (Jesus) was **cut off**—yet that was God’s plan.
- The cross looked like defeat—but it was **redemption**.

**Key Truth:**

God can bring redemption out of even the darkest moments.

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## Final Challenge

When you look at the world around you...

- Do you respond with **outrage**
- Or with **intercession**?

**Stand in the gap.**

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## Final Reminder

Our hope is not that we become faithful enough—  
but that **God is merciful enough**.

**Psalms 103:10–12**

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## **Discussion / Reflection Questions**

1. Where do you see subtle compromise shaping your faith?
2. Is your first response to sin outrage or repentance?
3. Who is God calling you to “stand in the gap” for right now?
4. How does trusting God’s character change how you see people?
5. What is one intentional step you can take this week to intercede for others?