

Title: Making yourself thirsty

Theme verse: 2Ch 7:13 *If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Text: Dan 9:1 *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Dan 9:3 And I **set** my face unto the Lord God, to seek by **prayer** (this word means intercession.) and **supplications**, with **fasting**, and **sackcloth**, and **ashes**: Dan 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;*

Set = to give yourself

Intercession = mediating between two parties.

Supplications = to move to favor by petitions

with **fasting**, and **sackcloth**, and **ashes**:

- **What is the point of fasting, sackcloth and ashes? What would be the modern equivalent?** (I looked at a lot of texts on fasting and sackcloth. **Fasting and sackcloth seem to represent the intersection of humility and mourning.**

- **Example**, Psalms 35:13-14 plainly says you humble yourself with fasting. Sackcloth is unrefined fabric. The other ingredient in Daniel 9:3 is ashes (dust on the head - Nehemiah 9:1). This combination not only represents humble dress and appearance, they are indications of mourning. Matthew 9:14-15.

- **Fasting, sackcloth and ashes show an extreme attitude of "smallness" when you come to God.)**

Psa 35:13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. Psa 35:14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

Neh 9:1 *Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. Neh 9:2 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. Neh 9:3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.*

Mat 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? Mat 9:15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Intro: Good can bring trials with the purpose of drawing us to Him.

2Ch 7:13 KJV If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

2Co 12:9 KJV And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Rev 16:10-11 KJV 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

God sends us things with the intent to draw us to him.