Daniel 9: 19-23. KJV, “O Lord**, hear;** O Lord, **forgive**; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and **confessing my sin** and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was **speaking in prayer**, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; **for thou art greatly beloved:** therefore **understand** the matter, and consider the vision.”

**I love the Bible! I adore God’s Word! But, I must say, in all honesty, I do have my favorite “guys” inside its pages. Top of the list, right up to the sky, is my hero Daniel! Taken captive as a teen, placed into the pagan court of King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, and never to return to his home again, my “champion” of the Old Testament, Daniel, takes center stage in faithfulness, devotion, trustworthiness, loyalty, constancy, reliability, dedication, dependability, and commitment. The ninth chapter of his book, probably one of the most important in all the scripture, is a snapshot of prayer and prophecy and their importance.**

(Written centuries before Jesus’ birth, the book of Daniel was validated in the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls decades ago!)

 **First of all, Daniel asks forgiveness (for himself and for Israel), and then he is assisted by one of the “big guys” of the Bible, Gabriel!! To aid and to enlighten, Gabriel tells Daniel that he is “greatly beloved”** and that he can **“understand” God’s plan! It is the same for us today! We can pray, ask for understanding, and expect that heaven itself will “lend a hand!” Yeah, God! Yeah, Holy Scripture! Your task today, this “Find the Truth” Friday, is to re-read Daniel’s words. Take them seriously into your heart. And, then, understand that the “beloved of God” speaks volumes to us in the 21st century. Echo his words, “**O Lord**, hear;** O Lord, **forgive**; O Lord, **hearken** and **do.”** And, then, know that you, too, are greatly loved by our Father in heaven! Act like a **“Greatly Loved Daniel”** today, as you confess your sins and pray!

**It is always, because of Him,**

**lindi**

**Dear Lord God, thank You for Daniel! Thank You for Your Holy Word that teaches us great truths. Help me be “tuned into genuineness, dedication, and faithfulness. Show me how to study, research, and understand the “deep things” of Your Kingdom. Allow me to grow and mature in Your Word. Today, dear Father, be with the uncertainty that is surrounding our world, the rumors of wars, the inconsistent news, the troubling turmoil, and the scary circumstances. Make my faith stronger! Thank You for the promise of Jesus! Be with those that are sick and sad. I love You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.**