

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH
2021-2022 (March 30, 2022)
“PRAYING WHEN UNDERSTANDING IS NEEDED”
DANIEL 9:1-19

I. THE SETTING FOR THIS PRAYER (Check which one's apply to you)

A. Daniel is a BELIEVER in a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP to God

B. Daniel is STUDYING the Word of God Daniel 9:2

1. He is committed to the Bible as the Word of God

2. He trusts the promises, statements, judgments found in God's Word; he is not simply curious; he believes they are explicit and can be understood

3. He believes God does what He says He will do

C. Daniel is a son of Abraham who is not permitted to live in the promised land (His conditions are not favorable but he is still living by faith in God and blessed by God's grace)

1. The promised land is the place of blessing and fellowship; he is not promised that where he lives now

2. He is in exile because of the disobedience of his people to the revealed will of God

3. Though he is living in exile and not in the land of the covenant, by God's grace operating through his faith in God, Daniel is still blessed with God's grace. God has answered prayers for Daniel and blessed him with grace in the eyes of the king of the empire.

D. Daniel is motivated by the wealth of the information found in the passage of Scripture he is studying to cry out to God – to pray. Daniel 9:3-4

1. He wants understanding of what he has read

2. He wants clarity as to the action he is to take

3. He sees that God has promised in the covenant that if any of the children of God found themselves in an exiled position, they could cry out to God and He would hear them

4. He is in earnest about this prayer and makes his prayer the top priority of his daily routine. He fasted, wore sackcloth and sat in ashes

5. Nothing he does will be more to him than this prayer

II. THE PRAYER

A. *He acknowledges whom he is addressing v. 4*

- 1. We cannot make what we want more important than the one who can give it*
- 2. We want to be so in tune with the character, nature and will of God that what we want matches what we want*
- 3. He lives with the thoughts of the nature and character of God; he is not having to fabricate some new information – he knows God*
- 4. He acknowledges the faithfulness of God in keeping His Word; he knows he is where he is today and his people are where they are today because of God's faithfulness to the conditions He said would take place if Israel was unfaithful to Him*

B. *He makes confession of sin vv 5-15*

- 1. Sin is lack of faithfulness to God; failure to trust Him; this led to unrighteous even wicked deeds*
- 2. Since He already knew of God's faithfulness and their lack of it, there was no need to act "innocent". His appeal is to the faithfulness of God and their lack of it. He knows the have no "bargaining points" to bring to their situation*
- 3. We are far better off when we take the truthful road and admit to the "elephant in the room". He admits that God has been faithful to send them away; BUT he also acknowledges that God will be just as faithful to the promises of restoration as He was with those to send them in exile.*
- 4. He makes sure he shares responsibility for their placement. Notice the use of the word "we" in his confession of sin. God sees a nation as all those who were under His covenant at any time; He is all inclusive. God is not judging the leaders only for the wrong done but the people also for following them and for approving where they led them. Judgment does not simply fall on leadership but upon followership as well.*

C. *He appeals to God's nature and character, pleading for mercy, bringing up the promises of restoration. vv 16-19*

- 1. He seeks for God to turn His wrath away from them. He knows and has confessed that God is just for exiling*

them. He promised it would end. He is pleading for God to bring His anger to an end

- 2. He seeks for the restoration of the Temple (“cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary”). By using “sanctuary” he is demonstrating he is not simply looking to see some esthetically pleasing buildings to be fully restored to their once-long-ago beauty. He is calling for the restoration of the ministry that brought safety, justice, restoration and harmony to His people. The place where that ministry could take place is desolate and the sanctified people who ministered are nowhere to be found.*
- 3. He is asking this prayer for the honor of God’s great mercies; for the honor of His name among the Gentiles and for His people and city that bear His name. They had dishonored His name and now He seeks for them, by God’s mercy, to be restored to a place where they can honor Him and His name. As with others, the justice for the disgrace that they had brought on Him had been proven; now he seeks, with this restoration, for his brothers and sisters to honor His name with repentant, humble faith in the place of God’s promise.*

III. GOD’S BEAUTIFUL FAITHFUL ANSWER TO HIS PRAYER

- A. This time the answer came swiftly and by means of the man (angel) Gabriel. It should be expected that God answers prayer in His own time. It should be remembered also that due to the high stakes of spiritual warfare, the answer to prayer could be delayed as it was on another occasion.*
- B. God not only demonstrated that the people would be returned and the sanctuary rebuilt but Messiah would also come and the temple desecrated by one who would be a counterfeit to the Messiah! In short, he was given a message of salvation and restoration at the end of the age!*

TAKEAWAYS FOR ANSWERS TO PRAYER:

*Maintain a solid relationship with God
Study the Word of God to know God’s will
Pray God’s will
Keep humility and faith at the forefront of your thinking
Keep the big picture in mind when seeking to understand
Trust God’s faithfulness to answer or don’t bother praying*