

I. Introduction and Review.

II. Prayer is inspired by God's Word. v. 1-4

A. Pray scriptural prayers. v. 2

1. Daniel was a man of the Word, not just a man of visions.
2. Daniel's prayer is based Jeremiah's prophecy that the captivity would last 70 years. Jer. 25:8-11 29:10-14 Isa. 44:28 45:1ff I Ki. 8:48
3. Daniel's prayer is saturated with Scripture. v. 10f Dt. 28:15f 30:1ff II Chr. 7:13ff
4. Your study of the Scripture will prompt your prayers .

B. Pray according to God's revealed will. v. 3a

1. Wasn't the Lord going to deliver Israel whether Daniel prayed or not?
2. Why pray if God has already determined what is going to happen?
3. God accomplishes His sovereign purposes through means.
4. Application: How can we pray according to God's will? Mt. 16:18 6:10 Is. 55:11 Jo. 6:39 14:27 Ro. 8:31ff Phil. 1:6 4:4ff I Th. 4:3 I Co. 10:13 Rev. 21:1-4 22:20

C. Earnestly seek God in prayer. v. 3

What is the point of fasting, sackcloth and ashes? Neh. 1:4 9:1

III. Humble yourself before God. v. 4-14

A. Confess your sin. v. 5-11 I Jo. 1:8-10 Ps. 51,32 Isa. 57:15

1. Daniel confesses his own sins and those of God's people. v. 4-6,8,11,13,14,15,16,20
2. Thoroughly and specifically admit your guilt to God without making excuses. v. 5 Gen. 3:12-13 Ps. 32:1ff Luke 18:13
3. Guilt is compounded because we fail to heed God's Word. v. 6,10,13b,14b
4. Turn from your sin with heartfelt sorrow. v. 7-8 2 Cor. 7:10f Ps. 51:4
5. Why is Daniel confessing sins that he didn't personally commit? v. 13b
6. Daniel identifies himself with God's people. v. 5a Ps. 137:5-6
7. Jesus, though innocent, also bears the sin of His people. II Co. 5:21
8. Should we be confessing the sins of the church and of our nation? II Tim. 3:1-5

B. Confess God's righteousness. v. 12-14

1. Approach Him with reverence: He is a great and awesome God. v. 4 Isa. 6:1-5
2. He keeps His Word. v. 4b, 11-13a
3. God is righteous: we deserve the chastisement we have received. v. 14 Dt. 28:15ff II Chr. 36:14-21 Lev. 26:14ff
4. What chastisement could He bring upon the church? Re. 2:5 I Pe. 4:17 I Co. 10:11
5. What punishment could befall our nation?
6. God is also a God of compassion and forgiveness, even towards rebels. v. 9

IV. Fervently make your supplications to God. v. 15-19

A. Daniel intercedes for his people. v. 23b Ezek. 14:14 II Chr. 7:14-15

1. Why is Daniel especially qualified to mediate? v. 23b Ezek. 14:14
2. For whom should you intercede? Eph. 6:19-20 I Sam. 12:23 II Chr. 7:14-15 I Pe. 2:9-10 Ga. 6:2
3. Jesus intercedes for us, His unworthy people. Heb. 7:25

- B. Remember God's past deliverances. v. 15 Jer. 32:20 Neh. 9:10 Isa. 63:11-15**
1. Daniel remembered the deliverance out of Egypt.
 2. We remember the greater delivering work of Christ. Rom. 8:31-32
- C. Seek the glory of His Name. v. 16, 19b Isa. 48:11**
1. God's glory is the most weighty matter.
 2. God's reputation is bound up with His people. I Pe. 2:9-10 Eph. 2:21
- D. Base your requests upon the promises in His Word. v. 2,16a**
1. Daniel hopes in the promises of Scripture. Dt. 30:1-5 II Chr. 7:13-14 Jer. 29:10-14 I Kings 8:33-34
 2. He is still faithful to His covenant and hears the humble prayers of His people.
 3. What promises should we be claiming? Is. 55:11 Mt. 28:18-20 16:18 Acts 1:11
- E. Appeal to God's mercy. v. 18**
1. We have no merit to plead. There is no other way to approach God but mercy.
 2. We are saved by grace alone! Titus 3:5-7
- F. Make specific requests. v. 16-18**
1. Daniel entreats God to turn away His wrath and to show favor towards His people and holy place. v. 16-18
 2. What should we be praying for the church today? Eph. 1:15ff 3:14ff 6:19
- G. Plead with passion and persistence. v. 19,21b Luke 11:5-10 I Th. 5:17**

V. Concluding Applications.

- A. God hears such prayers. v. 20-23 Isa. 57:15**
- B. Do you pray? Acts 9:11**
- C. Gabriel came once more bringing Good News of forgiveness and restoration. v. 21
Luke 1:19,26-33 Mt. 1:21**
1. The Good News of the Messiah is the ultimate answer to Daniel's prayer.
 2. Jesus came to make an end of our sin and to atone for our iniquity. v. 24
Mt. 1:21 I Pet. 3:18 John 3:16 Ro. 10:13

Discussion questions

1. Why did Daniel choose this time to pray about the return of Israel to its land?
2. What relationship does our Bible reading have to our prayers?
3. For which of God's promises should we be praying?
4. What place should confession of sin have in our prayers?
5. When is it appropriate for us to confess the sins of our community (church or nation)?
6. What are the sins of our community which need to be confessed?
7. What does Daniel confess concerning God?
8. What is the place of passion in prayer?
9. How does this text point to Christ?