

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 12 March 2023

Daniel's Prayer

Monday: Daniel's Resolve (**Daniel 1:8-15**)

Tuesday: Daniel's Recognition (**Daniel 1:16-21**)

Wednesday: The King's Challenge (**Daniel 2:1-11**)

Thursday: Daniel's Intervention (**Daniel 2:12-16**)

Friday: Daniel's Success (**Daniel 2:36-49**)

Saturday: Daniel's Prayer of Supplication (**Daniel 9:15-19**)

Sunday: Daniel's Prayer of Confession (**Daniel 9:1-14**)

Daniel's Prayer

Lesson Text: **Daniel 9:4B–14**

Bible Background: **Daniel 9:3–19**

Devotional Reading • **James 5:13–18**

Keep in Mind: “*To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him*”. (**Daniel 9:9, KJV**)

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **RECOGNIZE** human sinfulness; **TRUST** that God forgives us of our sins; and **CALL** on God in times of great distress.

In Focus

When things go wrong, we tend to run from God instead of going to Him. In today's lesson, we will see Daniel go to God on behalf of the people.

Focal Verses

Daniel 9:4b-14 KJV

4b “O Lord, the great and fearsome God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him and to them that keep His commandments,

5 we have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments.

6 Neither have we hearkened unto Thy servants the prophets, who spoke in Thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

7 O Lord, righteousness belongs unto Thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day: to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel who are near and who are far off, through all the countries whither Thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against Thee.

8 O Lord, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against Thee.

9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him;

10 neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets.

11 “Yea, all Israel have transgressed Thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey Thy voice; therefore, the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the Law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against Him.

12 And He hath confirmed His words which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil; for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

13 “As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us. Yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Thy truth.

14 Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all His works which He doeth, for we obeyed not His voice..”

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Captivity of the Jews. At the time of our text, the Jews were held captive by the Babylonians. Based on Jeremiah’s prophecy, Daniel wrote that he understood the expiration of their captivity was at hand. Jeremiah had prophesied that after 70 years of Babylonian captivity, God would release the Jews. “For thus saith the LORD, that after 70 years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place” (Jeremiah 29:10). In our lesson text, Daniel prays for God to remember to make good on His promise of deliverance.

II. Background

Long before the prophets, when kings ruled Jerusalem, the Lord swore judgment upon His people for their wickedness. Manasseh, the son of King Hezekiah and king of Judah, was the most wicked of all. He reigned longer than any other king in Judah’s history—55 years of mixing faith in the Lord with idolatrous practices, placing heathen altars and images in the temple, and sacrificing his own sons as burnt offerings to a pagan god (2 Chronicles 33:2–9).

God's judgment came to pass during the prophet Jeremiah's reign. The Babylonians attacked Jerusalem three times, finally destroying the city in 587 B.C. Throughout the attacks, Jeremiah continued to warn his people to turn back to God, give up their idols, and to halt their alliances with foreign countries, but they ignored him. The people did not believe God would let them be captured by foreigners, and they did not think their temple would ever be destroyed. They thought their covenant with God warranted them special protection, even though they did not honor it.

During Jerusalem's siege, in 605 B.C., Daniel was deported to Babylon as a child. There he was placed in a reeducation program to prepare him for service in the very government that destroyed Jerusalem. Eventually, he became the most powerful Jew of the exile. Because he knew the prophecy of Jeremiah, he knew the 70 years of captivity were up.

In Depth

- a. **“1. A Prayer of Confession (Daniel 9:4b–8)** “Daniel's response to Jeremiah's prophecy is interesting. Instead of concerning himself with the dates of expiration for Jerusalem's captivity, he was more concerned about the hearts of the people, and he repented for them. He could have taken Jeremiah's prophecy to King Darius and told him to let them go. Or he could have simply waited, knowing they would go home soon. He simply remembered why they were captured in the first place and went to God on behalf of his people. Instead of focusing on when they would go home, he asked God if they were ready to go. “Daniel was not general in his confession as some are who say, “Forgive me for what I did” or “Lord, you know my heart.” Daniel specifically said, “We sinned and rebelled, we departed from thy precepts and judgments, and we did not hearken unto thy prophets” (v. 5, paraphrased). Then, he gave honor to whom it was due, “To you belongs righteousness, and to us belongs confusion.” In other words, he said, “You were right, God, and we were wrong.”

- b. **“A Prayer of Repentance (Daniel 9: 9–14)** Notice the transition in viewpoint in chapter 9. In verses 2–4, Daniel is writing in the first-person point of view (“I Daniel understood ...” [v. 2]; “I set my face ...” [v. 3]; and “I prayed ...” [v. 4a]). Verses 4b-8 show Daniel has shifted to a more formal viewpoint (for example, “O LORD, righteousness belongs unto thee”, [v. 7]). Here, he has used a second-person point of view that has a more direct, intimate frame of reference (for example, “We have rebelled against him,” v. 9). The chapter's first set of verses contains Daniel's confessions; the second set contains his standing as a representative of the people; the third set of verses indicates his willingness to join with the people in their prayers and praise of God. Perhaps we can learn from

Daniel by allowing our confessions to have this combination of the personal, reverential, direct, and congregational. “In verses 10–12, Daniel focuses on God’s faithfulness to the laws He set before them through Moses. The law records the blessings of obedience and the consequences for disobedience (see Isaiah 1:2–4). Daniel acknowledges God’s faithfulness for punishing Jerusalem for their disobedience according to the law (Daniel 9:13–14). In verse 13, Daniel offers a three-step process for repentance: pray, turn from iniquity, and seek to understand God’s truth.”

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer