



Dare TO
Pray

DANIEL 9

What is prayer?

- A religious duty?
- An SOS for help from God?
- A plea for God's attention?
- Focusing my attention on God as my Creator, Father and friend?
- Something that changes me (spiritual transformation)?
- A way God gets his work done by partnering with people who ask?



Is there prayer God always answers?

- If I use a lot of Thee's & Thou's?
- If I tack on "in Jesus' name?"
- If I also send in my tithe?
- If I feel goosebumps when I pray?
- If I throw in the Lord's Prayer?
- If I ask anything "according to his will?"



A growing tension in Daniel

Daniel has seen significant answers to prayer in his lifetime:

- Exemption from the King's diet (Dan 1).
- The interpretation of strange and secret dreams (Dan 2,4,8).
- Escape from the lions' den (Dan 6).

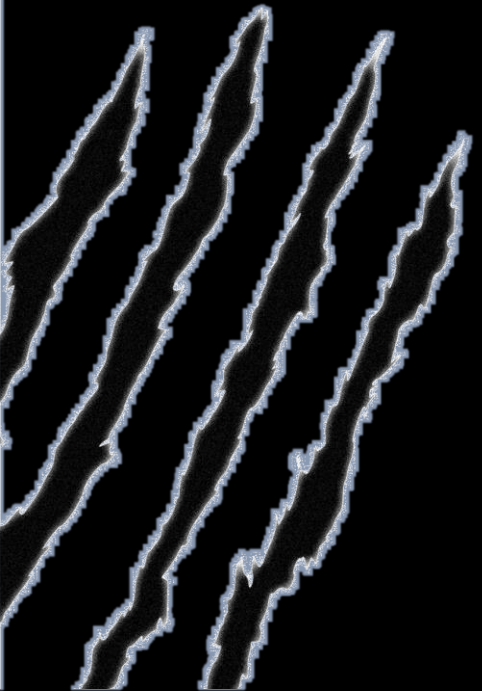
What about God's people, God's Temple, God's holy city Jerusalem?



A growing tension in Daniel

- Daniel 2—four successive kingdoms culminate in a future, eternal kingdom.
- Daniel 7—four “beasts” in succession, then a “little horn” replaced by an unending kingdom.
- Daniel 8—two kingdoms, a “little horn” rises up causing havoc.

What about God's people, God's Temple, God's holy city Jerusalem?



Big Prayers


Decisions

Provision

Vocation

Protection

Healing

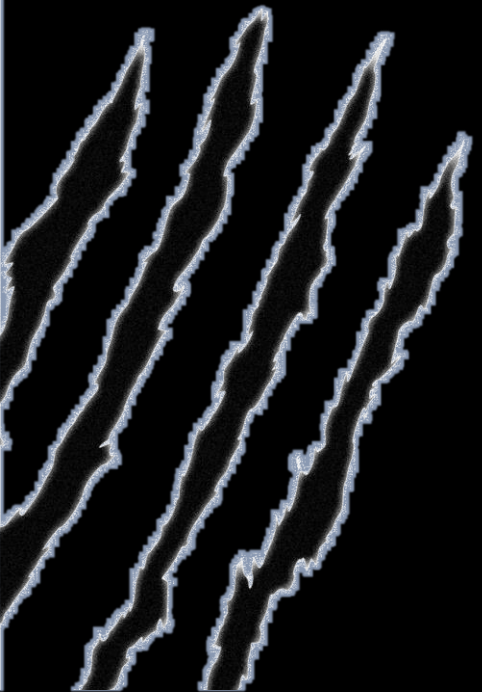


“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

A Daniel timeline

- 604 B.C.—Daniel goes to Babylon in the first wave of Jewish exiles.
- 586 B.C.—the Temple is destroyed along with the city walls of Jerusalem.
- 538 B.C.—Darius is “made king” over Babylon (Dan 9:1; Cyrus appoints him [Gubaru] king).

604-538 ~ 70 yrs in Babylon (Jer 25:12).



Respond to God's Promises

- Jeremiah 25:11-12 (v. 12 had happened!)—70 yrs then restoration.
- Jeremiah 29:10-14—“you will seek me and find me.”
- Isaiah 44:28—Cyrus would rebuild Jerusalem (45:1-2,4,13).

Daniel watched God fulfill his promises. So he prays!



Reflect on God's Character

God's character a/t Daniel's prayer:

- Personal (v. 4).
- Great and awesome (v. 4).
- Faithful to his covenant (v. 4).
- Righteous (no mistakes) (v. 7)
- Merciful and forgiving (v. 9).
- Brought Israel out of Egypt (v. 15).
- Answers prayer (vv. 17, 23).



Renounce My Sins

Man's character a/t Daniel's prayer:

- *We have sinned and done wrong.*
- *We have been wicked and rebelled.*
- *We have turned away from your commands and laws; we have not listened to your prophets.*
- *We are covered with shame.*
- *We have not sought your favor or given attention to your truth.*



Regard God's Glory

“We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, **because your city and your people bear your Name.**”

Daniel 9:18-19, NIV



Receive God's Generosity

Six actions of God will come in answer to Daniel's prayer:

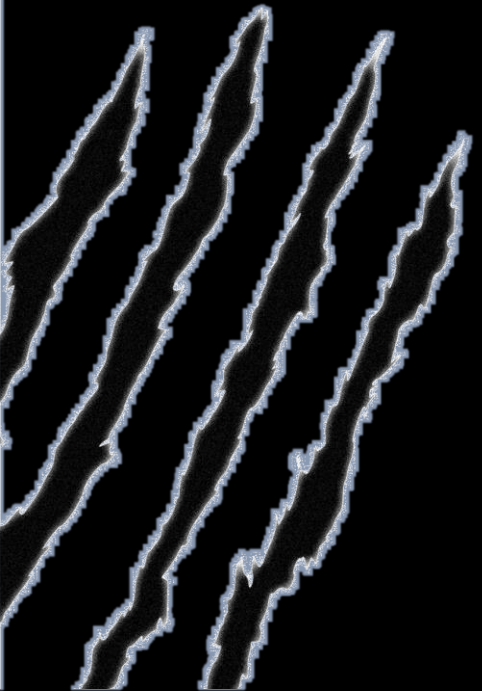
- *Finish transgression.*
- *End sin.*
- *Atonement for wickedness.*
- *Bring in everlasting righteousness.*
- *Seal up/fulfill vision and prophecy.*
- *Anoint the most holy.*



Receive God's Generosity

So what does Daniel personally get as a result of his prayer?

- A return trip to a rebuilt Jerusalem?
- Induction into the Israeli Hall of Fame for surviving exiles?
- A book tour for his memoir, *Roar with the Lions*?
- Cushy retirement at a seaside senior center?



Receive God's Generosity

So what does Daniel personally get as a result of this prayer?

"You are highly esteemed."

[*'Precious treasure' (to God)*]

Friend of God; Man after God's own heart; No one like him/one of a kind

In the Beloved [Christ]

No good thing will he withhold from those he loves.



Daniel 9:22-24, NIV

*²²“Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. ²³ As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for **you are highly esteemed**. ²⁴ “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.*



Seventy “Weeks” of Daniel

An outline of prophetic fulfillment.

- “Weeks” = seven-year segments.
- 70 weeks of years = 490 yrs.
- Begins with the command to rebuild.
- A climax: the Anointed One (messiah) “cut off.”
- An interruption between week 69 and 70. Then renewal of all things.



Ephesians 3:20-21, *NIV*

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



Ephesians 2:4-7, NIV

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.



*At this point in time
Daniel is in his mid-80s*

- He still believes God.
- He still cares for God's people.
- He still responds to God's word.
- He still prays to God.
- Yet he is far from home and far from the completion of God's promises of a new heaven and a new earth.
- A "long obedience in the same direction."

