All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 1—DANIEL'S LIFE OF PRAYER

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days" (Dan. 6:10).

A Heart Resolved to Be Faithful

It's difficult to imagine the situation that Daniel as a young man confronted, marching on foot eight to ten miles per day for four months—altogether a journey of about 1,000 miles (about 1,600 km) from Jerusalem to Babylon. No doubt he prayed most of the time along the way. Upon his arrival, his name and those of his friends were changed and he was offered food from the king's table, but Daniel refused because he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Dan. 1:8). That clear purpose, to remain faithful to God, guided and preserved him throughout his life.

When King Nebuchadnezzar decreed that all the wise men of Babylon were to be killed, Daniel gathered his friends together for prayer to "seek mercies from the God of heaven" to reveal the king's dream and to ask that they "might not perish" (Dan. 2:18). In answer to prayer, the dream and its meaning was revealed to Daniel, who testified to the king of the "God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known . . . what will be in the latter days" (Dan. 2:28). Daniel's prayer life enabled him to stand unafraid before the most powerful on the planet and share the truth boldly and wisely.

Unshaken Prayer in Times of Crisis

On the night of Babylon's fall, King Belshazzar was killed, yet Daniel's life was not only preserved but he was made one of only three governors over the entire kingdom of Medo-Persia (Dan. 6:1, 2). Jealousy led the other Persian officials to plot Daniel's demise. His prayer life was obviously well–known, because this practice of his was the way they chose to imperil Daniel's life. Once again, however, prayer was the means of his deliverance. Rather than retreating to a "prayer closet" that day, Daniel unswervingly maintained the practice he had followed "since early days," throwing open his windows toward Jerusalem and kneeling three times that day to pray and give thanks to God. He understood that his public witness to the God of heaven and earth must not be diminished but shine even more brightly in times of darkness than in times of peace and prosperity.

Like Daniel, each of us needs a consistent life of prayer, whether we've had this "since early days" or are only now beginning it. Just purpose in your heart as he did, and the same God will answer you too. Let's pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

Every prayer group has its own way of praying together. We invite you to spend the next 30–45 minutes in united prayer, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. We encourage short conversational prayers (1–3 sentences), allowing more people to participate and pray multiple times. Below are a few examples of praying through Scripture based on today's theme. You may also pray through other Bible passages and include additional prayer topics during your time together. For more prayer ideas, please refer to the Leader's Guide and the World Church Prayer Requests.

Praying God's Word — Daniel 6:10

"He knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."

"He knelt down on his knees . . . as was his custom"

Lord, teach us to make prayer the steady habit of our lives, not just the cry of an emergency. Like Daniel, may we come to You faithfully, morning by morning, until communion with You is the most natural thing we do. Build in us a life of prayer that nothing can shake.

"Prayed and gave thanks before his God"

Father, fill our prayers with thanksgiving. Even when the writing is signed against us and the future looks uncertain, remind us that You reign over kings and kingdoms, that You declare the end from the beginning, and that our times are in Your hands. We thank You in advance for answers we have not yet seen.

"With his windows open toward Jerusalem"

Lord, like Daniel with his windows open toward Jerusalem, give us courage to witness openly and never hide our faith. Through OneVoice27 this year, make us carriers of the gospel who lift up one voice and let our light shine brightest in the darkest times, until Jesus comes.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.
Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.
Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.
Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).
OneVoice27: Pray for the OneVoice27 evangelistic emphasis culminating this September—that today's prayers become bold proclamation and that many will hear of Jesus before He comes.
Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.
Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Standing on the Promises (#518); Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (#290); We Have This Hope (#214); Open My Eyes, That I May See (#326)
Other Songs: Father, I Adore You; Seek Ye First; As the Deer