All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 2—WAITING ON GOD FOR ANSWERS

"I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem" (Dan. 9:2).

Driven to His Knees by God's Word

Before Daniel's ordeal in the lion's den, he received the vision about the 2,300 days recorded in Daniel 8:14. It upset him so much that he "fainted and was sick for days" because "no one understood it" (Dan. 8:27). Nearly ten years passed and he still didn't understand. It was now 539 B.C. Daniel had been in Babylon for sixty-six years and the seventy years of Israel's captivity in Babylon prophesied by Jeremiah (see Jer. 25:11, 12; 29:10) were supposed to come to an end soon. But the long time prophecy of 2,300 evenings and mornings worried him. Might Israel's sanctuary have to lay desolate much longer? Daniel studied the prophecies of Jeremiah and realized the time should be drawing near: "I, Daniel, understood . . . that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem" (Dan. 9:2). So, recognizing that God's word must be fulfilled, he prayed earnestly, confessing his sin and the sins of his people Israel, so that nothing on their part would prevent God from fulfilling His promise.

Sometimes we think that God's word will be fulfilled regardless of what we do, that His purposes always "know no haste and no delay." That is true in the case of certain unconditional prophecies, such as the coming of Jesus to earth to die for our sins—nothing could keep Him from fulfilling His promise of salvation. However, Daniel recognized that most Bible prophecies, particularly those connected with God's promises to Israel as a nation, are conditional. Depending on the people's response to God's word, their prophetic hopes might be realized or not.

Learning to Wait on the Lord

It's not always easy to wait on the Lord for answers to our prayers, but we are repeatedly urged to do just that: "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!" (Ps. 27:14). And again: "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:30, 31). The time of waiting, as Daniel's prayer life illustrates, is designed as a time of reflection for us. Might something in your life or heart be hindering the fulfillment of God's promise for you? 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 9:2

"I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

"I, Daniel, understood by the books"

Lord, like Daniel, draw us to Your Word. Open to us the books of prophecy—Daniel and Revelation—and give us understanding by Your Spirit. Make us students of Scripture who search it earnestly and let it shape the way we pray.

"The word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet"

Father, thank You for speaking to us through Your prophets. As Daniel found light in Jeremiah's words, give us hearts that believe the sure word of prophecy—and through OneVoice27 this year, make us carriers of that word who lift up one voice and share its hope with a waiting world.

"He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem"

Lord, You kept Your word to the very year, ending Jerusalem's long desolation exactly as You promised. Restore the desolate places in our lives, our families, and Your church. As Daniel confessed his sins and his people's, search our hearts and remove anything that would delay Your promises in us. Teach us to wait with courage, certain that the God who finished His work for Jerusalem will finish His good work in us.

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: Be Still, My Soul (#461); 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (#524); Sweet Hour of Prayer (#478)
Other Songs: They That Wait Upon the Lord; Be Still and Know; As the Deer; Seek Ye First