All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 3— DANIEL'S PRAYER

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name" (Dan. 9:19).

When Worry Drives Us to Pray

We saw yesterday that Daniel was very worried. What did he do when he was worried? He prayed. That's what we all should do. Let's look at Daniel's beautiful prayer, which has four parts: 1) Praise; 2) Confession and Declaration; 3) Reflection; 4) Petition.

His heartfelt prayer begins by praising God, recognizing and revering His greatness, His character, and His faithfulness (vs. 4). Most of the prayer involves confession but also declaration of God's righteousness (vss. 5–14) and acknowledging the whole range of Israel's sin, iniquity, wickedness, and rebellion (vs. 5). Daniel confesses their turning away from God's commandments and their disobeying the words of the prophets. He declares God's justice (vs. 7) but also affirms God's mercy and willingness to forgive (vs. 9). Daniel even identifies himself as part of Israel's rebellion: "we have sinned against You"; "we have rebelled against Him"; "we have not obeyed"; "we have sinned"; "we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God"; "we have not obeyed His voice"; "we have sinned, we have done wickedly!" (vss. 8–15). In short, Daniel refuses to disassociate himself from His people, acknowledging that he shares in the disaster that came upon Israel and that it was in fulfillment of the words of Moses which God warned them of long before. Daniel also affirms that God sent His servants the prophets and brought all this disaster upon Israel in order that they might turn from their iniquities and learn wisdom from God's word of truth (vss. 11–13; compare with Ps. 119:143; James 1:18).

A Plea for God's Own Glory

Finally, Daniel appeals to God's righteousness in all His dealings, His kindness in delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage, and His justice, pleading for God to turn away His righteous wrath and anger from Israel and hear His servant's petition on their behalf (vss. 16–19). Concern for Jerusalem and for God's "holy mountain" is the burden of Daniel's plea, and he asks that for God's own sake, His face would "shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate" (vs. 17). He asks that God's eyes and ears would be open to Israel's desolations (vs. 18). Above all, Daniel's concern is that God would vindicate His holy name and fulfill His covenant promises (vs. 19). No hint of selfishness appears; only love and zeal for God's honor.

As you consider this prayer, search your own heart and consider how God has been merciful to you, what you might need to confess to Him, and what you most need from Him. 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 9:19

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive!"

Lord, hear us as we come confessing our sins and the sins of our people. Like Daniel, we make no excuses—we have sinned and we need Your mercy. Thank You that You are faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us.

"O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay"

Father, we cry out for You to act. Revive Your church, answer the prayers we have carried so long, and pour out Your Spirit upon us. We rest in Your timing, yet we plead with holy urgency: do not delay.

"For Your own sake . . . Your people are called by Your name"

Lord, free our prayers from selfishness and burden us for Your honor alone. We bear Your name—be glorified in us. Through OneVoice27 this year, send us out with one voice for the sake of Your name, that many will know You before 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: I Need Thee Every Hour (#483); Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (#569); Just as I Am (#314)
Other Songs: Create in Me a Clean Heart; Change My Heart, O God; Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying