

“Praying like Daniel” (Daniel 9:1-19)

Verses to Remember: “O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name” (Daniel 9:18-19).

The context of the Daniel 9 prayer

- Daniel sees that the 70 years of promised discipline is coming close to the end (Jer 25:11-13; 29:10-12). To come out from the discipline, Israel was called to return to God and repent (1 Kings 8:48-50; Deut 30:1-3; Lev 26:40-41).

How to pray like Daniel**1. Confess**

- Daniel confesses without excuse. Nineteen times in the prayer he confesses their sin and shame. He did not blame it on others. He confessed his own sin too, even though he was largely faithful (v. 20). He did not blame it on ignorance. He acknowledged that God sent discipline (v.13) and prophets (v.6) to get their attention, but they did not listen.
- He approached confession with a posture of humility (v. 3).

2. Praise

- Daniel humbled himself and the nation, but exalted God (vv. 4, 7, 14, 16).
- He calls him “awesome” God, which means God who inspires fear.
- He calls God LORD (*Yahweh*), which is the covenant name of God (cf. Ex 3:14; 6:2-8). The name speaks to God’s infinite nature, sovereignty, self-existence, and also to his special connection and promises to Israel.
- He speaks of God’s “Lovingkindness” (*Hesed*) which refers to his faithful love.
- He continually speaks of the righteousness and justness of God. They are not in trouble because of any lacking in God, but because of their sin. And he ascribes to God compassion and mercy (v. 18).
- He praises God for who he is, and also for what he has done (v. 15).

3. Ask

- Daniel asks according to similar things God has already done (v. 15).
- He asks according to things God has promised to do (Deut 30:1-3; Lev 26:40-42).
- He asks according to the attributes of God.
- He asks for things that will bring glory to God (vv. 16-19 cf. Deut 28:9-10).
- He asks as a servant of God (v. 17). This means asking what God wants for us and what he wants us to do. And it means seeking to be faithful to him.