

November 10, 2019

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Daniel Called on the Name of the LORD, Part 2
Daniel 9:1-19

Daniel 9 takes us again to Daniel serving in the court of Darius the Mede. As we saw last week, Daniel's prayer life is a challenge to ours in terms of *practice*—he was faithful, it was clear which god he was praying to (YAHWEH), and he was willing to sacrifice his very life to remain faithful in prayer. In chapter 9 we gain insight into the *content* of his prayers, again providing an example for our prayer lives.

I. Prayer is grounded in the **WORD** of God, 9:1-4.

- A. A good pray-er is a diligent student of the Word.
- B. What Jeremiah said is recorded in Jeremiah 25:8-14.
- C. It was the Word of God that turned the man of God to

prayer.

Example: Praying through Ephesians 4:1-16.

II. Prayer is trusting in the **GRACE** of God, 9:4-18.

- A. We approach God in a spirit of humility knowing we are not deserving of his attention.
- B. We approach God only on the basis of his faithful nature.
- C. Our approach is confessional, fully aware and taking full responsibility for our sin. See also Romans 3:23.

III. Prayer is focused on the **GLORY** of God, 9:17-19.

- A. The people of God have become a "byword" (reproach).
- B. This is of concern because of association with God's own name.
- C. Jesus taught us to pray, "Father...may your name be glorified as holy."

While the desolate state of God's people was of immediate concern, Daniel's prayer grounded in the word of God reflected trust in the grace of God to act for the glory of God in fulfilling the plan he had revealed for the nation. Following this pattern, our prayers for immediate concerns should be thoughtfully formed to reach beyond to the greater purposes of God. "May your kingdom come, may your will be done, our Father in heaven."

Bible search time! Find a statement of God's plan or purpose that is applicable to us in our present day and formulate prayers that are grounded in that Scripture. Examples might be 2 Timothy 1:8-9 (read in NIV), Ephesians 4:11-16.



For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. What are your prayers grounded in? Are they generated out of immediate felt needs, for temporal purposes alone? Discuss how, as Daniel's prayer demonstrates, God's word can lead our praying to center on God's purposes and the fulfillment of his plan for mankind. What would some of those prayers be?
2. Why did Daniel twice state plainly, "to us belongs open shame"? We live in a day when it is considered wrong to feel shame or guilt—why? Is it legitimate to feel guilt and shame, when is that, and how can guilt and shame be relieved? How does Daniel seek relief from the shame of the nation?
3. Notice Daniel 9:12. How does the judgment of God, whether upon the disobedient nation or a rebellious individual, reveal the faithfulness of God? Is it always effective in turning a sinner to repentance (9:13-15)? How have you witnessed this in your world, and how does it lead you to pray?
4. 9:18 is a significant statement regarding dependence on God for mercy. Why is mercy necessary (what does Daniel say here?). As you pray, do you ever approach God with a hint of thought that he ought to act on my behalf because I deserve it? What do you think about that? Do we fully appreciate the blessing of grace?

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 86, "I give thanks to you, O Lord my God."