



# Daniel Prayed for Israel

DANIEL 9 (part 2 on prayer)

- ▶ God commands us to pray for others (Eph. 6:18; 1 Tim. 2:1)
- ▶ How shall we pray for others?
- ▶ Today let us learn from Daniel and see how he prayed.



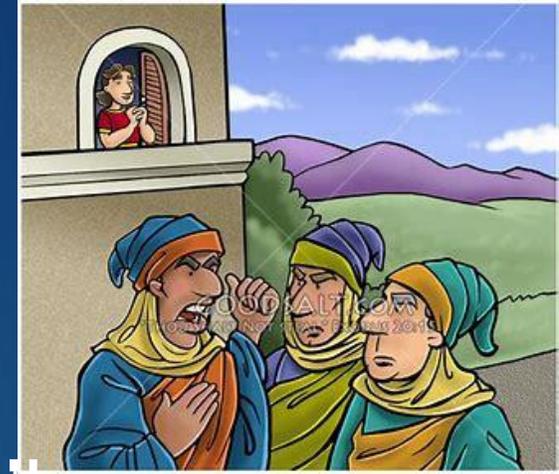
# A Special Time to Pray

- ▶ Daniel was praying according to God's **prophecy** to Jeremiah concerning their return to Israel. (2 Ch. 36:21, Jer. 25:11-12, Jer. 29:10)
- ▶ Daniel knew the Scripture—we cannot respond to God's promises if we do not know what God has promised us.
- ▶ It was the knowledge of God's word and the knowledge of God's character together that brought Daniel to His knees for His people.



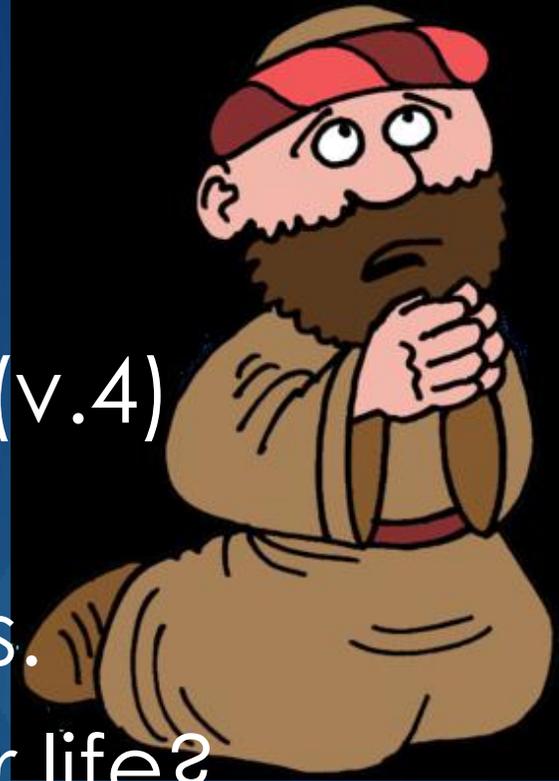
# How Daniel Prayed

- ▶ Prayer was a **serious business** for Daniel (Dan. 6:10), literally life and death “serious.”
- ▶ (v.3) To Daniel, prayer was the way to **seek** after God. (Psalm 63:1)
- ▶ And the path to **intercede** to God for his people
- ▶ **Fasting**—emphasizes the importance by **forgoing**
- ▶ **Sackcloth**—emphasizes the importance by **enduring**



# How Daniel Prayed for His Nation

- ▶ First, Daniel acknowledged **who God is.** (v.4)
- ▶ All three **names** of God are here (LORD, Lord, and God). Daniel **knew** who God is.
- ▶ Do you acknowledge who God is in your life?
- ▶ God is both **faithful** and **loving**. (Jer. 32:17-19; Mic. 7:18-20) Daniel and the prophets of old did not only have the head-knowledge of this truth—they had **experienced** it.



# Second, Daniel Acknowledged Who They Were (v. 5-12)



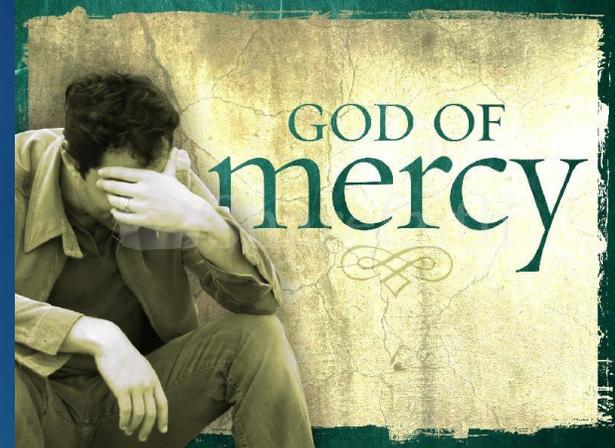
- ▶ Confession is not complete unless we know **who** we are and **what** we have done wrong.
- ▶ They **turned aside** from God's word & His prophets.
- ▶ Daniel understood their sins. (v.8) Do you?
- ▶ Notice—Daniel was not the guilty one, or at least he did not bear the main share of responsibility, yet he confessed...
- ▶ As leaders we must **identify** with our people.

## Third, Daniel Acknowledged What They Deserved (V.13-14)



- ▶ God is **righteous** (v.14) and He must punish sinners according to their sins.
- ▶ Besides knowing who we are, we also need to know what we **deserve**—there is always a **price** with sin. God is both good and just.
- ▶ Therefore, we must take sin **seriously**. (Rom. 1:18)
- ▶ Thankfully, (v.13) **insight** (understanding) can come from God's **truth**. (Eph. 1:17-18)

# Finally, Daniel Pleaded for God's Mercy (V.15-20)



- ▶ Although we do not deserve God's mercy, (1 John 1:9) God **forgives** our sins when we **confess** to Him. (Eze. 33:10-11)
- ▶ Then why did Daniel ask for God's mercy if God is already merciful?
- ▶ Never forget mercy is a **gift** that we don't deserve.
- ▶ Moreover, it is in the act of pleading for mercy that we **turn** our faces from sin and turn to God.

# Conclusion

- ▶ We learned that we need the knowledge of God and His word in order to pray for others as we should.
- ▶ Never take sin **lightly**...it is serious before God.
- ▶ We also see Daniel **identify himself** with his nation's sin and confess to God.
- ▶ God is **merciful** and ready to forgive.
- ▶ Ultimately it was Daniel's **love** for God and for his people that brought him to his knees.

