

Sermon Outline

DANIEL'S PRAYER (AFTER THE TEMPLE HAS BEEN DESTROYED) | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Daniel 9:1-19 (p.1278)

*Righteous and loving God, hear the prayers and petitions of us your servants
We do not bring our requests because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy
Thank you for giving your Son all authority over heaven and earth
For your sake, Father, do not delay in sending Jesus back again
Meantime grant us opportunity and courage each day to make disciples in His name. Amen*

Great Prayers in the Bible ...		
23/11	David's prayer (after a cancelled building project)	2 Sam 7:1-29
30/11	Solomon's prayer (at the opening of the Temple)	2 Chr 6:12-42
7/12	Daniel's prayer (after the Temple has been destroyed)	Dan 9:1-19
14/12	Ezra's prayer (after the Temple has been rebuilt)	Ezra 9:1-15
21/12	Our Lord's kingdom-building prayer	Mt 6:9-13

1. The story (of the Temple) so far ...

i. David's prayer (after a cancelled building project)

From: "David wants to build God a house" (aka the Temple)
To: "God is going to build David a "House" (aka a dynasty = the House of David)"

ii. Solomon's prayer (at the opening of the Temple)

2 Chr 36:15 The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and **on his dwelling place**. 16 But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. 17 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. 18 **He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God**, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. 19 **They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there. 20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant ...**

iii. Daniel's prayer (after the Temple has been destroyed) (vv1-4a)

Jer 25:11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jer 29:10 This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.

2. What Daniel prays (vv4b-19)

i. honest and heartfelt confession (vv4b-14)

God's character	Israel's conduct
v4 Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments ...	vv5-6 ... we have sinned and done wrong
v7a Lord, you are righteous ...	v7b- 8 ... but this day we are covered with shame ...
v9a The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving ...	v9b-11a ... even though we have rebelled against him ...
v11b Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us ...	v11c-12 ... because we have sinned against you ...
v13a Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us ...	v13b ... yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth ...
v14a-b The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does ...	v14c ... yet we have not obeyed him

ii. appeal for God's help based on God's character (vv15-19)

- v17b "For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary"
- v18b "open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name"
- v18c "we do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy"
- v19b For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your name"

The big idea: prayer begins with our circumstances but is based on God's character

3. How God responds to Daniel's prayer (vv20-23)

So what, for us?

i. praying "for the sake of your name"

Mt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ..."

ii. asking God, "do not delay"

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.