

Daniel 2:17-23 – Daniel’s Prayer & Praise

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It is easy to bypass Daniel’s prayer and praise because of excitement to get to the great prophecy and all its implications for Israel and the entire world. I was tempted to do that as well. But that would rob you and me of the blessings that come from this passage. So today hear from God’s Word regarding Daniel’s prayer and praise.

Our headings are: The **Prayer**, and the **Praise**.

Our goals are: That seeing you are God’s children through Jesus Christ, you **too will be moved to properly and persistently pray to your heavenly Father and praise him for his greatness and for when he shows his goodness to you.**

The Prayer

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

1. Daniel’s prayer was **based on sound principles of God’s Word**: That every Christian can and must ask God to meet his needs. (Do you realize that it is a sin not to pray for God to meet your needs? God requires that you ask for things you need in order to do the task he requires of you.) Daniel and his friends’ need was that they should live to serve the living God...and speak God’s words of comfort and encouragement to those who were suffering in Babylonian captivity. Remember, Daniel wanted the people of God to patiently wait for their restoration...and ultimately to wait for the coming Messiah. So they obeyed the Lord’s command to pray:

Luke 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

You just cannot go to God and ask for anything. If you ask, you have to ask for things that are agreeable to the will of God. And how do you know God’s will? What is God’s will is only found in the Bible. You can’t pray without the Word. Your prayer will have no soundness.

2. **Daniel’s prayer was God-directed, but it was not to any generic god, but to the God of heaven...Creator of heaven and earth.** Notice that Daniel did not go to the Ouija board. He did not ask for his horoscope, and the witchdoctors were already proved they were useless. And neither did he go to a generic god. He went to the God of heaven...as described in the Bible. Daniel’s God was not god of the “dung heap” like Baal, but holy God in heaven. He knew that the true God of heaven was his Father.

Matthew 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Matthew 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Jehovah is a Father to you...not a holy terror as other gods...but one whom you could approach.

3. Daniel’s prayer was **grounded upon his relationship with God through Jesus Christ, he Re-Creator. All believers trusted in the coming Savior. No Christ, no prayer.**

John 15:7 "If you abide in 遵守 Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

And isn’t it true that the great inheritance you can leave for your children is the truth of Christ and his salvation? They might have the newest I-Phone to communicate, but they have no access to God without Christ.

4. Daniel’s prayer was **made during a time of pressure**. That is an important time to pray. Often people complain about the unfairness of life and then think they have to solve all their problems by their own abilities, and forget to pray...but when troubles come it is a good time to pray.

5. **It was a long prayer and persistent**. It is true that prayers don’t have to be long. But when there are things of great importance and longer prayers are necessary. Sometimes evening fasting must accompany your prayer. Jesus said so. Mark 9:28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could

we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." It seems that Daniel and his friends prayed all night in a committed prayer time.

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

6. It was a joint prayer – or corporate. Daniel could have prayed by himself and God would have heard him. But he included his friends.

Matthew 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

When the wheel fell off a horse or ox cart it was critical to have others help. Many hands made the work lighter. God was hearing the prayer of 4 faithful men, not just one. Wouldn't anyone respond better if they had 4 requests than one? This is why you don't need a priest to make supplications and you don't have to pay him. You pray, the pastor prays, your friends pray, even strangers pray. One commentator wrote: "It is harder for joint prayers to miscarry."

7. They had a specific goal in mind: To ask for that which was good for them and for their neighbor.

Matthew 21:22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

The Praise

20 "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

1. Daniel and his friends **were so confident in the answer to his prayer** that he did not go to check if the interpretation was true. He was confident in his unfailing God. He knew the interpretation was correct. So he praised God.

2. **Daniel praised God for his greatness and his goodness.** (By the way, if you don't pray and ask for things, or you just pray for little things, you will not have the full reasons to praise God for his greatness and goodness.) Are you afraid to ask for big things? Don't be. Work and pray. Do you want God to remove fear? Do you want God to bless your marriage? Do you want your children to walk in God's way? Ask. It is not about a house or a nice car...ask big...and remember to praise him when he provides for you.

3. **Daniel knew that God must be praised for eternity.** This is what you are doing today. This is what you will continue to do in heaven – forever and ever.

4. How do you see God's greatness and goodness in Daniel's praise? Let's take a few minutes to see them. You see them in **a. The wisdom and might in which God made and controls the world.** Times and seasons are in his hands. So Christians aren't afraid of climate change. (Global warming stopped 16 years ago.) You are afraid of sinning against God who controls climate. God knows what he is doing and he has the might to get it done. God made the sun stand still in Joshua's time and made the sun go backward in Ahaz's time. And imagine a God who could reveal another man's dream to you and then have it fulfill it just as he wanted it! Daniel's God even controlled the future.

Jeremiah 32:19 `You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for Your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.

b. The way God removes and raises up those whom he wishes. When God wishes, he raises up or brings down wicked leaders. And you will see how this is important to the explanation of the dream Daniel was going to explain to Nebuchadnezzar.

Psalm 75:6 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts 高举 another.

Jeremiah 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.

1 Samuel 2:7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. 8 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.

c. The wisdom and knowledge that God gives to mankind, especially his children, like he gave to Solomon. And those who receive wisdom are automatically wise. So if the world wants to receive wisdom, they ought to come to

you, God's children. If they want to learn how to raise a family, how to have a happy marriage, how to vote at election time, how to care for the environment, and especially, how to be saved from their sins, then they need to come to God's people and God's people ALONE – not the Muslims, or Jews, or Roman Catholics – but to you. You are the wise ones. The world's holy day is April 1. They are the fools who reject the true God. But Christians enjoy wisdom. They know and hold to Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and his coming again. Only from Jesus Christ Christians receive light.

Psalm 43:3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle. 礼拜堂

John 1:7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Is there any other God who tells you that you are saved through faith in Jesus Christ? None. They all make you think that you can earn your salvation by your works. Man is blind without God's revelation. These false religions try to make you work for your salvation because they are based on demonic gods. (Do you have the courage to say this to those who reject Jesus? Better yet, do you have the love to say this to them?)

5. And if the knowledge and wisdom that God gives to man are so great, imagine how much more the wisdom and knowledge of God are. Your knowledge and wisdom are like a drop in the ocean to his knowledge and wisdom compared with the source of knowledge and wisdom. Get confidence from this. (When evolution became popular and seemed scientific many Christian scholars began to doubt God's Words...but more and more God's Words have been proved true.)

6. Imagine Daniel praising God like this even when he is serving a foreign king who pretends to have all power. Daniel praised God and desired that God would be praised for eternity. He acknowledged God's wisdom and might. That wisdom and power caused him to change the seasons and change the kings when he saw fit. And that wisdom God communicates to his children...the ones with understanding. God does speak to this children and he speaks truth to them. And he spoke wisdom to Daniel. And he concluded that prayer with praise of his good God.

Conclusion:

Daniel joined with his Christian friends and asked for that which was good for them and God's people (good doctrine) in a persistent way, from their heavenly Father (through Jesus Christ), and God answered them. They promptly returned praise and worship to God for his greatness (he controls every creature and every actions – and even the future) and for his goodness (he gave man what man needed to do the job he called men to do).

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Nothing is too big to ask of your heavenly Father. You are his children through Christ. **So ask big!** Learn to pray for an increase in understanding his revelation. *Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...* Ask for some of your inheritance. **Pray with knowledge. Pray persistently.** And then praise him in the morning, noon, and evening. And don't forget to **praise him when good things come** to you.

Finally, some don't receive the light that comes from Jesus Christ because their actions are evil and they love where they are. (John 3:19) But hear Jesus' warning: John 12:35 ... *he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.* But you can come out if you ask him to shine his light on you so you can see your sins and see your need for him as your Savior.