

# ACTS of Prayer



## Sermon Text

Daniel 9:1-19



## Big Idea

Christians should pray through God's promises with the confidence and expectation that God will act.

### (1) Adoration (vv. 1-4)

Daniel responded to the political instability and uncertainty of his situation by turning to the Scriptures and reading the prophecies of Jeremiah that related to his situation. Daniel is at the end of his life at this point, over eighty years old.

Daniel in 539 BC is reading Jeremiah 25:12 and Jeremiah 29:10, where God told His people, back in 597 BC that the exile would last for seventy years. Daniel is reading Jeremiah after 67 or 68 years of captivity, perceiving that God promised the exile would be seventy years. We have here a golden example of trusting and observing God's promises in light of his situation.

Daniel not only prayed, he also fasted, and gave his full attention to the Lord. Daniel's prayer begins his prayer in adoration.

### (2) Confession (vv. 5-14)

Intercession is just a fancy word for to plead, petition or act on behalf of someone else. Daniel is confessing the sins of his people, interceding on their behalf. Other examples of intercession: Romans 8:26-27, Hebrews 4:14-16

In Daniel 9:5-6, the first three descriptions of the people's sins are quoted from Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple, from 1 Kings 8:47. These sins in Daniel 9:5-6 also contrast God's faithfulness from Daniel 9:4. A good promise to keep in mind while confessing sin is 1 John 1:8-9.

Sabbath Law: Leviticus 25:1-7, Curse: Leviticus 26:31-43, Application of Curse: 2 Chronicles 36:20-23  
490 years of Sabbath-less years while the kings ruled in Israel, so  $(490/7) = 70$  years needed to rest.

### (3) Thanksgiving (vv. 15)

Two very rich examples of prayers of thanksgiving, written by Paul are in Col. 1:12-14 and Phil. 1:3-5. Thankfulness will also fight against pride. One of the most convicting passages for me on this topic is 1 Cor. 4:7

In Daniel 9:15, God's deliverance of his people out of slavery in Egypt and into the land of promise is the defining act of salvation in the Old Testament. This appeal of thanksgiving is a transition point between his confession and his coming supplication. In a similar way, Christians today can call to mind and reflect on God's act of redemption in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

### (4) Supplication (vv. 16-19)

Daniel trusted that God would keep his word and appeals to God's faithfulness and righteous character. Daniel waited until the very end to ask God for anything, after many verses of confession.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13, it is incredibly God centered as well. We can also learn from Daniel that the things he asked for were in line with God's will as revealed in Scripture. One example of this type of prayer would be based off of 1 Timothy 2:4.

## Reflection Questions

- How often do you fast and pray earnestly for something? Is it always for yourself?
- Take some time and study the promises of God. Study the things that God wants and the heart of the person that God desires. If you pray for those things, God is guaranteed to act, though maybe not immediately and in the way you expect.