



Owasso First Assembly of God

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Daniels response to crisis life: PRAY!

Daniel 12:3 (NIV) *Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

Daniel 11:32 (NIV) *With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.*

1. Daniel was born around **620 BC**.
2. When he was about **15-17**, he was taken into Babylonian captivity.
3. His book covers a span of about **75** years.
4. The underlying theme of Daniel's life is **prayer**.
5. There are four examples of Daniel praying in a specific situation.

I. Daniel asked friends to join him in prayer when facing death

Daniel 2:17-23 (NIV) ¹⁷ *Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said: "Praise be to the name of*

God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³ I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king." (Daniel was a teenager at this time.)

1. Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream and asked for the dream to be **described** and **interpreted** or all the wise men of Babylon would be killed.
2. The wise men are **perplexed** and **frightened**.
3. Daniel uses **wisdom** and **discretion** to postpone his execution. 2:14-16
4. Daniel asks **Hananiah**, **Misrael** and **Azariah** to **pray** and plead for God's help.
5. **God** gave Daniel knowledge of the dream and interpretation.
6. The executions were **cancelled**.
7. God was **praised**.
8. Daniel was **rewarded**.

II. Daniel continues to pray when ordered not to

Daniel 6:3-11 (NIV) ³ *Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities*

that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ⁶ So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered--in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

(Daniel was around 85 at this time.)

1. Daniel prayed **consistently** 3 times a day.
2. His **testimony** was clearly known.
3. He was **ambushed** by his colleagues but continues to pray.

4. It appeared he would lose his life if he prayed or lose his testimony if he didn't.
5. Daniel was devout and sincere.
6. Daniel was steadfast.
7. Daniel was protected, and God was praised.

III. Daniel prayed as the time of exile was coming to an end 9:1-19

1. Daniel was reading the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah and realized that the exile was concluding.
2. Daniel begins to express his attitude toward self. V. 3
3. Daniel next expresses attitude toward God. V.4
4. Daniel confesses the sins of Judah including himself in repentance. 5-10
5. Daniel describes the **MANY** years of failure of the Israelites. 11-14
6. Daniel asks God for deliverance and restoration for God's name sake.15-19

IV. Daniel prayed, and the answer is delayed 10:2-3, 12-13

1. Daniel had been fasting for 21 days.
2. Daniel was praying for more understanding.

2. The angel said God heard your prayer **when you prayed** but the enemy had been opposing the delivery of the message.
3. Keep praying and believing—**delay is not defeat.**
4. **Persistence** in prayer is essential for victory.

Matthew 7:7-11 (NIV) ⁷ *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*