

# BIBLE 1207

## BIBLICAL LITERATURE (DANIEL)

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Read Daniel, Chapter 6 and 9:1 through 23.

### WATCHMAN OF PRAYER

In many ways Daniel reflects the ideal man of God. Unlike Jonah who was unwilling to be used of God in bringing a message to a non-Jewish land, Daniel's message is clear and on time. In serving Babylon Daniel did not forsake his people. Rather, by faithful obedience to God he was of great service to his people, showing that their God was God indeed. Daniel's lack of concern for himself resulted from his total dependence upon God. Daniel's unceasing intercession for Israel throughout a lifetime in a strange country made his example worthy of **emulation** by those who desire to have an extensive influence for God.

**His unselfish concern.** Although he was removed from Judah and taken to Babylon, Daniel did not complain about his lot in life. Even as a young lad he sensed the presence of the Lord and was determined to follow His leading and Law, trusting God to take care of him in all circumstances. Rather than going on a rebellious hunger strike that would endanger the lives of his immediate captors, he offered a creative alternative. When Daniel saw that the lives of all the wise men of Babylon were in danger from the decree of the king, he intervened with Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, and with Nebuchadnezzar himself, to prevent their destruction. When Daniel was rewarded with great gifts and made ruler over Babylon, he requested that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego also share in his exaltation.

Although he could have harbored disdain for his captors (they had brutally besieged his homeland and carried away the sacred vessels out of the destroyed temple as booty), he seems to have shown a genuine concern for their welfare. When Daniel received the answer concerning the king's second dream, his **solicitude** for the ruler's well-being was obvious because his feelings showed how astonished and troubled he was about the interpretation. When urged to divulge that matter, he replied, (Daniel 4:19) " . . . My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies." Daniel's godly desires for the king are again revealed in the strong

speech he delivered afterward, entreating him to change his direction to avoid the judgment of God. Daniel's solicitous attitude stands in stark contrast to the lack of concern shown by the prophet Jonah. Jonah fled to avoid preaching to the heathen nation of Nineveh and later became angry because God spared them when they repented. Whereas Jonah had a narrow outlook, Daniel took a wider view and demonstrated the mercy of God by his attitude and actions.

**His continued intercession.** Daniel's communion in prayer with God was an important part of his daily life. Daniel's prayers did not consist of petitions for countless things to make his life better, but were filled with praise and thanksgiving for God's adequate provisions. His pattern of praying was consistent throughout his lifetime; he did not cease to wage spiritual warfare until the battle was won. Daniel was not alone in praying about weighty matters. In Daniel, Chapter 2, he made his companions completely aware of the dire situation and requested that they make their prayers specific concerning the secret of the king's dream. When their prayers were answered in a night vision, Daniel broke into praise and blessed the name of God, ascribing honor to Him for His wisdom and might. Daniel ended his prayer by thanking and praising the Lord for communicating His divine plan to His servant.

Daniel's consistency in prayer is indicated in Daniel 6:10 which states that " . . . he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." The princes and presidents under Darius, king of Babylon, could find no fault in Daniel because of his faithfulness. The princes brought pressure to bear against Daniel by having Darius sign a decree permitting no one to offer a petition to anyone but him for thirty days.

Knowing that the writing was signed, Daniel continued to pray and to give thanks three times

a day openly, just as he had done before. When Daniel was cast into the den of lions, Darius acknowledged that Daniel served God continually; and the king spent the night fasting for the deliverance of this servant of the Lord.



**Daniel Delivered in the  
Lions' Den Under Darius**

Daniel put his faith in God's protection in this difficult situation and was again an instrument of God's glory. Darius made a decree that everyone in his dominion tremble and fear before the God of Daniel (Daniel 6:26-27) "... for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto

the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." Again, a proclamation was made by the ruler of a world empire because God's man was faithful in his communion with the Lord. We do not always realize the far-reaching consequences of our constancy in little things.

Daniel's devotion to God and his desires for his nation, Judah, were demonstrated in his prayer recorded in Chapter 9. By studying certain books, Daniel understood that the seventy-year-period of captivity spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah was coming to an end. He began to pour out his heart to God for the restoration and return of his people to their land. Seeking the Lord by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes, Daniel confessed the sin and iniquity of himself and his fathers. Daniel asked the Lord to hear, forgive, hearken, and do what he requested. While he was speaking, the Lord sent his angel, Gabriel, to show him a vision, declaring that Daniel was greatly beloved. The angel further related that at the beginning of Daniel's supplications the commandment was given that sent Gabriel on his mission. This showed Daniel that the Lord did incline His ear to hear His servant from the very beginning of his prayer. These events occurred during the first year of the reign of Darius, the Mede.

In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, Daniel mourned and fasted before the Lord three full weeks. From the first day of his supplications, God heard his word and sent forth his angel, perhaps Gabriel, to minister to his servant. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood the angel in spiritual battle for twenty-one days until Michael, one of the chief princes, came to his aid. The one who fought the Lord's messenger to prevent his ministry to Daniel could have been an evil angel in Satan's kingdom. After his interview with Daniel, the angel returned to fight again the prince of Persia. These wicked principalities, placed over the world kingdoms in Daniel's day, were powerful foes against whom God's angels contended.



**Match these items.**

- |      |                        |                                                    |
|------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1.51 | _____ Arioch           | a. greatly beloved                                 |
| 1.52 | _____ Darius           | b. angel sent to answer Daniel's prayer            |
| 1.53 | _____ Gabriel          | c. captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guard               |
| 1.54 | _____ Cyrus            | d. another name for Satan                          |
| 1.55 | _____ Michael          | e. wicked spiritual principality over Persia       |
| 1.56 | _____ prince of Persia | f. king of Babylon                                 |
| 1.57 | _____ Jeremiah         | g. archangel sent to help Gabriel in warfare       |
| 1.58 | _____ Daniel           | h. prophet who wrote of the seventy-year captivity |
| 1.59 | _____ Jonah            | i. king of the Persian Empire                      |
|      |                        | j. king of the Babylonian Empire                   |
|      |                        | k. prophet who did not want to preach to Nineveh   |



**Complete these activities.**

- 1.60 State seven facts published by King Darius about the true God.
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.61 Name five ways Daniel sought the Lord when he learned that the seventy-year captivity was coming to an end.
- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ |          |



**Complete these statements.**

- 1.62 Daniel was a. \_\_\_\_\_ and his thoughts b. \_\_\_\_\_ him when he learned the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's second dream.
- 1.63 Daniel's prayers were filled with a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.64 The Lord answered Daniel's prayers and those of his companions by showing him the dream and interpretation in a night \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.65 There was no a. \_\_\_\_\_ found in Daniel concerning the kingdom because he was b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.66 After reading about the seventy years, Daniel asked the Lord to a. \_\_\_\_\_, b. \_\_\_\_\_, c. \_\_\_\_\_, and do that which he requested.