



GLC Weekly
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Daniel's Prayer & The Amazing Results:
GOD Judged & Then Restored Judah & Jerusalem,
Lessons from Scripture 6

Thomas W. Jacobson, Global Life Campaign

As a young man, Daniel was deported to Babylon to serve King Nebuchadnezzar and became the most highly trusted and respected government leader and prophet of the LORD in this pagan kingdom. After 70 years of Divine judgment, it was Daniel's prayer and close relationship with King Darius that opened the door for the return of the Israelites to Judah to restore the temple of GOD and city of Jerusalem. Daniel had witnessed the decline of Judah and fulfillment of the prophecies GOD spoke through Jeremiah and others. Thus, he knew when the period of judgment would end after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10; Daniel 9:2) and that's when he prayed this prayer that changed the course of history and restored GOD's people to their land:

"I gave my attention to the LORD God to seek *Him by* prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, 'Alas, O LORD, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

'Righteousness belongs to You, O LORD, but to us open shame, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You. Open shame belongs to us, O LORD, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the LORD our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him. Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done *anything* like what was done to Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our

God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

‘And now, O LORD our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O LORD, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *have become* a reproach to all those around us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O LORD, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O LORD, hear! O LORD, forgive! O LORD, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name’” (Daniel 9:3-19).

Remember that Daniel was the most righteous man in Babylon; “he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him” (Daniel 6:4). He prayed toward Jerusalem three times daily and was thrown into the lions’ den for doing so (Daniel 6). He knew GOD had been dealing with Israel and Judah as nations, and Jerusalem as a city (while sparing a righteous remnant, including him). He knew or was a witness to all the sins of GOD’s people for which he confessed. As a citizen and representative of his people to GOD, he repented on their behalf. Then the LORD and Ruler of nations opened the door for GOD’s people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, the city, and re-establish the nation of Israel in Judah.

Questions: How might GOD want you to be like Daniel or follow his example, and what is possible if you are willing to do so?

Pray for God’s people to discern the spiritual causes of our problems, and how God wants us to respond to Him that He might correct and restore us. Keep praying that the Holy Spirit will “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). Through it all, let us pray for a glorious restoration and advancement of God’s kingdom.

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For the sacred gift of every human life and remembrance of children unborn,

Thomas W. Jacobson, Founder & Executive Director, Global Life Campaign
TJacobson@GLC.life ; www.GLC.life ; www.GLCPublications.com

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