

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

"An Interlude of Prayer"

Daniel 9:1-19

Introduction

1. Prayer is an important essential in the life of a true believer on Christ. It marks him out as one dependent upon God.

2. But behind the lifted hands and heart is the soul that reaches out to God in Bible study (vv. 1, 2). When Bible study becomes a pleasure, prayer will be a delight! The two are always handmaidens.

3. So Daniel prayed. How did he pray? Look -- He prayed:

1. With DEDICATION.

You cannot miss this truth for it is written with bold letters:

- a. He set his face (v. 3). Here is a strong phrase to show that Daniel meant fullness of heart in prayer!
- b. He prayed and supplicated (v. 3). The former is generic prayer and the latter is a pressing entreaty.
- c. He fasted (v. 3). Physical necessities were secondary to the throb of his heart.
- d. He was in sackcloth and ashed (v. 3). His own utter unworthiness and desperate need were expressed.

2. With INVOCATION.

Daniel's approach to God was in keeping with his utter dedication in the project. Consider his use of a variety of names of God:

- a. Adonai (v. 3). The Sovereign God.
- b. Elohim (vv. 3, 4). The Creator God Who is powerful.
- c. Jehovah (v. 4). The covenant-keeping God.

The kind of God he prayed to is a Holy God, for His holiness is matched with His mercy, Hallelujah!

3. With CONFESSION.

Many phrases are used to show the deep emotion and contrition of Daniel and his people. Consider:

- a. We have sinned (v. 5).
- b. We have committed iniquity (v. 5).
- c. We have done wickedly (vv. 5, 15).
- d. We have rebelled (vv. 5, 6, 9).
- e. We have trespassed (v. 7).
- f. We have not obeyed (vv. 10, 14).

The tragedy of this confession is that it was applicable to all the people (v. 11) including kings, princes, fathers, and the people generally (v. 8).

4. With ASCRIPTION.

Not once does Daniel lay a charge against God. The weight of the problem lies with the populace. What kind of God is the Lord? Mark these words:

- a. He is righteous (vv. 7, 14).
- b. He is merciful (v. 9).
- c. He is forgiving (v. 9).

Opposing such a God are Daniel and his people who are full of confusion! How true: sin is always confusion!

5. With PETITION.

Prayer certainly includes the needs of people. Daniel let it be known that he had needs:

- a. He prayed for the people (v. 16).
- b. He prayed for the sanctuary (v. 17).
- c. He prayed for the city (v. 18).

Conclusion

Daniel pled with the Lord (vv. 16-19) for he longed that his prayer would be answered "for the Lord's sake" (vv. 17, 19).