

# "Prayer of Confession"

## Daniel 9:1-19



- Daniel studied the scriptures and learned from the prophets. What is your relationship with God's word?
  - I only read it or hear it when the Pastor is doing it.
  - I study the Bible regularly.
  - I seek answers to specific situations.
  - The Bible is a comfort and inspiration.
  - I focus on the good parts.
  - I should probably take the Bible more seriously.
  - The Bible is an important part of my prayer life.
  - Other
- Daniel took prayer very seriously. What would be a modern equivalent of fasting, sackcloth, and ashes?
  - Setting aside a specific time or place to pray.
  - Fasting for all or part of a day.
  - Striving for a humble spirit.
  - Making prayer a priority.
  - Taking to heart the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sake.
  - Giving a sacrificial gift of time or money to the glory of God.
  - Other
- How do think modern Christians would respond to this statement: "We all sin continuously, and all sin is willful rebellion against God."
  - That's true of everybody else, but not me.
  - I know I'm not perfect, but I don't sin all the time.
  - I agree with the statement and I pray that God will give me the strength to repent and change.
  - Sin is such a negative concept.
  - Some of my sins are just mistakes.
  - Hey, I lead a pretty good life!
  - Other
- Our society denies and rationalizes sin:
  - ✓ No one sins, it's just low self-esteem.
  - ✓ Everyone is a victim!
  - ✓ Every sin and self-indulgence has a website!
  - ✓ If we don't think about it, we're not responsible for it!
  - ✓ God is just a good luck charm that we pull out of our pockets when we feel we need it.
- Many of the great prayers of the Bible seem concerned with God's reputation. How can we bolster God's reputation?
  - We can strive to be a blessing to others.
  - By glorifying God in our praise and worship
  - By graciously sharing our gifts and talents
  - We can ensure that our building and facility is beautiful, well-maintained, and appropriate.
  - We can pray with and for others.
  - We can show that we're willing to be merciful and forgiving.
  - We can actually follow the Lord's teachings.
  - Other
- Are we responsible individually for the collective sins of our leaders or our society?
  - No—we're not to blame for that which we can't control.
  - Yes—we're all a part of this community, this church, and this society.
  - Yes—Daniel was blameless, but he was willing to accept collective sin as his own.
  - No—I have a hard enough time owning up to my own sin!
  - Maybe—it depends on the specific circumstances.
  - Other
- If you've confessed your sins, but it wasn't painful, did you really confess your sins at all?

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### **Daniel 9**

1-2 Daniel wrote: Some years later, Darius the Mede, who was the son of Xerxes, had become king of Babylonia. And during his first year as king, I found out from studying the writings of the prophets that the LORD had said to Jeremiah, "Jerusalem will lie in ruins for seventy years."

3-4 Then, to show my sorrow, I went without eating and dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes. I confessed my sins and earnestly prayed to the LORD my God: Our Lord, you are a great and fearsome God, and you faithfully keep your agreement with those who love and obey you.

5 But we have sinned terribly by rebelling against you and rejecting your laws and teachings.

6 We have ignored the message your servants the prophets spoke to our kings, our leaders, our ancestors, and everyone else.

7 Everything you do is right, our Lord. But still we suffer public disgrace because we have been unfaithful and have sinned against you. This includes all of us, both far and near—the people of Judah, Jerusalem, and Israel, as well as those you dragged away to foreign lands,

8 and even our kings, our officials, and our ancestors.

9 LORD God, you are merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against you

10 and rejected your teachings that came to us from your servants the prophets.

11 Everyone in Israel has stubbornly refused to obey your laws, and so those curses written by your servant Moses have fallen upon us.

12 You warned us and our leaders that Jerusalem would suffer the worst disaster in human history, and you did exactly as you had threatened.

13 We have not escaped any of the terrible curses written by Moses, and yet we have refused to beg you for mercy and to remind ourselves of how faithful you have always been.

14 And when you finally punished us with this horrible disaster, that was also the right thing to do, because we deserved it so much.

15 Our Lord God, with your own mighty arm you rescued us from Egypt and made yourself famous to this very day, but we have sinned terribly.

16 In the past, you treated us with such kindness, that we now beg you to stop being so terribly angry with Jerusalem. After all, it is your chosen city built on your holy mountain, even though it has suffered public disgrace because of our sins and those of our ancestors.

17 I am your servant, Lord God, and I beg you to answer my prayers and bring honor to yourself by having pity on your temple that lies in ruins.

18 Please show mercy to your chosen city, not because we deserve it, but because of your great kindness.

19 Forgive us! Hurry and do something, not only for your city and your chosen people, but to bring honor to yourself.