

# A man of prayer

*Daniel prayed. When he faced execution (2 v 17-18)... when God answered prayers (2 v 19-23)... even when told not to on pain of death (6 v 10)... he prayed.*

So it should not surprise us to find him in prayer again here. This time, his prayer is in response to his reading of God's word.

## Impetus

### Read Daniel 9 v 1-2

❓ *When did Daniel pray (v 1)?*

In other words, around 539 BC—when the exile in Babylon had lasted around 70 years.

❓ *What had Daniel discovered, and where (v 2)?*

#### TIME OUT

### Read Jeremiah 29 v 10-14

This is probably the part Daniel was reading.

❓ *How would it have given him great hope?*

## Response

### Read Daniel 9 v 3-14

Given what Daniel had just read in Jeremiah—and that we have seen his confidence in the God of Israel throughout this book—verse 3 is surprising. Fasting is going without food in order to prioritise something else—here, prayer. Wearing sackcloth and ashes is a visible sign of lament. Daniel was confident that God would keep his promises, but he was neither complacent nor presumptuous.

## Apply

❓ *Are you ever either complacent or presumptuous in your praying—in whether you pray at all, and what you say when you do?*

## Confession

“I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed” (v 4).

❓ *What does Daniel confess:*

- *about what God is like?*
- *about what Israel is like?*

“Confession” is two-dimensional—it is about acknowledging the righteous character of God, both in his judgment and his mercy—as well as admitting our own failings and shortcomings.

❓ *What does verse 6 suggest is the root of all the sins Israel has committed?*

## Apply

❓ *What do you learn here that you could adopt in your own prayer life?*

## Pray

Pray now in confidence that God will keep his promises to bless and save his people; but pray also in humble confession regarding God's righteousness and your sinfulness.