

Our man of prayer

The opening phrase of verse 15—“Now, Lord our God...” indicates that Daniel’s prayer is moving from confession to petition.

Past and present

Read Daniel 9 v 15-19

- ❓ *What has God done for his people in the past (v 15)?*
- ❓ *What does Daniel beg God to do in the present (v 16-19)?*
- ❓ *Why would knowing the truths of verse 15 help Daniel to pray boldly, as he does in v 16-19?*

Notice that Daniel does not say: “Please do all this because we are very sorry” or “Please do all this because we will obey you properly this time”.

- ❓ *On what basis and for whose sake does Daniel make these requests (v 18-19)?*

⬆️ Pray

Like the people in Daniel’s day, we need the mercy of God. And like the people in Daniel’s day, we can only claim it because of God’s character, not the depth of our sorrow or our determination to obey better. This is liberating—our sorrow may be fleeting, and our obedience will always be partial, but God’s mercy is everlasting. He always stands ready to forgive his people.

Thank God now for his mercy. Claim it for yourself. And pray that as you live as his forgiven child, his name would be glorified through you.

A crucial “we”

Re-read Daniel 9 v 1-14

Notice Daniel does not say “I” throughout his confession. He says “we”. And notice that Daniel does not pray for personal restoration, but for the restoration of all God’s people. In fact, his confession is strange—for he confesses things that Israel have done, but that he has not. We have seen in this book that Daniel was faithful to God in a way that God’s people in general had failed dismally to be.

In other words, Daniel is representing Israel—praying on their behalf, and pleading on their behalf.

Read Romans 8 v 34; Hebrews 7 v 25

- ❓ *What is Jesus doing right now?*

Read 1 John 2 v 1

- ❓ *Why is this great news for us when we fail to live as Daniel did, or as Jesus did?*

⬆️ Pray

God the Son is speaking up for you right now in his Father’s presence! Daniel’s prayer not only provides us with an example of how to pray, but also points us to our Saviour’s prayers.

Thank Jesus now that he died for your sins, and that he lives to speak on your behalf. Thank him for the confidence and assurance this gives each of his people.