



Quarterly Day of Prayer and Fasting

Pray Like Daniel:

Brave Prayer in Times of Trial

Devotional
and Resources

2nd Quarter 2025

Sabbath, April 5

Prepared for church group and individual use by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in coordination with the Revival and Reformation Committee. Written by Shenalyn Page for the Day of Prayer global initiative. Visit www.revivalandreformation.org for more information.

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Invitation to “Pray Like Daniel”

Did you know that the prophetic book of Daniel is the only book in the Bible that specifically says it is for the “time of the end” (Daniel 8:17; 11:35, 40; 12:4, 9)? As such, shouldn’t it be of special interest to those of us living in the “time of the end”?

Bold prayers and their incredible answers are woven into the stories and prophecies of Daniel. As we examine the prophet’s prayers, we will find that the power to move God is not found simply in the words we use but also in the life we live. We will also see the potent results of persistent, Holy Spirit-led prayer. Heaven itself listens and answers! Join us as we learn to pray like Daniel.

Our theme for 2025 is “Pray Like Daniel: Inspiration for Last-day Praying.” In each quarter we will look at a high point of prayer in Daniel’s life and discover its relevance for life in the last days. Then we will devote ourselves to praying as he did.

In the first quarter we looked at Daniel’s decision to be faithful to God at all costs and his prayer of rejoicing when God honored that commitment. This time we will look at Daniel’s brave prayer life in Daniel 6:10, 11. Why was Daniel was so insistent on praying visibly? How did his habits steady his life? And how do we respond when God calls each of us as last-day intercessors?

The materials that follow include a devotional as well as ideas, themes, and scriptures to help you plan a successful day of prayer and fasting in your church community. Please set aside significant time to pray as a part of your program, for only the Holy Spirit can bring the Word to life in our hearts and transform us into effective prayer warriors.

Inspiration tells us, “Could we see all the activity of human instrumentality, as it appears before God, we would see that only the work accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the merit of Christ, will stand the test of the judgment” (*Christian Service*, p. 263).

Devotional: Brave Prayer in Times of Trial

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God” (Daniel 6:10, 11).

“Look! He’s opening his upper window,” the younger man hissed from his partially hidden position outside Daniel’s home in Babylon.

“I knew it wouldn’t take long for him to disobey orders and pray to his God,” the older man wagged his head sagely. “I’ve heard about Belshazzar for many years. He was famous long before we conquered Babylon. But to have him made the governor over all of us who have worked with Darius for so long—it’s extraordinarily aggravating!”

“I know! His work is so good that he makes us all look bad. Just listen to him pray!” the young man scowled. “He’s got nerve! The decree not to pray to anyone except Darius for the next 30 days was only signed an hour ago!”

Moments later, the two men were knocking furiously on the inner door of the palace. “We have to talk to King Darius!” they panted, pushing past the guards. “His favorite governor just wrote his own death sentence!”

A Foolish Time to Pray Publicly?

Have you ever wondered why Daniel didn’t just pray with the windows closed? I mean, couldn’t he be a little more private for 30 days?

Private prayer is a good thing, right? It allows us to bare our hearts before God and seek Him on a deeper level than we can in public. Even Jesus said so! “When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:6).

So why did Daniel feel it necessary to open his window toward Jerusalem and pray so publicly? Wouldn’t private prayer have been sufficient in this case? We need a little history lesson to understand why Daniel chose to pray so brazenly.

The Habit That Shaped Daniel

Let’s zoom into Daniel’s situation more closely. Nearly 70 years have passed since Daniel and his friends were first taken to Babylon. He is nearing 90 years of age. Daniel has excelled as a statesman in the service of King Nebuchadnezzar, then under Nabonidas and his co-regent son Belshazzar. Through all the long years, Daniel has served faithfully and honestly. He has been honored for his wisdom and diplomacy. In circles that care to remember, he is known as the man “in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God” (see Daniel 4:8, 9, 18; 5:11).

Daniel’s faithfulness to God is visible to everyone around him because of a habit he has cultivated since his youth. In Daniel 6:10 the prophet tells us the secret of his steady holiness: “And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”

Did you catch that? Daniel has made thrice-daily prayer at his window a priority since his youth. Not just quick prayers to bookend his days. No, Daniel’s prayer life echoes that of King David, who said, “As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning and at

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noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:16, 17). This regular commitment to intercession is the habit that has given stability and substance to Daniel’s life. It has anchored his days and given public evidence of his allegiance to the God of heaven.

How could he abandon his commitment to regular, public prayer in the time of this great trial? Everyone would think he has forsaken Jehovah. It is a risk Daniel will not take. Praying at his prayer window is the only way to continue his faithfulness.

70 Years. Now, Pray!

There is another, even more compelling reason that Daniel chooses to pray at the window.

After a long career in public service to the kings of Babylon, Daniel recently witnessed Babylon’s fall and the installation of a new regime under the Medo-Persian Empire. Already, he has “distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm” (Daniel 6:3).

For the past 13 or 14 years, Daniel has spent much of his free time engaged in serious study of the prophetic writings. Ever since he received his first prophetic vision (Daniel 7) in Belshazzar’s first year of reign, and its follow-up explanation (Daniel 8) two years later, Daniel has been trying to make sense of the symbolic creatures and heavenly revelations. He has even shared the visions with others, but “no one understood” (Daniel 8:27).

Daniel’s desire to understand has led him back to the prophetic writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah. There he discovers a prophecy (Isaiah 44:28–45:13) that predicts exactly how Cyrus would conquer Babylon. He also understands “by the books” (Daniel 9:2) that the 70 years predicted by Jeremiah are at an end. Now the aged prophet must be thrilled when he realizes that the very man pointed out as God’s “anointed,” the one who would “let My exiles go free” (Isaiah 45:1, 13), has conquered Babylon and that the time of deliverance is nearly here. God’s promise to restore His people to Jerusalem (Jeremiah 29:10) is coming true!

Yet the verses that follow God’s promise of restoration trouble Daniel:

“For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. **Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.** I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive” (Jeremiah 29:10–14).

Now the 70 years of exile are nearly up, and God’s people are supposed to be praying because prayer is the key to the 70-year prophecy coming true. But instead of devoting themselves to prayer, most of the Jews are making a comfortable living in Babylon.

Daniel’s outlawed window prayer is a clarion call to his fellow exiles: Now is the time to pray! Prophecy is being fulfilled. The time has come to return to Jerusalem. No matter what any king may say, we must seek the God of heaven.

You know the rest of the story: God wonderfully intervened to save the life of his brave prayer warrior. Daniel’s habitual thanksgiving and courageous supplication (even in a time of crisis) set the stage for one of the Bible’s greatest rescue stories—Daniel in the Lions’ Den. Truly, God’s promise is sure: “Those who honor Me I will honor” (1 Samuel 2:30).

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What about You and Me?

Ouch . . .

I don't know about you, but Daniel's prayer life challenges me. I find myself a little annoyed at the idea that I should pray three times a day. Where am I supposed to find time for that in a busy life? So many things call for my attention. Surely God knows all my responsibilities.

Then there's Daniel's insistence on praying when prophecies are coming true. Doesn't God already know what needs to be done at this point in earth's history? Why do I need to devote myself to prayer?

Don't get me wrong. I love God. I've seen Him answer lots of prayers. I read my Bible almost every day. But if I let the consistency and the intentionality of Daniel's prayer life sink in, I have to admit that they are a rebuke to me. I am prone to let everyday life get in the way of the prayer life God is calling me to prioritize.

And if we're honest as a church, we have to admit that we have been asleep at the wheel. Prophecy is being fulfilled all around us in ways we have never seen before. Jesus' soon return is just around the proverbial corner. Yet, I fear most of us are making a living in Babylon instead of praying like Daniel.

Our End-time Call to Prayer

Have you been paying attention to the news? Like Daniel, we are witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy on all sides. Do we not see the nations in distress? Perplexity and confusion? Natural disasters? "Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26). All the things that Jesus predicted would come about before the Second Coming are abundant in our world today. Surely it cannot be long until the "Son of Man [comes] in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27).

How should we respond? Jesus has a promise, a caution, and a call to prayer for those of us living in the end times:

The Promise: "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28).

The Caution: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Luke 21:34, 35).

The Call to Prayer: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

It is time to let the anticipation of seeing our Redeemer face to face fill our hearts and lift our spirits. We have no reason for dismay when Jesus is interceding for us in the heavenly sanctuary. Instead, we have every reason for joy and holy boldness.

We cannot afford to let our hearts and minds be filled up with the things of this world. No matter how pressing our daily business may be, let us keep watch and devote ourselves to prayer—for a dying world, for hurting people, and for ourselves. Now, more than ever, God is calling you and me to stand boldly for the right and to pray with persevering determination.

Brave prayer in times of crisis is still the source of mighty rescues.

Sabbath Theme and Prayer Program Suggestions

Theme: Brave Prayer (Daniel 6:10)

Sabbath Morning: We suggest building your entire Sabbath service on the story of Daniel 6. This should include every element of your program. You may also want to review *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 44.

- Sermon should explore the story of Daniel 6 and help people understand Daniel's consistent prayer life and the reason for his boldness in prayer.
- Children's story can be a creative retelling of Daniel 6 to make it applicable to youth.
- As much as possible, use the music, scripture readings, and other aspects of the program to call the congregation to a commitment to bold prayer in times of crisis.

Afternoon Prayer and Bible Study Program: Meet either with the whole church, in groups in a comfortable room, or in someone's home. If meeting in person is not possible, you might use a video service such as Zoom or meet via telephone or some other platform. We recommend 2–3 hours for this afternoon program of prayer and Bible study.

- Just before starting your prayer time, share the devotional above and any other inspired passages and quotes the Holy Spirit leads you to share with the group.
- Most of the time will be spent in corporate prayer, but if time allows you may break into smaller groups for Bible study and more personal prayer requests. Suggested passages: Daniel 6; Psalms 138:3; Acts 4:1–31; Hebrews 10:19–25. Close with a united time of prayer with the whole group. Focus on praying for consistency and boldness.
- Set aside an area for smaller children and ask someone to watch over them during the prayer time. Children can be introduced to simple concepts about God and prayer while in "play time." Ideas for teaching children about prayer here: <https://www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer/teaching-children-to-pray/>.
- Invite friends and family to your prayer time.
- Have everything ready for the prayer session. Prepare the songs in advance.
- Have a special supper and testimony time in the evening. Ask participants to bring a snack or potluck dish. Sharing a meal and friendly conversation after prayer helps to build a community spirit.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your plans.

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Additional Resources

Share the following links with members who want to go deeper in prayer and study. Join us in making disciples for God's kingdom!

Praying the Word Prayer Promise Cards

<https://bit.ly/PrayingThePromises>

Powerful Promises for a Day of Prayer

<https://bit.ly/PowerfulPrayerPromises>

Quick Guidelines for Leading United Prayer

<https://bit.ly/QuickGuide-UnitedPrayer>

Praying for Rain: Full Handbook for United Prayer

<https://bit.ly/PrayingForRain7>

Practical Pointers for Biblical Fasting

<https://bit.ly/PracticalPointers4BiblicalFasting>

Growing a Prayer Ministry (Resources for Prayer Ministry leaders)

<https://www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer/>

“From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld.”

(The Desire of Ages, p. 300)