



Quarterly Day of Prayer and Fasting

Pray Like Daniel:

Prayer for the Healing of God's People

Devotional
and Resources

3rd Quarter 2025

Sabbath, July 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. In the second quarter we discovered how Daniel kept a consistent prayer life and why he was so insistent on praying publicly. Now we will immerse ourselves in the great prayer of Daniel 9:3–19 and learn how to intercede as did the prophet.

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: Prayer for the Healing of God's People

"Prayer is the one power on earth that commands the power of heaven" (Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercession*, p. 33).

The aged prophet rises slowly to his feet. Determination furrows Daniel's brow, but the spark of hope is burning brightly in his heart. The prophetic scrolls of Isaiah and Jeremiah lay open upon his table; beside them, a parchment with Daniel's notes and a neat column of figures. There is no doubt in his mind. The 70 years of exile predicted by Jeremiah are nearly over (Jeremiah 29:10–14). It is time to pray.

Already Daniel has witnessed the rise of the second empire predicted in Nebuchadnezzar's dream so many decades ago. The Medo-Persian conquest of Babylon has perfectly fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 45:1–3). Belshazzar's demise has been dramatically highlighted by the mysterious handwriting on the wall. Daniel's study of the prophetic writings compels him to continue praying publicly even when outlawed by the king, but his stint in the lions' den does nothing to dampen his courage or dissuade him from praying.

Instead, the promptings of the Holy Spirit have become ever stronger. Isaiah's words burn like a fire in Daniel's heart: "I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:6, 7).

The time has come to devote himself fully to prayer. He must pray for the healing of his people and his city. God's honor is at stake! He will be a watchman. He will not keep silent until Jerusalem is once again a praise in the earth. It is time to trouble the Almighty!

"Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession" (Daniel 9:3, 4).

An Intercessor on His Knees

Daniel sinks to his knees and begins to pray. From the depths of his being pours forth a heartbroken prayer for the healing of his people: "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments" (Daniel 9:4, 5).

Daniel prays with great confidence, for he is speaking to the God he knows personally, but his prayer holds no hint of pride. Even though Daniel has lions' den proof that he is innocent before God (Daniel 6:22), he classifies himself with the most sinful of his people. He freely confesses that "shame of face" belongs to us "because we have sinned against You" (Daniel 9:8). He admits that they have "not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws" (Daniel 9:10). "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth . . . we have sinned, we have done wickedly!" (Daniel 9:13, 15).

Now Daniel's sorrowful confession turns into earnest pleas for healing and mercy.

"O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem. . . . and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear . . . for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O

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Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name” (Daniel 9:16–19).

The Sin of Prayerlessness

Did you catch the heart of Daniel’s confession? The prophet understands the sin that lies at the root of Israel’s exile—prayerlessness. “As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; **yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth**” (Daniel 9:13). The Israelites’ failure to pray is the cause of their failure to return to God. Lack of prayer allowed them to drift away from God in the first place, and now prayerlessness is preventing them from receiving His healing.

Not only that, but the Hebrews’ prayerlessness means that God’s reputation has been tarnished before the nations. Daniel cannot bear to see His God—the Creator of the universe—appear weak and fickle like the gods of the pagan nations. He longs for God to reveal His goodness in the healing of His people.

The words of Isaiah tug at Daniel’s heart: “He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor” (Isaiah 59:16). “There is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You” (Isaiah 64:7).

Prayer that Heaven Hears

Yes, prayerlessness is the great sin of God’s people. But Daniel recognizes the truth that we so need to learn today: One person wholly committed to intercessory prayer can turn the tide of a whole nation.

“A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. When churches are revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God. He hungers and thirsts after God, and asks in faith, and receives accordingly. He goes to work in earnest, feeling his great dependence upon the Lord, and souls are aroused to seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls upon the hearts of men” (Ellen White, *The Home Missionary*, Nov. 1, 1890, par. 28).

Heaven does hear Daniel’s prayer. Before he has even finished praying, the angel Gabriel arrives from heaven with an explanation for the vision that so mystified Daniel in chapter 8. Gabriel also brings the wonderful assurance that “at the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved” (Daniel 9:23).

Isn’t that marvelous? God Almighty commissioned Gabriel to bring the answer—and a personal assurance of God’s love for him—as soon as the prophet began praying. Gabriel’s answer is one of the most wonderful in the Bible, for it clearly spells out when the Messiah would come and what His work would be.

Are You Determined to See Revival?

Like Daniel, do you recognize the spiritual desert where God’s people are wandering? Are you heartbroken over the division, self-righteousness, and pride that characterize so many of us? Are you learning to care more about God’s reputation than your own? Do you long to see revival and healing in your church?

If so, then God is calling you to become a “watchman” who will give Him no rest until He restores His people. He needs you to “set” your face toward Him with fasting (selflessly setting aside personal needs and desires so you can focus on God) and heart-searching confession of sin so that He can send His marvelous answers to prayer winging earthward. He needs you to pray for the healing of His people so that we accomplish the work He has given us to do in this world.

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“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1, 2).

Do not despair if you are praying alone (or only with your family or a small group). Heaven still hears your prayers for healing. Like Daniel, you can pray with confidence, knowing that the God to whom you pray is the One who made you and loves you. He is the One who has promised that He will soon return to end our earthly exile. He is the One who is calling you to pray and will answer your prayers in the perfect time and way.

Never stop praying for the healing of God’s people. He has called you, and He will answer.

Sabbath Theme and Prayer Program Suggestions

Theme: Healing Prayer (Daniel 9:1–23)

Sabbath Morning: We suggest building your entire Sabbath service on the story of Daniel 9. This should include every element of your program. You may also want to review *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 45.

- Sermon should explore the story of Daniel 9 and help people understand why Daniel devoted himself to intercessory prayer. Also, reviewing the call to intercessory prayer would be helpful.
- Children’s story can be a creative retelling of Daniel 9:1–23 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 intercessory prayer.

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 9:1–23; Genesis 18:23–32; Isaiah 62:6, 7; Ephesians 3:14–21; 1 Timothy 2:1–4. Close with a united time of thanksgiving with the whole group.
- 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)