

Daniel's Prayer of Confession

*“O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O
Lord, listen and act!”*

– Daniel 9:19

Background

- Israel in total captivity for 70 years, first to the Babylonians and then to the Persians
- God foretold their time in captivity, see Jeremiah 25:1-14, 29:10-14, 32:36-37
- Daniel was a righteous man (Ez 14:14), a man of faith and prayer
- Daniel would never make it back to Jerusalem, but his righteousness paved the way for Israel!

Prayer, Supplication and Confession

Several words are used to describe Daniel's prayer:

- *Prayer* – talking to God
- *Supplication* – petitioning, pleading with God
 - “make request” (vs. 3) means “pleaded” (NIV)
- *Confession* – to acknowledge, to declare; in this case, to admit sin
- The same words are used in the NT to instruct Christians to pray (see I Tim 2:1; I John 1:9)

Real Repentance Involves:

- *Calling sin what it really is:*
 - **vs. 5** – Notice there are no euphemisms, no beating around the bush
 - See Ps 51:1-4; II Sam 12:13
 - In the NT, *confession* means literally “*to speak the same,*” i.e. to acknowledge and agree with God!
- *Placing the blame wholly on self:*
 - **vs. 5-7** – Notice the lack of pronouns like *they*
 - No excuses or placing blame on others: sin is between you and God!

Real Repentance Involves:

- *A heart that is hurting and ashamed:*
 - **vs. 7-8** – Springing from that fact that choosing sin ruins your relationship with your loving, Creator!
 - See Matt 5:4; II Cor 7:9-11
- *Accepting God's righteous judgment:*
 - **vs. 7-13 (esp. vs. 12)** – Everything that God has done and continues to do is perfectly right!
 - The consequences of sin may be severe, but they are never all that we truly deserve! See Ps 103:10.

Real Repentance Involves Renewal

- **vs. 15,17** – “And now, O Lord our God...”
 - It’s time to start over and be clean again!
- **vs. 18** – NOT because we deserve it, but because God is loving and merciful beyond measure!
- **vs. 19** – Above all else, the repent heart longs for forgiveness, restoration with God!
 - See Ps 51:10,11; Acts 2:37-39

“Repent therefore and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out, so
that times of refreshing may come
from the presence of the Lord...”

– Acts 3:19