



TRUSTING  
THE MOST HIGH GOD  
IN PERILOUS TIMES

DANIEL'S PRAYER: DANIEL 9:1-19



**9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans**

- This would have been 539 B.C. the first year after the death of Belshazzar when Babylon fell to the Medo -Persians. This was predicted by Daniel in Chapter 5 when he interpreted the handwriting on the wall.
- Daniel was probably in his 80's by this time.

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Jeremiah 25:11,12 “And this whole land shall be a desolation and a horror, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, declares the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.”

Jeremiah 29:10 “For thus says the LORD, ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.’”

“From this we see that Daniel was convinced that what Jeremiah had written was the Word of the Lord. This is one of the open secrets of Daniel’s life and witness. He believed that the Scriptures were the Word of the living God. This conviction is still the secret of how to live in ‘Babylon’ without ‘Babylon’ living in you. The issue is not so much what city we live in but what city we live for. Daniel lived in Babylon; but, in an ultimate sense, he lived for Jerusalem and all that it stood for. Like Abraham before him, he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. While he served Babylon faithfully, the center of gravity in his life was his faith in God, and all that he did was an expression of that trust and commitment.” John Lennox

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\* What moved Daniel to pray as he did?

- It was Daniel’s study of the Scriptures that led him to turn to **God** in **prayer**.
- Prayer is often a response to the Word of God.
- Daniel set his face to not just seek God’s wisdom or guidance, but to seek God Himself.

9:4 “I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, “Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,”

Characteristics of true intercessory prayer:

- It often begins with confession.

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- “Who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him...”

9:5 “We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.”

Four times in vs 5, 8, 11, and 15, Daniel confessed the sins of the nation.

Vs 5 we have sinned...

Vs 8 ...we have sinned against You

Vs 11 ...for we have sinned against Him

Vs 15 ...we have sinned, we have been wicked.

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- Intercessory prayer identifies with those we pray for.

Unlike the Pharisee's prayer in Luke 18:10-14

- The more one knows the Lord, the more sensitive they become to sin.
  - Isaiah: "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." (Isa. 6:5)
  - John: "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man." (Rev. 1:17)
  - Paul: "chief of sinners" (1Tim. 1:15)

Daniel 9:6, 7 “Moreover, we have not listened to Thy servants the prophets, who spoke in Thy name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land. Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day-- to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You.”

9:9-11 “To the Lord our God *belong* compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets. Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice”

- How does God feel about disobedience?

1 Samuel 15:22,23: “And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.”

- What were the consequences of Israel's disobedience and rebellion?

9:11b "...so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him...

9:13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth."

In Deut. 28 Moses revealed the principle that obedience would bring blessing:

28:1,2 “Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the Lord your God.”

But disobedience would bring curses:

28:5 “But it shall come about, if you will not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.”

Moses gives a list of curses which includes being subject to foreign powers:

28:32 “Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes shall look on and yearn for them continually; but there shall be nothing you can do”

41 “You shall have sons and daughters but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.”

49,50 “The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, a nation of fierce countenance who shall have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young.”

In Deut. 30 God also revealed how discipline would be lifted and the nation restored:

Deut. 30:1-3 “So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you, and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.”

9: 15, 16 “And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day-- we have sinned, we have been wicked. O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem. Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.”

9:17,18 “So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.”

- What was the basis of Daniel’s appeal?

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- What was the basis of Daniel’s appeal?

Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

Ephesians 2:8,9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

9:19 “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

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Acts 10:43 "Of Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

How is my prayer life?

1) Am I willing to confess my short-comings and sins to the Lord, as Daniel did?

Especially each week when we come to the Lord's Supper as Paul says in 1Cor. 11:28-31:

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.”

2) How often do I pray?

“One of the great uses of Twitter & Facebook will be to prove at the last day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time” John Piper

1Thes. 5:17 “pray without ceasing.”

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3) How often do I pray for others?

One of the great qualities of Daniel was that he was a man who interceded for others.

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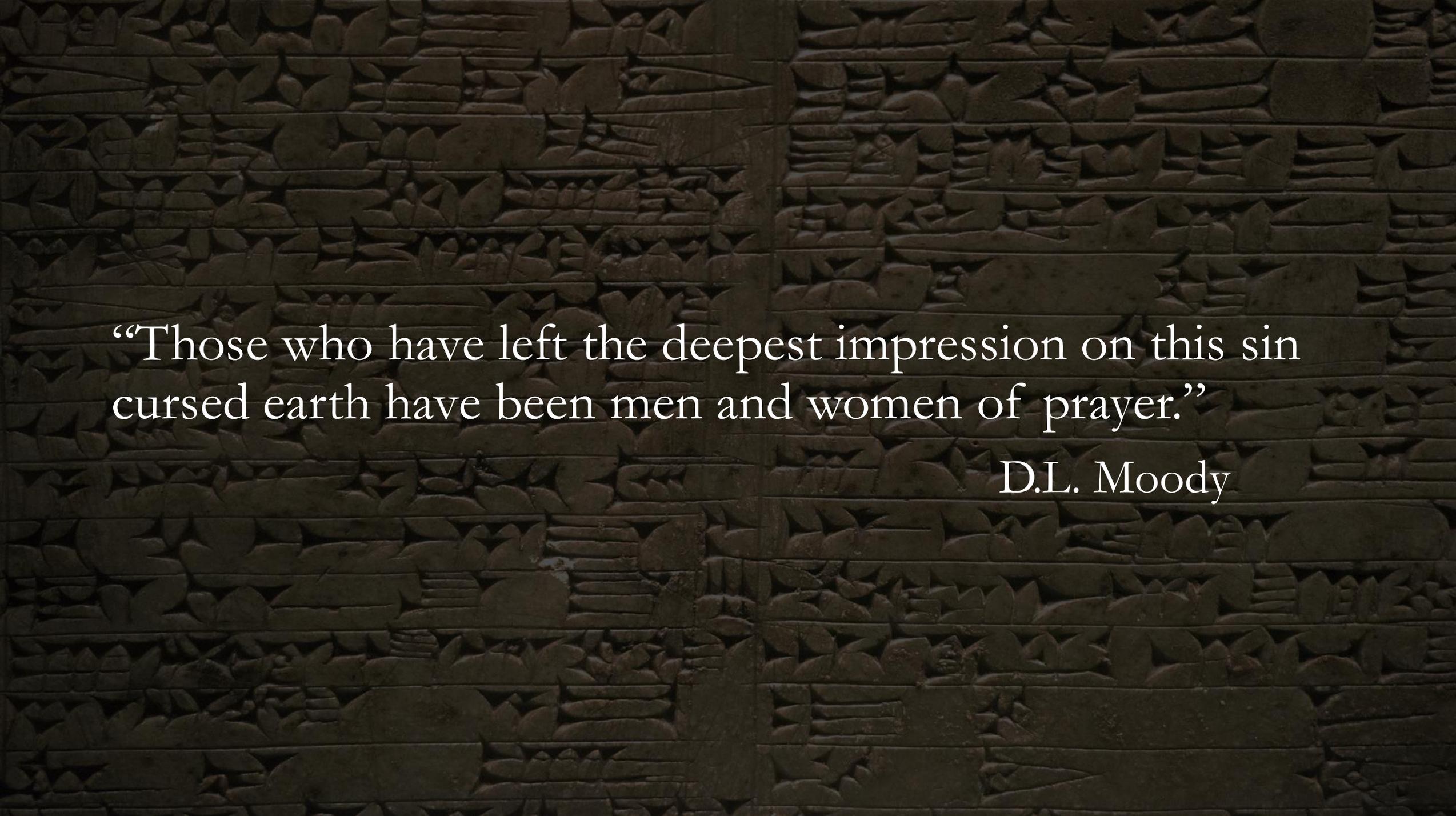
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3) Do I pray for others?

One of the great qualities of Daniel was that he was a man who interceded for others.

1Samuel 12:23: “...far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you...”

Phil. 1:3,4: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all”



“Those who have left the deepest impression on this sin  
cursed earth have been men and women of prayer.”

D.L. Moody