

Prayer in the Book of Daniel (Pt. 2)

By Pastor Francis Williams

The second instance of prayer in Daniel is in 6:10. Here, emphasis is placed on Daniel's posture in prayer. We see him "kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and making petition and supplication before his God." Kneeling in prayer signifies submission to God.

The third prayer registered in the book is extensive (Dan. 9:3-19). On this occasion, Daniel gave his "attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Dan. 9:3). This lengthy prayer consists of two main themes: confession of sin and making supplication (Dan. 9:29).

Some important elements of biblical prayer can be drawn out from the prayers in Daniel. The first element of prayer is the acknowledgement of God's greatness (Dan. 2:20, 23; 9:4). Secondly, biblical prayer includes confession of sin (Dan. 9: 4-20). Biblical prayer also includes the making of supplication (Dan. 9:3, 20). All of these elements of prayer are present in the model prayer of Jesus in Matthew 6:9-13. Of course, this is not the only manner in which we should pray. But if Jesus included these elements in prayer, we would be wise to learn from the Master. May the God of heaven teach us how to think and pray biblically.