

# "What Happens When God's People Pray?"

Sunday, July 24, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

*Daniel 9:1-19*

**BIG IDEA:** We discover God's plans through discerning prayer.

*"I prayed to the LORD my God..."*

*Daniel 9:4a (CSB)*



## Discerning prayer focuses our MINDS on the BIBLE.

- Daniel's knowledge of God's Word INITIATED his prayer.
- Daniel's knowledge of God's Word INFORMED his prayer.



## Discerning prayer prepares our HEARTS for WORSHIP.

- Daniel turned his ATTENTION to the Lord God
- Daniel turned his ATTENTION to the Lord God to SEEK Him
- Daniel turned his ATTENTION to the Lord God to SEEK Him by PRAYER and PETITION
- Daniel turned his ATTENTION to the Lord God to SEEK Him by PRAYER and PETITION, with FASTING, SACKCLOTH, & ASHES.



## Discerning prayer makes much of GOD'S CHARACTER.

- Daniel prayed about God's ATTRIBUTES.
- Daniel prayed about God's NAMES.

- Daniel prayed about God's REPUTATION.



## Discerning prayer confesses SIN to GOD.

- Daniel confesses his own PERSONAL SIN.
- Daniel confesses Israel's CORPORATE SIN.



## Discerning prayer solicits bold REQUESTS of GOD.

- Daniel boldly asks God to BRING Israel's EXILE to an END.
- Daniel boldly asks God to LISTEN and LOOK.
- Daniel boldly asks God to HEAR, FORGIVE, LISTEN, and ACT.
- Daniel boldly asks God to CONSIDER HIS REPUTATION.

**BIG IDEA:** We discover God's plans through discerning prayer.

**Read:** Daniel 9:1-19

**Think:** Pray along with Daniel and then ask yourself the following questions: *When did prayer first become your own conversation with God? What moves Daniel to pray as he does? What clues do Jeremiah 25:1-14 and 29:10-14 provide? If the "70-year" period begins with the onset of Jehoiakim's reign (605 B.C.) or Nebuchadnezzar's reign (605 B.C.), what then happens almost 70 years later (in 538 B.C.)? How does Daniel prepare himself for this divine encounter through prayer? Who is Daniel speaking for as he prays? What elements of common prayer do you see here? How does each aspect of God prompt a round of Daniel's confession: God is great and awesome, faithful to His covenant, righteous in bringing judgment, merciful and forgiving, jealous for His Name? Why does Daniel have confidence God will answer his prayer (v 16-19)? What does this prayer say about God's covenant: based on grace or works, contingent on His character or ours, communicates love or just, forever binding or always renegotiable?*

**Do:** Daniel's study of God's Word drove him to pray a prayer filled with Scripture. How could you use Scripture in your prayers? Judging from the content of your recent prayers, what concerns you most these days, God's reputation or your own hide and desires? Daniel humbled himself before meeting with God in prayer (v 3). How do you prepare to meet God in prayer? What aspects of God's character and reputation move you to pray? Why? Who do you pray for most frequently? What prayer agenda does Daniel 9 suggest to you/for you?

