

21 DAYS OF *Prayer*

A 20-DAY PRAYER GUIDE



SCRIPTURE



PRAYER



REFLECTION



COMMUNITY



SEEK GOD. STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. SEE HIS POWER.

*"I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition,
in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes."*

DANIEL 9:3

Pastor Kerrick Butler

Dear Faith Family,

Welcome to our 21 Days of Prayer!

Beginning Sunday, August 2, we are coming together as a church family for a focused season of seeking God, strengthening our faith, and preparing our hearts for everything He desires to do in us and through us. I believe these days will be filled with spiritual growth, fresh revelation, answered prayers, and powerful encounters with God.

This guide has been created to help you remain intentional throughout this season. Although we are participating in 21 Days of Prayer, this is a 20-day guide by design. We will launch our journey together during the Faith Experience on Sunday, August 2nd, and the daily readings will begin on Monday, August 3rd. This allows us to start together in worship on Sunday and then move into a consistent weekday and weekend rhythm of personal reflection, Scripture reading, and prayer.

As you move through this Guide, do more than simply read the material. Take time to study the Scripture passages, reflect on what the Holy Spirit is showing you, and apply these truths to your daily life. Write down what God speaks to your heart. Pray over the areas where you need wisdom, growth, direction, healing, or breakthrough. Approach each day expecting God to meet you.

I also encourage you to fully participate in the spiritual opportunities available throughout these 21 days.

Watch **Faith in the Morning every weekday** and begin your day with faith, encouragement, and the Word of God.

Attend **Online Midweek Bible Study** and remain with us for the time of prayer immediately afterward. These gatherings will help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and give you an opportunity to pray in agreement with your church family.

Join us for **Saturday Morning Prayer** as we seek God corporately and intercede for our families, our church, our communities, our nation, and the purposes of God.

Attend **church every Sunday** during this journey. Personal prayer is powerful, but there is also strength, encouragement, and spiritual momentum that comes when we gather together in worship and hear the Word of God as a church family.

Do not view these activities as separate events. Together, they create a spiritual rhythm that will help you remain focused, encouraged, and connected throughout the 21 days.

My prayer is that this will not simply be a temporary season of increased spiritual activity. I pray that these 21 days will help you establish habits of prayer, Scripture reading, worship, and Christian community that continue long after the Guide has been completed.

Set your heart to seek God. Make room for Him in your schedule. Remove unnecessary distractions. Come before Him with faith and expectation. God rewards those who diligently seek Him, and I believe something powerful will happen as we pursue Him together.

Let's begin this journey expecting revelation, transformation, supernatural assistance, and answered prayers.

Something good is going to happen to you!

In His Love,

Pastor Kerrick Butler

5-Day Devotional Focus: Standing Firm in Babylon

Day 1: Purpose in Your Heart

Reading: Daniel 1:1-8; Psalm 119:9-16

Devotional: Daniel's decision to not defile himself wasn't made in the moment—it was purposed in his heart beforehand. At just 15 years old, exiled from everything familiar, Daniel had already determined what kind of person he would be. This wasn't about food; it was about faithfulness. In a culture that demanded compromise, Daniel anchored himself in God's Word.

What decisions are you making today that will determine who you'll be tomorrow? The Babylonian culture surrounds us—entertainment, values, priorities that contradict God's ways. Like Daniel, you must purpose in your heart now to live God's way. Daily Bible reading, prayer, and confession of God's Word aren't optional—they're essential. You can't accidentally live for God in Babylon. Make the quality decision today, then back it up with daily choices that honor Him.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer!

Day 2: The Consequences of Compromise

Reading: 2 Kings 21:1-18; Galatians 6:7-10

Devotional: Manasseh's reign reveals a sobering truth: sin always produces a harvest. What began with rebuilding pagan altars ended with child sacrifice and Jerusalem filled with innocent blood. The judgment that fell on Judah wasn't arbitrary—it was the inevitable harvest of seeds sown over decades. God's warnings through Moses weren't threats but loving explanations of how His universe works.

We live under a better covenant through Jesus, redeemed from the curse of the law. Yet the principle of seed time and harvest remains. The seeds you plant today—in your thought life, relationships, finances, and devotion to God—will produce a harvest tomorrow. Nations, families, and individuals still reap what they sow. But here's the hope: righteous seeds produce righteous harvests. Like Josiah's repentance delayed judgment, your prayers and obedience can shift atmospheres. Plant wisely today.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer!

Day 3: Favor in Foreign Places

Reading: Daniel 1:9-16; Proverbs 3:1-6

Devotional: "God made Daniel to find favor, compassion, and loving-kindness with the chief of the eunuchs." This is supernatural favor. Daniel didn't manipulate or compromise—he simply asked permission to obey God, and God moved on his behalf. The very person who could have executed him became his advocate.

You serve the same God. Psalm 5:12 promises that God surrounds the righteous with favor as a shield. This isn't about deserving it; it's about receiving what God freely gives to those who honor Him. Start confessing favor over your life daily: "I have favor with God and man. I have favor with decision-makers and those in authority." When you purpose to live God's way, He opens doors no man can shut. He gives you favor in the most unlikely places—even in Babylon. Expect it. Declare it. Watch God move on your behalf.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer and join us tonight for our Online Bible Study at 7pm EST.

Day 4: Ten Times Better

Reading: Daniel 1:17-21; Ephesians 1:15-23

Devotional: Daniel and his friends weren't just as good as Babylon's magicians and enchanters—they were ten times better. This wasn't natural talent; it was supernatural endowment. "God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom." God's anointing made the difference.

The same Holy Spirit who empowered Daniel lives in you. You have access to the mind of Christ, the spirit of wisdom and revelation. When you renew your mind with God's Word and acknowledge His anointing on your life, you tap into supernatural understanding and skill. Pray the Ephesians 1 prayer over yourself daily. Confess that you have the mind of Christ. God wants you to excel in your profession, not for ego, but to display His glory. You're not called to blend in—you're called to stand out as a testimony to God's goodness and power.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer!

Day 5: Making a Difference Where You Are

Reading: Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 5:13-16

Devotional: Daniel didn't choose to go to Babylon. He was forcibly taken as a teenage prisoner of war to the darkest, most pagan culture of his time. Yet he didn't waste his exile complaining or compromising. He purposed to honor God, and God used him to influence kings and kingdoms for decades. Daniel made a difference in Babylon.

You may feel like you're living in Babylon—surrounded by darkness, godless values, and hostile culture. But if God could use a teenage exile to transform a kingdom, He can use you right where you are. You're not there by accident. You're the light in the darkness, the salt preserving your generation. Don't retreat—engage. Don't conform—transform. Purpose in your heart to live

God's way, expect His supernatural favor and wisdom, and watch Him use you to make a difference. Occupy until He comes. Your Babylon needs your light.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer and join us tonight for All Night Prayer!

Reflection & Deep Dive: Standing Firm in Babylon

This week's message and devotional introduced us to Daniel and his three friends—teenagers forcibly removed from their homeland and taken to Babylon. Despite being surrounded by a culture that opposed God's ways, they purposed in their hearts not to defile themselves. Their commitment to God's Word resulted in supernatural favor, wisdom, and influence that made them 10 times better than all the king's advisors. To learn even more about Daniel, stream Pastor Kerrick's study of the Book of Daniel on the Faith+ app.

Key Verse: Daniel 1:8 - "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank."

Reflection QUESTIONS

Understanding the Context

1. **What surprised you most about the historical background leading up to Daniel's exile?** How does understanding the sins of Manasseh and the judgment on Judah help you appreciate Daniel's commitment to God?
2. **Daniel and his friends were approximately 15 years old—high school sophomores.** What makes their decision to stand for God even more remarkable given their age and circumstances?
3. **The sermon mentioned that Judah had become "worse than the Amorites."** What does this tell us about the culture Daniel grew up in? How might this have influenced his determination to live differently?

Personal Reflection

4. **Daniel "purposed in his heart" not to defile himself.** What does it mean to "purpose in your heart" to follow God? How is this different from just having good intentions?
5. **Pastor Kerrick's quote: "If you do not make the quality decision backed up by several daily decisions, you will go the way of the Babylonian culture."** What daily decisions do you need to make to resist the pressure of today's culture?
6. **Daniel could have rationalized eating the king's food:** "It's just food," "I'm in a foreign land," "I need to survive," or "God will understand." What rationalizations do we make today to compromise our convictions?
7. **God gave Daniel and his friends favor with decision-makers and supernatural understanding that made them 10 times better.** Have you experienced God's favor when you stood for Him? Share your story.
8. **The four takeaways from Pastor Kerrick's Bible Study on The Book of Daniel were:**
 - The laws of seed time and harvest still affect nations today

- You must purpose in your heart to live God's way
- God will give you favor with decision-makers
- God will give you supernatural understanding and skill

Which of these four resonates most with you right now? Why?

9. **Daniel remained in royal service for decades, maintaining his integrity throughout multiple regime changes.** What does this teach us about the long-term impact of daily faithfulness?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Purpose in Your Heart Identify one specific area where you've been compromising with the culture around you. Write down a decision to honor God in that area and share it with an accountability partner.

Option 2: Daily Confession Each morning this week, confess these truths over yourself:

- "I have the mind of Christ"
- "God surrounds me with favor as a shield"
- "God gives me supernatural understanding and skill"
- "I am 10 times better because of God's anointing on my life"

Option 3: Scripture Immersion Commit to reading Daniel chapters 1-6 this week (one chapter per day with a rest day). Journal what stands out to you about Daniel's character and God's faithfulness.

"If God can use Daniel to make a difference in Babylon, God can use you to make a difference where you live."

5-Day Devotional Focus: Living with Influence Like Daniel

Day 6: God Speaks to All People

Reading: Job 33:14-18; Daniel 2:1-11

Devotional: God's communication isn't limited to the righteous alone. He spoke to Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king, through dreams because He desires all people to know Him. Just as God opened the ears of this heathen ruler, He continues speaking today—through Scripture, circumstances, and the Holy Spirit's promptings. Are you listening? God may be trying to turn you from pride, protect you from destruction, or reveal His purposes for your generation. The

question isn't whether God is speaking, but whether you're perceiving His voice. Today, ask God to open your spiritual ears. Position yourself through prayer and Scripture reading to hear what He's saying specifically to you.

Day 7: The Power of Praying Together

Reading: Daniel 2:12-23; Matthew 18:19-20

Devotional: When faced with an impossible situation, Daniel didn't pray alone—he gathered his friends. They collectively sought God's compassion and revelation, and God answered. There's supernatural power when believers unite in prayer. Your faith community isn't just for fellowship; it's your spiritual war room. Iron sharpens iron. When you're facing challenges beyond your capacity, don't isolate yourself. Reach out to faith-filled friends who will stand with you in prayer. God responds to unified, faith-filled intercession. Who are your Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Identify those prayer warriors in your life and commit to praying together regularly. Remember: where two or three gather in Jesus' name, He is present.

We look forward to seeing you at church for today's Faith Experience!

Day 8: God Is the Revealer of Secrets

Reading: Daniel 2:24-30; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

Devotional: Daniel repeatedly declared that God reveals secrets. The mysteries of your life, the hidden purposes, the unclear directions—God wants to reveal them to you. You don't need to chase conspiracy theories or seek answers from unreliable sources. The Spirit of God searches all things and makes known the deep things of God. Through prayer, especially praying in the Spirit, and through studying His Word, God unveils what you need to know. As you spend time doing these things, He will teach you and lead you. Remember, He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those with understanding. Today, ask God to reveal the secrets concerning your purpose, relationships, and calling. Trust that He who revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel will illuminate your path.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 9: Praying for Leaders Is Our Holy Responsibility

Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Jeremiah 29:4-7

Devotional: God instructed exiled Jews to pray for Babylon's prosperity because their welfare depended on it. Similarly, we're commanded to pray for all in authority—not just those we agree with. This isn't optional; it's our holy responsibility. When we pray for leaders, we create an atmosphere where we can lead quiet, peaceful lives in godliness. God knows how to deal with world leaders; He's handled Pharaohs, Caesars, and kings throughout history. Your prayers influence nations. Instead of complaining about the government, become an intercessor. Pray for wisdom, salvation, and righteous decisions for those in authority. Your prayers can shift

atmospheres and open doors for the Gospel. Commit today to regularly pray for your local, state, and national leaders.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer!

Day 10: Keys to Godly Influence

Reading: Daniel 1:8, 17-20; Daniel 2:46-49

Devotional: Daniel's influence wasn't accidental—it was cultivated through specific choices. He purposed in his heart not to compromise, pursued excellence, maintained a consistent prayer life, surrounded himself with faith-filled friends, and received God's favor. These same keys unlock influence in your life. Purpose today to serve God fully, regardless of cultural pressure. Pursue excellence in your work, relationships, and character. Develop a consistent prayer life. Build relationships with people of faith who sharpen you. Declare God's favor over your life daily. As you walk in these principles, God will position you for greater influence in your workplace, community, and sphere of relationships. You are called to be salt and light—not hidden, but influencing your world for God's kingdom.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer and join us tonight for our Online Bible Study at 7pm EST.

Reflection & Deep Dive: A Revealer of Secrets

These five days explored Daniel chapter 2, where King Nebuchadnezzar has a troubling dream that he can't remember. When his magicians and wise men can't help him, Daniel and his friends pray together, and God reveals both the dream and its interpretation. This leads to Daniel's promotion and increased influence in Babylon. The sermon emphasizes that God is a revealer of secrets who desires to place His people in positions of influence through prayer, excellence, and faithfulness.

Key Scripture References

- Daniel 2:1-49
- Jeremiah 27:5-8
- Jeremiah 29:1-7
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- Job 33:14-18

Reflection Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What stands out to you most about Daniel's response to the king's decree to kill all the wise men? How does his response differ from what you might expect?**
2. **Daniel describes God as "a revealer of secrets" multiple times. What does this characteristic of God mean to you personally?**
3. **In Daniel 2:20-23, Daniel prays a powerful prayer of praise before going to the king. Why do you think he praised God first before taking action?**

Personal Reflection

4. **Daniel was only 17-18 years old during this event—a junior or senior in high school. How does knowing his age change your perspective on what God can do through young people?**
5. **The sermon mentions that "God knows how to deal with world leaders." How does this truth affect the way you view current political situations and leaders you may disagree with?**
6. **Daniel and his friends came together to pray when facing a crisis. Who are your "praying friends of faith"? If you don't have any, what steps could you take to develop these relationships?**

Application & Action

7. **According to Jeremiah 29:7, God told the exiles to "work for the peace and prosperity of the city" where they lived. How can you apply this principle to your workplace, neighborhood, or community?**
8. **Pastor Kerrick's Bible Study of the Book of Daniel listed five keys to Daniel's influence:**
 - Purposed in his heart to serve the Lord fully
 - God gave him favor
 - He was a man of excellence
 - He was a man of prayer
 - He had praying friends of faith

Which of these areas is the strongest in your life? Which needs the most development?

9. **In the study, Pastor Kerrick mentioned that we should pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Are you currently praying regularly for:**
 - National leaders?
 - Local leaders?
 - Your workplace supervisors?
 - Community officials?

How can you be more intentional about this?

Key Takeaways

Takeaway #1: God Knows How to Deal with World Leaders

God has been dealing with kings, presidents, and rulers throughout all of history. The leaders we have today are not new to Him, and He knows exactly how to work in their hearts and circumstances.

Takeaway #2: It Is Our Holy Responsibility to Pray for World Leaders and All Those in Authority

This isn't optional—it's a biblical command. Our prayers for leaders create an environment where we can "lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty."

Personal Challenge: Set a daily reminder on your phone to pray for at least one leader in authority.

Takeaway #3: God Desires to Place His People in Positions of Authority and Influence

God wants believers positioned in every sphere of society to be salt and light. He's looking for people who will maintain their integrity and faith while serving in positions of influence.

Reflection Question: What sphere of influence has God placed you in (work, family, community, etc.)? How can you be more intentional about being salt and light there?

The Five Keys to Daniel's Influence

1. **Purpose in Your Heart to Serve the Lord Fully**
 - *What does this look like in practical terms?*
 - *What compromises might you need to eliminate?*
2. **Believe for God's Favor**
 - *Practice declaring: "I have favor with God, man, and government. The favor of God goes before me and prospers my way."*
 - *Share testimonies of God's favor in your life.*
3. **Be a Person of Excellence**
 - *In what area of your life could you raise your standard of excellence?*
 - *How does excellence in your work reflect your faith?*
4. **Be a Person of Prayer**
 - *How is your current prayer life?*
 - *What would it take to move to the next level in prayer?*
5. **Have Praying Friends of Faith**
 - *Who can you reach out to this week to build or strengthen a prayer partnership?*
 - *How can this small group become a stronger prayer community?*

Practical Application This Week

Choose at least TWO of the following to commit to this week:

- ☐ Purpose in your heart one area where you will not compromise, even if it's unpopular
- ☐ Pray daily for at least three people in authority (name them specifically)
- ☐ Declare God's favor over your life each morning this week
- ☐ Identify one area where you can raise your standard of excellence
- ☐ Reach out to a friend and establish a regular prayer time together
- ☐ Pray for the peace and prosperity of your city/community
- ☐ Study and memorize Daniel 1:8 and Daniel 2:20-23

Going Deeper

For those who want to study more this week:

- Read Daniel chapters 1-2 in their entirety
- Watch Pastor Kerrick's Study of the Book of Daniel on the Faith+ app
- Study the historical context of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire
- Research the fulfillment of the dream's prophecy through history
- Journal about areas where God might be calling you to greater influence
- Memorize 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Remember: God is still a revealer of secrets today. He wants to show you deep and hidden things. Position yourself through prayer, excellence, and faithfulness to receive His revelation!

Daniel's Faith: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

Day 11: Purpose in Your Heart

Reading: Daniel 1:8; Joshua 24:15

Devotional: Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself, even when surrounded by the temptations and pressures of Babylonian culture. This wasn't a casual decision—it was a deliberate commitment made before the test arrived. In your life, what decisions have you made in advance about how you'll live for God? The time to decide your convictions is now, not in the moment of crisis. Like Daniel, you must determine beforehand that you will serve the Lord fully, regardless of the consequences or cultural pressures. Purpose in your heart today to honor God in every area of your life. When you make this commitment in advance, you'll have the strength to stand when challenges come. Your daily choices either reinforce or undermine this purpose.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 12: God Knows How to Deal with World Leaders

Reading: Daniel 2:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Devotional: Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful, wicked king, yet God knew exactly how to reach him—through dreams, through Daniel's witness, and ultimately through humbling experiences. This same God is still sovereign over every president, prime minister, and ruler today. Nothing catches Him off guard. Your responsibility isn't to worry or become anxious about politics; it's to pray. When you pray for those in authority, you open doors for God's intervention and release angels on assignment. Stop stressing about elections and leaders. Instead, cast every care upon God and pray with faith. God can visit any leader with dreams, send laborers across their path, and change their hearts. Heaven rules, not Washington or any earthly capital. Trust God's ability to work in the hearts of leaders.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 13: Expect Deliverance, Not Disaster

Reading: Daniel 3:16-18; Psalm 34:17-19

Devotional: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a fiery furnace, but they never doubted God would deliver them. The only question was whether they'd be thrown in—not whether God would rescue them. Too often, believers expect trouble instead of supernatural assistance. When you make a stand for God, don't look for the other shoe to drop; look for God's deliverance. Yes, persecution comes, but so does divine intervention. These young men, barely twenty years old, had unshakeable confidence in God's character. They knew their God. Do you? Stop expecting the worst and start expecting miracles. Stretch your neck out looking for supernatural assistance. God can and will deliver His people. If you bow to compromise, you will burn spiritually. But if you refuse to bow, you cannot burn because God steps into the fire with you.

We look forward to praying with you today at Saturday Prayer!

Day 14: Angels Are Involved in Human Affairs

Reading: Daniel 3:28; 4:13-17; Hebrews 1:14

Devotional: When Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw a fourth man—an angel sent by God. Throughout Daniel's book, we see "watchers," angelic beings involved in executing God's decrees concerning nations and individuals. God has a host of angels at His command, and they are actively involved in human affairs. These ministering spirits are sent to serve those who inherit salvation—that includes you. Your prayers release angels on assignments. When you pray according to God's will, supernatural assistance is dispatched on your behalf. You're not alone in your battles. The same God who sent an angel into the furnace sends angels to assist you today. Walk in this confidence: heaven's armies are backing you up. The spiritual realm is more real than what you see, and God's angels are working on your behalf right now.

We look forward to seeing you at church for today's Faith Experience!

Day 15: Pride Comes Before a Fall

Reading: Daniel 4:28-37; Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6

Devotional: Nebuchadnezzar walked through his kingdom, admiring his accomplishments, declaring his own greatness—and immediately lost everything. Seven years passed before he lifted his eyes to heaven and acknowledged God's sovereignty. Pride blinds us to the source of our blessings. Every good thing you have—your abilities, opportunities, resources, relationships—comes from God. When you start believing "I did this by my mighty power," you're walking on dangerous ground. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Nebuchadnezzar's restoration came when he finally recognized that the Most High rules in the kingdoms of men. Today, acknowledge God as the source of every blessing in your life. Give Him credit for your successes. Walk in humility, knowing that without Him, you can do nothing. Those who walk in pride, God is able to put down. Choose humility and watch God add excellent majesty to your life.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Reflection & Deep Dive

Reflection Questions:

- What decisions do I need to purpose in my heart today before facing tomorrow's tests?
- Am I praying regularly for those in authority, or am I consumed with worry?
- Do I expect God's deliverance or am I always anticipating disaster?
- How can I become more aware of angelic assistance in my daily life?
- In what areas am I taking credit that belongs to God?

Deep Dive QUESTIONS

Section 1: Standing Firm in Faith (Daniel 3)

1. The Pressure to Compromise

- What are some modern-day "golden statues" that Christians face pressure to bow down to?
- How does our culture pressure believers to compromise their faith?

2. The "If" Statement

- In his study, Pastor Kerrick highlighted that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego never questioned IF God would deliver them—only if Nebuchadnezzar would throw them in. What does this reveal about their faith?

- How can we develop this same level of confidence in God's ability to deliver us?

3. Youth and Faith

- These three men were approximately 20-21 years old during this event. What does their example teach us about youth and spiritual maturity?
- How can we encourage young believers to take bold stands for God?

4. The Fourth Man

- What significance do you see in Jesus (the fourth man) joining them IN the fire rather than preventing the fire altogether?
- How have you experienced God's presence during difficult times rather than immediate removal from the difficulty?

Section 2: Pride and Humility (Daniel 4)

5. Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

- Nebuchadnezzar credited himself for all his accomplishments. How do we sometimes fall into this same trap?
- What are practical ways to acknowledge God's hand in our successes and blessings?

6. God's Warning

- God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream warning him 12 months before judgment came. What does this reveal about God's character?
- How does God warn us today when we're heading in the wrong direction?

7. Daniel's Advice

- Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar to "break off from your sins by being righteous and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor." Why do you think mercy to the poor was specifically mentioned?
- How does showing mercy to others demonstrate our repentance?

Section 3: God and World Leaders

8. Divine Authority

- The sermon emphasized that "God knows how to deal with world leaders." How does this truth comfort you in today's political climate?

- What's the difference between worrying about politics and being politically engaged as a Christian?

9. Prayer Responsibility

- The sermon called prayer for leaders a "holy responsibility." Why do you think many Christians neglect this duty?
- How can we pray more effectively for those in authority?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenges:

1. The "No Bow" Challenge

- Identify one area where you've been compromising or tempted to compromise
- Make a specific plan to take a stand this week

2. The Expectation Shift

- In the study, Pastor Kerrick said: "Stop looking for the bad, start looking for the good. Stop looking for the trouble and start looking for the supernatural assistance."
- Journal each day this week: What supernatural assistance am I expecting from God today?

3. The Prayer Commitment

- Commit to praying daily for specific leaders (local, state, national)
- Use the prayer model from the sermon:
 - Pray for wisdom and understanding
 - Pray for laborers to cross their paths
 - Pray for dreams and visions from God
 - Pray they yield to God's plan
 - Plead the blood of Jesus over them

4. The Humility Check

- Each day this week, intentionally acknowledge something God has done in your life
- Practice saying "God helped me" instead of "I did it"

- Share one testimony of God's faithfulness with someone

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

1. If I were in the position of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, would my faith be strong enough to refuse to bow? Why or why not?
2. What "building projects" in my life am I most tempted to take credit for instead of giving God glory?
3. Am I expecting trouble or expecting miracles? How does my expectation affect my faith?
4. Who are three leaders I need to commit to praying for regularly?
5. What would it look like for me to "purpose in my heart" like Daniel did?

Declaration: "God knows how to deal with world leaders. He can and will deliver His people. Heaven rules!"

Remember: "If you bow, you will burn. But if you don't bow, you can't burn!"

5-Day Devotional: Praying Out God's Promises

Day 16: Setting Your Face Toward God's Promises

Reading: Daniel 9:1-3; Jeremiah 29:10-14

Devotional: Daniel discovered God's promise and immediately responded with focused prayer. He didn't passively wait for prophecy to unfold; he "set his face" toward the Lord with intentional determination. When God speaks a promise over your life, it requires more than acknowledgment—it demands active partnership through prayer. What has God spoken to you about your future, your family, or your calling? Like Daniel, refuse to be distracted or deterred. Set your face toward that promise today. Make the quality decision to pursue what God has declared, backing it up with daily choices of prayer and faith. Your posture of determination invites divine intervention.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 17: Standing on the Covenant-Keeping God

Reading: Daniel 9:4-10; Psalm 89:1-8

Devotional: Daniel's prayer began by acknowledging God as "great and awesome" who "keeps His covenant and mercy." Before presenting requests, Daniel established the foundation of who God is—faithful, merciful, and covenant-keeping. Your prayers gain power when rooted in God's character rather than your circumstances. Even when confessing failure and sin, Daniel anchored his hope in divine faithfulness. God's covenant love isn't based on your performance but His unchanging nature. Today, shift your prayer focus from your problems to God's promises. Declare His faithfulness over your situation. Remember, mercy is covenant love in action—God's determination to bless His people despite their shortcomings.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning to learn more about prayer and join us tonight for our Online Bible Study at 7pm EST.

Day 18: The Power of Immediate Divine Response

Reading: Daniel 9:20-23; Isaiah 65:24

Devotional: Gabriel revealed a stunning truth: "At the beginning of your supplications, the command went out." Before Daniel finished praying, heaven responded. God didn't wait to see Daniel's persistence or eloquence—the moment Daniel set his heart and opened his mouth, angels were dispatched. This reveals how deeply God values your prayers. You are "greatly beloved," highly treasured, and precious to Him. Your prayers don't need to convince God; they position you to receive what He already desires to give. Today, approach prayer with confidence knowing heaven responds to your first word of faith. Don't measure God's response by what you see immediately; trust that supernatural assistance is already in motion.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 19: Praying Out the Prophetic Word

Reading: Ezra 1:1-5; Jeremiah 25:11-12

Devotional: Daniel read Jeremiah's prophecy about 70 years of captivity ending, then prayed it into reality. Prophecy requires partnership. God speaks His word, but praying people release it into manifestation. The Holy Spirit moved on Cyrus because Daniel prayed out what Jeremiah prophesied. What prophetic words has God spoken over your life this year? They won't automatically happen—they must be prayed out with dedication and tenacity. Take the promises God has given you and make them the foundation of your prayer life. Spend time praying in the Spirit concerning them. Find scriptural promises that align with what God spoke. Then persist in prayer until you see breakthrough.

Remember to stream today's Faith in the Morning!

Day 20: From Prophecy to Fulfillment

Reading: Daniel 9:24-27; Ephesians 3:20-21

Devotional: Daniel's prayer bridged prophecy and fulfillment. Within the same year, what Jeremiah prophesied and Daniel prayed came to pass. God moved on a pagan king's heart to accomplish His purposes for Israel. This demonstrates that no obstacle is too great when the prophetic word meets persistent prayer. Your dedication in prayer can move the hearts of decision-makers, open impossible doors, and shift circumstances beyond your control. As this year closes, don't just wait for next year's promises—pray them out now. God works exceedingly abundantly above all you ask or think, but He works through those who pray. Set your face, stand on His Word, and pray with expectation. What God promised, He will perform.

We look forward to praying with you today at Saturday Prayer!

Application Challenge: Each day this upcoming week, spend 15 minutes praying out specific promises God has spoken to you. Write them down, find supporting Scriptures, and declare them in faith, knowing heaven responds to your prayers.

Reflection & Deep Dive

Reflection QUESTIONS

Understanding the Text

1. **What did Daniel discover when reading Jeremiah's prophecy?** How did he respond differently than most people would?
2. **What were the five key elements of Daniel's prayer** (verses 3-19)? Why was each important?
3. **What does it mean that Daniel was "greatly beloved"?** What translations of this phrase stood out to you most?

Personal Reflection

4. **Have you ever received a prophetic word or promise from God that you simply waited for instead of praying out?** Share your experience.
5. **What does it mean to "set your face" toward something in prayer?** What would this look like practically in your life?
6. **Daniel prayed with confession and repentance, even for previous generations' sins.** Is there anything you need to confess or repent of to clear the way for God's promises?

Application

7. In the study, Pastor Kerrick said **"Prophetic words must be prayed out over years."** What promise has God given you that you need to start (or continue) praying out?
8. **Daniel stood on God's mercy and covenant love, not his own righteousness.** How does this change the way you approach prayer for breakthrough?
9. **Within less than a year of Daniel's prayer, King Cyrus issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.** What does this teach us about the timing and power of prayer?

Going Deeper

10. **Daniel had been faithful for decades before this moment.** How does long-term faithfulness position us for breakthrough?
11. **The message emphasized that we shouldn't just wait—we should pray things out.** What's the difference between faith-filled waiting and passive hoping?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Set Your Face

- Identify one promise God has spoken to you
- Commit to praying about it daily for the next 30 days
- Journal what God shows you during this time

Option 2: Pray Out Your Prophetic Word

- Find scriptures that align with what God has promised you
- Create a prayer list based on these promises
- Pray through this list regularly, declaring God's word over your situation

Option 3: Confession and Supplication

- Follow Daniel's prayer model (Daniel 9:4-19)
- Spend time in confession, acknowledging God's righteousness
- Make your requests based on God's mercy and covenant love

Personal Prayer: *"Father, help me set my face like Daniel. Help me pray out what You've promised me so I can see Your promise in the land of the living. I know as I set my face and pray, I will receive angelic assistance. You will move on the hearts of people so that I'll receive what I need for Your promises to come to pass. In Jesus' name, amen."*

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 9:23 - "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision."
