



Great Pray-ers of the Bible: Daniel and David
Selected Scripture

Daniel – Daniel 6:1-18

Daniel and his friends came to Babylon after being kidnapped during the military campaign of Nebuchadnezzar against the city of Jerusalem. It's possible Daniel lived into his 90s and lived 70 or more years away from his home. When Darius the Mede became King, Darius planned to make Daniel the sole administrator over the entire kingdom. The other administrators and satraps didn't want that so they tried to find a charge they could bring against Daniel. They couldn't. Daniel was "trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him" (Dan 6:4). So, they used Daniel's habit of praying against him. They convinced the king to make a decree that no one could pray to any god or man other than the king for 30 days. If anyone did, they would be thrown into the lion's den. Daniel's habit was to kneel in prayer towards Jerusalem three times a day. Despite the edict, he continued his habit, and prayed. He was then arrested and thrown into the lion's den. God shut the mouths of the lions and spared Daniel's life. Darius acknowledged God's sovereignty and sent an edict throughout the land that everyone should fear Daniel's God. *Prayer was so important to Daniel he risked his life to pray. How important is prayer to you?*

David – Psalm 51

2 Samuel 11 records how David saw and then lusted after Bathsheba. He committed adultery with her, and then she became pregnant. To cover his sin, David first had Bathsheba's husband, Uriah come home from the battlefield to spend a night with his wife. Uriah come home but refused to spend the night at home because his fellow soldiers didn't have the same luxury. David then told Joab, the commander of the army, to send Uriah to the worst part of the battle so Uriah would be killed in battle. The plan worked. Uriah was dead, and David married Bathsheba. Of course, God knew, and God used the prophet Nathan to show David the seriousness of his sin. When confronted, David repented of his sin. God forgave David's sin and spared his life. However, consequences remained for David's sin. His son would die, and what he had done in private, would be done in public (the latter was fulfilled in 2 Sam 16:21,22). *Psalm 51 is David's prayer of confession and repentance. He can be an example for us: David (1) asked for forgiveness based on God's character (vv.1,2) (2) David acknowledged his sin and didn't make excuses (vv.3-6) (3) David prayed for a restoration of his relationship with God (vv.7-12) (4) David promised God how he would serve God in the future with a restored relationship (vv.13-17).*