



LESSON 2

Pleading His Promises



“Then I set my face *toward* the LORD
God to make *request* by PRAYER
and SUPPLICATIONS, with
fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.”

Daniel 9:3



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As my dad lay dying in the hospital 600 miles away, I was on my knees, arms stretched wide, crying out the Word of God over him. Pleading with my Heavenly Father to save his soul with everything that was in me — *Father, it is Your will that no one perish but that everyone come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). *Nothing is impossible for You* (Luke 1:37). *You can reach my dad in the middle of his circumstances* (Proverbs 15:3). *You said whatever I ask in Your name, You will do it* (John 14:12-14). I sang Katy Nichole’s song “In Jesus Name*” over him as well.

I speak the name of Jesus over you
In your hurting, in your sorrow
I will ask my God to move
I speak the name ‘cause it’s all that I can do
In desperation, I’ll seek Heaven
And pray this for you
I pray for your healing
That circumstances would change
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus’ name
I pray that a breakthrough would happen today
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus’ name, in Jesus’ name
I speak the name of all authority
Declaring blessings, every promise
He is faithful to keep
I speak the name no grave could ever hold
He is greater, He is stronger
He’s the God of possible

I spoke the Name because it was all that I could do.

Later that day, I got an opportunity over the telephone to tell my dad that I loved him and to please say “Yes” to Jesus when He called for him. He couldn’t respond to me verbally, and a few hours later, he peacefully left this earth. I’m not sure what decision my dad made, but I believe God did all He could for him. We don’t always get to see the results of our prayers this side of heaven, but that shouldn’t stop us from praying.

“Nothing, therefore, can be better for us than to ask for what he has promised.” (Calvin)

“Oh! That you studied your Bibles more! Oh! That we all did! How we could plead the promises! How often we should prevail with God when we could hold him to his word, and say, ‘Fulfill the word unto thy servant, whereon thou hast caused me to hope.’ Oh! It is grand praying when our mouth is full of God’s word, for there is no word that can prevail with him like his own.” (Spurgeon)



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OBSERVATION

“In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said,

‘O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him’” (Daniel 9:1-9).

1. List the who's:
2. List the when's:
3. List the where's (See Daniel 1:1-7):
4. What did Daniel do?
5. What did God do?
6. What did Israel do?
7. Underline the phrases with the word **we** and **us**.
8. What belongs to God? Please highlight the phrases.



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INTERPRETATION

Daniel's prayer is one of confession and intercession for the sins of his people and an awareness of what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah had prophesied in Jeremiah 25:11-13 and 29:10 that Israel would be held in captivity by the king of Babylon in the land of the Chaldeans for 70 years. Daniel and other captives were taken to Babylon in 605 B.C. In 597 B.C. Jerusalem was attacked, and the temple treasures were taken. Jerusalem fell, and the nation was exiled in 587 B.C. The first year of Darius was three or four years before 70 years had passed from 605 B.C. Essentially, Daniel was asking God to mercifully start the 70-year countdown from the earliest possible starting point. The "we" and "us" statements show that Daniel included himself with the others in the rebellions against God and didn't make excuses for the sin. Instead, Daniel knew that mercy and forgiveness belonged to God, and further on, in Chapter 9, he requests that God's anger and fury be turned away.

"Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Daniel 9:3a).

"O, Lord, great and awesome God" (Daniel 9:4).

David Guzik makes the following observations in his commentary on BlueLetterBible.com:

- *I set my face*—this implies determination in prayer.
- *To make requests by prayer and supplications*—Daniel wasn't passive as God's prophetic plan unfolded before him. He made a request.
- *With fasting, sackcloth, and ashes*—Daniel had a humble heart in approaching God. These are emblems of humiliation and mourning.
- *O, Lord, great and awesome God*—Daniel began his prayer where we all should – by recognizing the greatness and goodness of God.

Like Daniel, we, too, can come to God in any of life's circumstances and remind Him of His promises. We must come to Him with the right heart, determination, acknowledgment of who God is, and the knowing of His word.

"Nothing, therefore, can be better for us than to ask for what he has promised." (Calvin)

"Oh! That you studied your Bibles more! Oh! That we all did! How we could plead the promises! How often we should prevail with God when we could hold him to his word, and say, 'Fulfill the word unto thy servant, whereon thou hast caused me to hope.' Oh! It is grand praying when our mouth is full of God's word, for there is no word that can prevail with him like his own." (Charles Spurgeon)



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APPLICATION

Let us now “Plead the Promises” of God. Here are several common circumstances we can find ourselves in and a promise from God’s Word.

- PROVISION: Philippians 4:19
- FEAR: Isaiah 41:10
- ANXIETY: Philippians 4:6-7
- HEALING: Psalm 103:2-3
- SALVATION: 2 Peter 3:8-9
- LONELINESS: Deuteronomy 31:8
- BROKEN HEART: Psalm 147:3
- PROTECTION: Isaiah 43:2
- INSOMNIA: Psalm 4:8
- FORGIVENESS: 1 John 1:9
- DELIVERANCE: 2 Timothy 4:18
- TRIALS: James 1:12 (NIV)
- PEACE: Isaiah 26:3
- TIRED/WEARY/BURDENED: Matthew 11:28-29
- WEAK: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- HOPELESSNESS: Jeremiah 29:11
- WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP: Exodus 14:14
- HELPLESS: Isaiah 41:13
- COMFORT: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

A decorative banner at the top of the page features a white rectangular box with a thin black border. The box contains the text 'IN SEASON' in a simple, black, sans-serif font at the top right. Below it, the title 'Pleading His Promises' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Underneath the title, the words 'LESSON 2' are printed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background of the banner is a collage of various fruits, including a large red apple on the left and several green olives on the right, all set against a light, textured background.

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9. Choose one of the circumstances listed on the previous page that you are facing and write the Scripture here. Set your face to praying God's Word back to Him, remembering His greatness and goodness. Pray with a humble heart, not making excuses if you need to confess, and then thank and praise Him for what He will do.

10. EXTRA CREDIT: Search the scriptures for one more promises from God that fit your situation and write it here. Now you have even more words to pray back to our loving Father. Consider memorizing the scriptures so you can use them again when this circumstance arises in your life.

Dearly loved sister,

"May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By His divine power, God has given us everything we need to live a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence. And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires." 2 Peter 1:2-4 NLT

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

