

# Changing the Course of History

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## *Learning from the Life of Daniel*

### **I. We can pray for revelation (and mercy) in the midst of great difficulty. Often we are only a word of wisdom away from a powerful deliverance.**

- A. When Daniel was a young man (605 B.C.), he and his three friends were recruited to be officials in the great Babylonian Empire (Daniel 1:17-21).
- B. They needed to receive supernatural revelation—or die (Daniel 2:1-6).
- C. Daniel’s response was to pray with his friends for revelation and mercy. The result was sudden promotion and the blessing of Israel in captivity (Daniel 2:16-23, 36-38, 46-49).
- D. James reveals that receiving revelation is the supernatural inheritance of every believer, especially when wisdom is needed in the time of trouble (James 1:2-8).

### **II. Daniel’s lifestyle shows us the power of deliberate prayer in all of our affairs. His conviction was so deep that he risked his life for prayer and loyalty to God (Daniel 6).**

- A. The “Lion’s Den Story” happened at the end of Daniel’s life in 539 B.C., after the Medo-Persian Empire had conquered Babylon. Daniel’s prayers for Jerusalem played a part in bringing Israel’s captivity to an end (II Chronicles 36:22-23).
- B. The lifestyle of intercession and revelation in our time
  1. God uses human instruments to fulfill his purposes in history.
  2. If God’s people are disobedient and rebellious, we get bad government.
  3. Through prayer and repentance we receive blessing on our land and good government (I Timothy 2:1-3; II Chronicles 7:14).

### **III. Prayer and the mystery of divine partnership**

- A. Prayer is the seedbed for the revelation of God’s purposes (Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10:1-9).
- B. Daniel’s practice of praying three times a day toward Jerusalem sensitized his awareness of God’s timetable. He realized the time of Israel’s release was near. His response was to humble himself and “pray in” God’s word (Daniel 9:1-6, 15-19).
- C. Daniel’s intercession even affected the movements of angels (Daniel 9:20-25: 10:1-6, 12-14).
- D. The Church’s inheritance is to “pray in” and recognize the promises of God for our generation (Matthew 6:9-10; 24:14; 9:37-38; Isaiah 54:13-17; Philippians 4:19).