

The Qualifications of an Intercessor

International Bible Lesson

Daniel 9:4-17

Sunday, March 10, 2013

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments” (Daniel 9:4, 5—KJV).

“I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed the sins of my people. I said, “Lord God, you are great, and we honor you. You are faithful to your covenant and show constant love to those who love you and do what you command. We have sinned, we have been evil, we have done wrong. We have rejected what you commanded us to do and have turned away from what you showed us was right” (Daniel 9:4, 5—GNB).

“I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, ‘Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances” (Daniel 9:4, 5—NRSV).

While in exile in Babylon, Daniel became a holy prophet and intercessor for God’s people. He loved God and kept His commandments; therefore, Daniel refused to eat the king’s food and God elevated Daniel to a wise man in the king’s court. Because Daniel loved and obeyed God, God called and qualified Daniel to serve as an intercessor for His people. As an intercessor, Daniel represented God’s people and prayed as they should have prayed; he confessed their sins for them and asked for God’s mercy and forgiveness upon them, because they would not pray for themselves.

Since God’s people had rebelled against Him and had turned to serving idols, Daniel addressed his prayer to God as God had revealed himself to Moses. He prayed to “the LORD my God,” and acknowledged the great “I AM” as his God. In our English Bibles, LORD is printed in all capital letters to mean Yahweh or Jehovah, the name God gave Moses. He praised God for His “great and awesome” nature. Then, Daniel praised God for His moral attributes and character; the LORD keeps His promises and loves those who love Him and keep His commandments. Because God keeps His covenant, He put His people in exile when they persisted in acting wickedly after many warnings from God’s prophets. Because God’s people loved their idols and disobeyed God, Daniel prayed to the LORD knowing that God’s mercy and forgiveness was their only hope.

— © Copyright 2013 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. — E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.

More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org.

Read the verse by verse International Bible Lessons Commentary this Bible Lesson at: BibleLessonForum.com. The International Bible Lessons Archives from 2007-2013 are located at InternationalBibleLessons.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.

