

**Praying Through Daniel 1:1-21**  
**International Bible Lesson**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Heavenly Father, You are the Creator and Ultimate King over all You have created. We praise You and thank You for ruling over and overruling all kings and rulers over all nations in the world. We thank You for providing godly prophets and leaders in Babylon when You sent people such as Ezekiel and Daniel to Babylon before the final destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of a multitude of Judeans in 587 BC.

We glorify Your Name, O LORD, because You can use pagan kings and pagan nations to discipline Your people and promote their spiritual growth and character transformation. We pray that You would help us learn from the Bible, history, current events, and Your discipline; so we too can make the needed changes in our lives and help others see the possibilities of Your purposes in the world around us.

O LORD, we thank You for sending Daniel and his friends into exile, even though they might not have known Your purposes at the time and may have wondered why they were suffering along with the disobedient. We thank You for the hope that their example gives us, because their lives of faithfulness remind us that You will work out all things for good in the lives of those who love You and who are called according to Your purpose. We humbly bow before You, knowing that everything You do will ultimately

benefit Your children and lead some unbelievers to faith in You.

As we study Your Word, grant us the ability to draw closer to You and discern Your will for us as well as others when needed. Empower us to share the truth of the Bible with those who need to know and understand the truth about You and Your lovingkindness and mercy despite discipline and hardships. Help us live in such a way that others will see the true character of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, living in us; then, we pray that many may be drawn to saving faith in Him. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.