

70 Years In Exile: Daniel

THE OLD TESTAMENT * Week 38 *

Opening and Closing Prayer: The Supplication, BCP 154-155

For use ... as a devotion; especially in times of war, or of national anxiety, or of disaster.

O Lord, arise, help us;
And deliver us for thy Name's sake.

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them.
O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for thy Name's sake.

V. From our enemies defend us, O Christ;

R. *Graciously behold our afflictions.*

V. With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;

R. *Mercifully forgive the sins of thy people.*

V. Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;

R. *O Son of David, have mercy upon us.*

V. Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ;

R. *Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.*

The Officiant concludes: Let us pray.

We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

I. Empires of the ancient world:

A. 721 B.C. – Assyria (what is now southeastern Turkey and Syria) conquered Israel and took them into exile.

1. Assyria's policy with conquered people:

2. Repopulated Israel/Samaria with

3. Sent one Jewish priest

4. But imported people continued worshipping gods from home.
(2 Kings 17:27-33).

5. Assyria fell to Babylon in 612 B.C.

- B. 605B.C.– Babylon (what is now Iraq) conquered Judah and took people into exile in three waves. In 586B.C. they destroyed Jerusalem
 - 1. Babylon’s policy with conquered people:
 - 2. Babylon fell to Cyrus of the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 B.C.
 - C. 538B.C. – Persia (what is now Iran)’s policy with conquered people:
 - 1. Jeremiah 25:11-12
 - 2. Isaiah 44:28; 45:1, 13 Cyrus
 - 3. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4
 - 4. The Medo-Persian Empire fell to Alexander the Great in 330 B.C.
 - D. Thus God worked through the succession of empires
- II. Daniel 1 -- Daniel and his friends go to college and keep kosher.
 - III. Daniel 2 -- Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the empires to come: Babylon > Medo-Persian > Greek/Alexander the Great > Rome > the Church.
 - IV. Daniel 3 -- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
 - V. Daniel 5 -- The writing on the wall and Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson) and Babylon fall to Cyrus, with Darius the Mede as governor of the city.
 - VI. Daniel 6 – Darius tricked into throwing Daniel in the lion’s den.
 - VII. Daniel’s dreams (Daniel 7-12) foretell the rise and fall of empires and the coming of the Messiah with enough accuracy that (Luke 2:36-38).

For next week: Read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra, Nehemiah

So far we’ve read: Genesis - 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 26-36; Job-Zephaniah