

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG132 – Pray Over the Prophecies

Welcome to the podcast. I am glad you are joining us today. I am titling this, *Pray Over the Prophecies*. This podcast is born out of the burden of my heart after reading so much about Daniel and this idea of his prayer. I recently did a podcast entitled, *Your Prayer and War in Heaven*, in which I talked about the prayer of Daniel, and how his prayer literally initiated a war in the heavens between the Lord's heavenly host and the principalities and powers over Persia and Greece. In this podcast today, I want to emphasize how Daniel prayed and fasted about prophecy. It wasn't just any prayer he was voicing; it was very specifically prayer and intercession that he entered into over prayer and prophecy, and we will see this in other verses out of the book of Daniel. So I want to emphasize that, and to seek both to understand and to see the fulfillment of these prophecies. That was Daniel's drive – he wanted to see their fulfillment, but he also wanted to understand the prophecies that were very real to him in his reading of the Scriptures, as well as what the Lord was speaking to him.

The prophecy that Daniel was reading is from verses in Jeremiah chapter 25, and we will get to that. But I believe, through all of this, that Daniel is a tremendous example for us in how to pray in our generation. Because I think we are facing, as Daniel felt he was, the fulfillment of these prophecies; and so, he began to seek the Lord as to a greater understanding, as well as to also receive direction on when these prophecies would be fulfilled. We see that Daniel was praying and fasting to turn loose this war in heaven, and I want to reemphasize that part of it first; then we will jump over to look at the prophecies in Jeremiah that we know he was praying about at specific times when the Lord began to meet him.

We begin in Daniel chapter 10, at verses 12-13. "Then he said to me," – this is the angel appearing to him after his weeks of fasting and prayer – "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia." Let's try to grasp the idea of what is transpiring here. Daniel has been praying and fasting for three weeks, and the answer for his prayer was sent the first day that he prayed. But the answer was also withheld in this spiritual warfare for over twenty-one days, because the messenger who was delivering the answer from God was embroiled in this battle of spiritual warfare, which of course is trying to block the answer to his prayer. Now, sometimes we feel like we pray and the answers are not really forthcoming to our prayer in our intercession; but we know that Christ told us to ask and keep on asking. That is not just repetitive prayer. That is not just vain repetition. That is recognizing that in the spirit realm, there may be this battle transpiring. We are not sure on a human level what it is that is withholding the answer to the prayers that we are making, but we recognize many times that our prayer doesn't seem to have an answer very quickly.

In this illustration, Daniel had been fasting and praying for weeks, and the answer was sent from the first day that he prayed. God answered his prayer. The answer, however, doesn't get to Daniel because of the warfare in the spirit that is transpiring against the messenger who God has sent with the understanding and the answer to his prayer; and this battle, we know from this verse, took place over

twenty-one days. So I want to read this again with us having the ability to grasp and maybe picture in our mind: this war is transpiring. We can see God sitting upon His throne in the heavenlies, and He is hearing Daniel's cry, watching Daniel humble himself and fast and pray to receive understanding and to grasp the fulfillment, to know what the time will be for these things to take place surrounding his own life. And God says, "Okay, here's the answer." He calls a messenger out of those that surround Him of the heavenly host, and He says, "Hey, here, you take this message now, and I want you to go deliver this answer directly from Me to Daniel. Go speak to him, be My delivery boy." As this messenger begins to move out of the throne room and come to deliver that message, we understand that all of a sudden he encounters what we term is spiritual warfare, because the prince of the kingdom of Persia begins to battle him, or withstand him, and block him from fulfilling what God had told him to do. So let's read this again, and try to picture it, and let it sink into us, that this may be part of the reality surrounding our prayer life.

I will begin again at verses 12-14. "Then he said to me," – the messenger, when he finally gets to him – "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words." God hears our words. God hears our prayers. But there may be other reasons why we do not hear back, and we do not find the fulfillment of our prayers. That was the case here. "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future." So, we see that there is this battle in heaven. This messenger – we do not know exactly what form of authority he had, or if he was a prince, or was he just an angelic being? What exactly he was, we do not know. There are many beings in heaven that surround and serve God. We know that from our reading of Ephesians – there are principalities, there are powers, there are all of these different angelic forces, and they all have different levels of authority and ability. So, this messenger was being overwhelmed. Therefore, Michael, the prince, the archangel – who we know has tremendous authority, because archangel is a very high level, maybe the highest level, of angelic being – Michael entered this battle in order to help this messenger get through what he was facing. So he now arrives at Daniel and begins to tell him what is going to transpire.

We are going to jump down to verse 19 in chapter 10, and go on. "He said, 'O man of high esteem, do not be afraid.'" He is addressing Daniel here. "Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous! Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength." This is one thing we recognize, that we should receive strength from these messengers of God that come to deliver and bring the answers. But we should also be courageous, and we should stand in there, because we do not know the battle that is being faced. But we know that if we ask, and keep on asking – if our faith does not waiver; if we are determined to know that when we ask, He will give and bring the answer to what we are asking – then all of this, from our standpoint, is what we do that affects and interjects into the heavenly realm during these times of conflict and battle that are transpiring over God's delivery of our answers.

So he strengthened Daniel. And in verse 20, he says, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia." This battle was not over yet. "So I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come." The prince of Greece was entering in, possibly because of the fact that Michael had enjoined this angel and was now overpowering the prince of Persia; and so, he is calling for reinforcements of the principalities and powers, and the prince of Greece is now coming to assist in this battle. This angelic messenger, having delivered the answer, is still going to finish the

battle, and the warfare in heaven, that has been initiated and begun because of Daniel's prayer. Verse 21. "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince."

This gives us wonderful ideas and understanding about the spiritual warfare that we engage in when we have a prayer life that is on this level, and that is really what I want to address. You have to understand the spiritual warfare, but also, I want us to get this point that Daniel was not just praying any prayers; he wasn't praying for, you know, his grandmother's health, or something that was just into this personal prayer life. He was concerned about the Word of God. He was concerned about the prophecies of Scripture that existed, and what they had said about Israel and about the circumstances that he and Israel were in, that is, that they were captive in Babylon. He wanted to know what was going to transpire, because he read the things in Jeremiah. So, let's paint this picture.

First, we go back to Daniel the ninth chapter, because it tells us in this section of prayer and fasting what exactly Daniel was praying about. It doesn't necessarily address that in what we read in chapter 10, but here we see the type of prayer and fasting that Daniel, as a man of God, as a prophet of God himself, was engaged in. This becomes for me the lesson for us. What kind of prayer should we be engaged in? We want to be in prayer over prophecies. In our generation, I think, we are like Daniel – he had the knowing, the sensing, that things were beginning to reach a point of fulfillment, that it was time for these things to come to pass; therefore, he begins to pray for insight: "Lord, show me how to understand these prophecies. How do they apply? When are they to take place? What can I do to see them brought forth? How do I speak to the children of Israel, as we dwell here in Babylon, to encourage them in their relationship and their walk with You?" This is the level of prayer that Daniel was engaged in.

That to me is the point of this podcast – how should we, as men and women of God, pray in our generation, as we look around us and we see the things that are taking place on a natural level. Again, this was initiated because Daniel and all of Israel were in captivity in Babylon. He was looking around himself, seeing what was transpiring; but he was also applying what he saw around him, in his life, to the prophecies that existed in Scripture. Therefore, he was fasting and praying for greater understanding and knowledge about these prophecies. I think we, too, find ourselves like Daniel, in the time when many Words from God are set to be fulfilled in our generation. Many people are talking about this being the last days, and so they may be the last days; but certainly, they are the days in which we are to see many prophecies come to pass. Christ said you won't know the day and the hour, but you will know the times and the epochs, or the seasons. It is just like watching the fig tree begin to put forth its blooms, you know it is time for something to happen. And we, in our day, are looking around, saying, "Hey, we're seeing signs. We're getting this understanding, this feeling, as we reach into the Holy Spirit, that it is time for things to happen." And so, we, likewise, like Daniel, should be praying over the prophecies that we know apply to our day, that we know apply to the Kingdom of God coming forth. And we should be saying, "Lord, give us more understanding. Show us how these things are to be fulfilled, when they are to be fulfilled. Show us how to speak to our generation and the world surrounding us, because of who we are and the day in which we live."

In Daniel 9, starting at verses 1-3, it says, "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. So I gave my

attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.” It’s interesting, we see Daniel as a prophet; yet Daniel, as a prophet, was looking in the Scriptures, the prophecies of Jeremiah, and reading those, recognizing Jeremiah was a prophet, and also understanding that the prophecies he was reading applied to him in his day. It applied to Israel in the day that he was living. And so, he begins to seek the Lord surrounding this. Now, what was he praying about? He was praying about Jeremiah the twenty-fifth chapter.

You can start reading it in about verse 8; the meat of it is in verses 11 and 12, but let me begin at verse 8 and we will read a little of this. “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, “Because you have not obeyed My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,” declares the Lord, “and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. Moreover, I will take from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.”” He is going to desolate Israel because of its disobedience to Him. Verse 11, “This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,’ declares the Lord, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.” Daniel had been reading these prophecies, and he recognized that they dealt with where he was at. So he begins asking the Lord, “What about these seventy years? When do the seventy years end? What is exactly going to transpire to Babylon as a result of this? What is going to happen with Israel?” This does not necessarily say, “Oh, I’m setting Israel free,” so he is asking the Lord to have understanding about the prophecies.

This, again, is the point of this podcast. I want us to see that we live in a day and age where I personally believe it is time to see fulfillments of prophecies. There are prophecies that apply to us in our generation, and that should be the focal point of our prayer. It is these prayers that are over prophecy, like with Daniel, that initiated the war in heaven that we read about out of Daniel the tenth chapter, where that spiritual warfare begins to do away with the principalities and powers. And this is what we are told that we face, according to Paul – that our battle is not against flesh and blood. It is against principalities and powers. It is against the spirits of wickedness and darkness. So, we are facing all these things. How are these things defeated in our generation? By us. And I think one of the ways is through our prayer over the prophecies that are to be fulfilled in this generation. Christ taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. In this day, Lord, in this day, bring Your will into this earth.” You see, it is like Daniel bringing that prophecy: “When is it fulfilled? Let me have the understanding.” God, give us the understanding of Your Word and how it applies to this generation, so that we might begin, like Daniel, to fast, to pray, to prophesy, to speak, to respeak these Words; and to have faith that You are bringing Your Kingdom, You are bringing the answers to these things into the earth out of heaven, in our generation. And if that triggers a spiritual warfare that begins to bring destruction and judgment upon the forces which are opposing Your Kingdom and opposing us in bringing it forth, then let it be, Lord. Because our battle is not against flesh and blood; it is not on this natural level. Our battle is in the heavens, and we, as mature believers, must know and understand how to engage that battle. That is what this is speaking of. Daniel engaged the battle that was against him. See, the forces of the demonic realm were fighting these prophecies being fulfilled, because it turned Israel loose from Babylon at some point. So, the things that we are expecting and anticipating, we must begin to pray about.

I am going to give us a few prophecies that I feel could fall into this category. It is something that you can take and consider as a way to walk in this podcast message, to begin to have your own prayer life, your own fasting and prayer about these things that have been spoken, that very much should be transpiring in our generation. The first is out of Ezekiel 11, starting with verse 17: “Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God, ‘I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’” This is talking about the Diaspora of Israel, which still exists today. And this should trigger us, because we are beginning to see this, that Israel is returning to the land from which they have been scattered. We already see manifestations of this prophecy, which is more reason to recognize that it is being fulfilled in our day. More reason to pray over it, fast over it, cry out to God about it – “Lord, bring Your people back to the land out of the Diaspora to which You have scattered them.”

Verses 18-19, “When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.” Why are we praying over this? Because one thing that we need to see really fulfilled is that those who have returned to Israel become one heart and one new spirit. We see a great deal of division. How many elections has Israel had to go through because they cannot agree on their government? How they should be governed, many things that we need to see. All of the detestable things; Israel cannot return to the land and yet continue in a life of sin, not serving the Lord, because it is always for that reason that He removes them again from the land. And I do not believe that there is another removing of Israel from the land in the Scriptures. I believe that from this return that we are reading of here in Ezekiel, there is not another removal. Therefore, their hearts must be cleansed. They must become a pure people before the Lord. They must have this one heart, where they become one in their hearts and minds. They must have a new spirit within them to seek the Lord with all of their heart, and have the heart of stone removed from their flesh. Verse 20, “That they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.” This, I believe, is happening, and is to happen, and must be totally fulfilled, and is to be fulfilled in our generation. Let’s pray over this. Let’s believe to understand it with greater understanding, and to witness it with our own eyes.

Let’s go to Jeremiah 32, starting with verse 37, and I will give you another possibility that you could begin to pray and fast or seek the Lord about. “Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger, in My wrath and in great indignation; and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety.” Again, we see them returning, but we do not see them dwelling in safety. We see enemies all around them, threatening to destroy them, to push them out of the land into the Mediterranean, and to end the existence of Israel altogether. So part of this is, “Lord, when do they dwell in safety? Bring this safety to Your people.”

Verses 38-40. “They shall be My people, and I will be their God; and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.” What a beautiful picture this is, that He will make an everlasting covenant with them, that He will not turn away from doing good to them. And He is going to put the fear of Himself in their hearts – which is what He set to do bringing them out of Egypt, if you recall. That was His purpose, to make them fear God so that they would serve Him and they would walk in all of His commandments and all of His ways. That is what He is promising is going to happen in this day, and they are going to be able to walk in His Word.

Verse 41, "I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul." If you want to know what God is doing with all of His heart and with all of His soul, He is bringing the children of Israel back to the land, and He is creating in them a new heart, a new spirit; He is giving them one mind. All of these things are what God is doing with all of His heart. And I challenge you, take a concordance and go look for this terminology of what God is doing with all of His heart – you will not find it again anyplace else. Only here, and only surrounding this, is what God is doing in this day with all of His heart. So if we want to be one with Him and a part of Him in what He is doing to bring forth His Kingdom in this time, then we should be praying over these prophecies.

You can go on, because this prophecy goes on through verse 44, and I encourage you to read all of it. I am going to read one more here out of Jeremiah, and this is chapter 31. We begin with verses 31-33: "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," – in other words, in the end time, which is the days we are in – "declares the Lord, 'I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'"

Okay, people talk about this prophecy and say, "Well, this is the new covenant in Christ. This is what Christ brought when He said 'a new covenant in My blood.'" But look at the elements of this covenant, and you tell me, have these things happened for Israel? Have they happened for us as believing Christians? "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it. And I will be their God and they shall be My people." I contend, I want His Word written absolutely on my heart; because it goes on in verse 34 to say, "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." I love these verses. I love these verses! I want this in my own life so, so much before God. This to me is worth praying over, prophesying, "When, Lord? How, Lord? When will it come?" It is not just for Israel. You talk about Israel, about the church – well, neither Israel nor the church have the fulfillment of this. It says, "They will not teach again each man his neighbor and each man his brother saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me." We are not in that place yet. We have seen certain aspects of this come true in fulfillment, but not all of it; and this is one of the greatest parts. What do we do in church? We teach one another, saying, "Know the Lord." What do they do in synagogue? Teach one another, saying, "Know the Lord." That comes to an end at some point when God becomes real. His Word is written on our hearts, and we all know Him from the least to the greatest, and our sins and iniquities are remembered no more.

Now, some may say, "Well, you are giving us all these prophecies out of the Hebrew Scriptures, and they are just Old Testament prophecies to me. Why are you talking about Israel? I need to know what is important to me." Believe me, Israel is important to you, because what fulfillment happens for Israel happens for us as believers in Yeshua in this age. I'll give one example of that, because you find it in Romans chapters 9, 10 and 11; I will read 11:25-28: "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." Lord, we loose the fullness of the Gentiles to come in. You say, "What is holding up Israel?" The fullness of the Gentiles. They are bound by what we are moving into, and what we need to move into is this level of prayer, fasting and prophecy before the Lord about the Word of God that is to be fulfilled in our generation. "Until the fullness of the

Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, 'The deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob. This is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.' From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers." God has not left Israel. And there is this interesting interplay between Christians and Jews that is taking place right now, and we need to be praying and prophesying the fulfillment of these words in order to see it transpire in our generation.

Verses 29-32, "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." In other words, He will never drop His covenant with Israel. "For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy." He had to show us mercy. We must come to the fullness of that mercy, and then we will minister mercy along with God to Israel. "For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all." Lord, regarding these verses, please give us understanding of this prophecy, and let our eyes witness the fulfillment that is manifest through the relationship of the Jews and Gentile Christianity in this age.

We believe for that. I would love to see that as one of the fruits of this podcast, where we learn how to pray in a way that turns loose war in heaven, and tears down the principalities and powers and the spirits of wickedness in the heavenly places that prevent His Kingdom from coming, and prevent these Words that we have just read from being fulfilled.

We loose this, and I believe for it, in the name of the Lord. Amen.