

Supplication in Old Testament

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about supplication in the Old Testament. I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

David in the Psalms

David mentioned supplication throughout the psalms that he wrote. Notice a few.

Psalm 6:6-9—"I am weary with my groaning; all night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows old because of all my enemies. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer."

Psalm 28:2—"Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You, when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary."

Psalm 55:1-2—"Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication. Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily."

Solomon at the temple

Solomon's words at the temple are found in 1 Kings 8:22-53. Notice a few excerpts.

1 Kings 8:54—"And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven."

1 Kings 8:59—"And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require."

Nehemiah prayed and fasted

Nehemiah's words of repentance are found in Nehemiah 1:4-11.

Nehemiah 1:4—"So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."

Nehemiah 1:11—"O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear

Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.' For I was the king's cupbearer."

Daniel prayed and fasted

It is interesting to note that Daniel prayed on his knees three times a day.

Daniel 6:10-11—"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God."

(On a side note, the book of Psalms indicates that David also prayed three times a day.)

Psalms 55:17—"Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice."

Daniel's words of repentance are found in Daniel 9:3-19.

Daniel 9:3—"Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."

Daniel 9:17-19—"Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."