

Communicating with God

A study of prayer and Bible study



Old Testament
Examples of Prayer

A study of prayer!

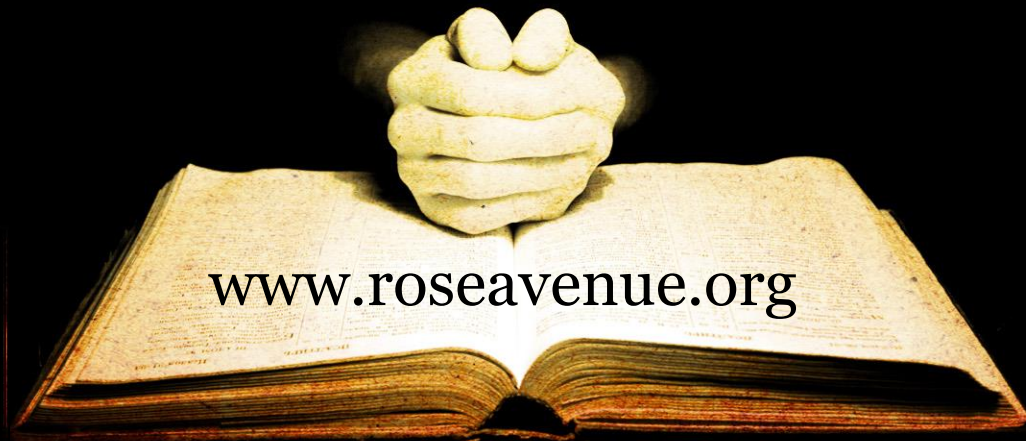


- In our last 2 lessons, we have been noticing examples of prayer lives in scripture.
- We have addressed the life of Jesus
- We have addressed the life of Paul
- Today...

Prayer (9)

Old Testament Examples

1 Peter 5:16-18



Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme



Prayer in the Law of Moses

- The Law of Moses does not give specific instructions about praying to God. **HOWEVER:**
 - It is certainly implied
 - Likely, as the LOM was given, praying to God was always understood (e.g., Abraham)



Prayer in the Law of Moses

- The Law of Moses does not give specific instructions about praying to God. **HOWEVER:**
- Sacrifices were about approaching YHWH – **cf. Hebrews 13:15** – sacrifice of praise
- The priesthood was given to approach God - We are now priests
(**1 Peter 2:5, 9**)
- Crying out to YHWH for restoration – **Exodus 22:22-23, Leviticus 26:40-42**



Prayer in the Law of Moses

Moses was a man of prayer

- He spoke with God “face to face”
Numbers 12:7-8
- **Exodus 8:29, 9:28-29, 10:17-18** –
Entreating the LORD for Pharaoh
- **Exodus 15:22-25** – at the bitter
waters of Marah



Prayer in the Law of Moses

Moses was a man of prayer

- **Numbers 10:34-36**, as the people moved from one place to another
- **Numbers 11:2**, as fire broke outside the camp
- **Numbers 12:13**, when Miriam was struck with leprosy
- **Numbers 16:15-16**, Korah's rebellion



Prayer in the Law of Moses

Moses was a man of prayer

- **Numbers 21:7**, as fiery serpents are sent into the camp
- **Deuteronomy 9:20, 26**, He prayed for Aaron, recounting the golden calf incident
- **Psalms 90**, the psalm of Moses



Prayer in the Law of Moses

- Throughout the Old Testament, we find faithful followers of the Law praying to God.
- This shows it was something they understood and expected to do.



People who prayed

Abraham was a man of prayer

- **James 2:23**, he was called “the friend of God”
- He “called on the name of the LORD” – **Genesis 12:8, 13:4, 21:33**.
This would have included prayer
- **Genesis 20:7, 17**, he prayed for Abimelech
- IN Abraham we see prayer preceding the Law of Moses



People who prayed

Hannah, a woman of prayer

- **1 Samuel 1:10-12**, in bitterness of soul she prays to the LORD for a son. She vows to dedicate him to the Lord
- Her prayer is answered and Samuel is born. When he was weaned, she brought him to the temple where he was dedicated to serve God – **1 Samuel 1:26-28**



People who prayed

Hannah, a woman of prayer

- **1 Samuel 2:1-8**, a prayerful psalm
- Here we see that women also ought to pray
(**cf. Acts 16:13**)

Also, KEEP your vows to God
(**Ecclesiastes 5:4-7**)



People who prayed

Solomon, dedicating the temple

- He started right. Given wisdom by God. Built the temple, following God's instructions
- **1 Kings 8:22-52**, at the dedication of the temple Solomon prays.
 - Praising God's greatness
 - May the temple be a place where He would answer prayers
 - When men repented and turned to Him there, remember



People who prayed

Elijah, a man of prayer

- A prophet during some of Israel's darkest times
- **1 Kings 17:20-22**, he raises the son of a widow
- **1 Kings 18:36-38**, at Mt. Carmel, confronting the prophets of Baal
- **1 Kings 17:1-7, 18:41-46** – drought.
See **James 5:16-18**
- NOT all prayers of the faithful are recorded



People who prayed

Elijah, a man of prayer

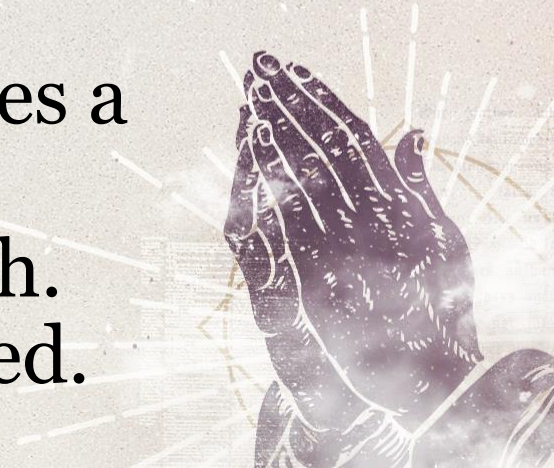
- **1 Kings 19:4**, He is tired and discouraged, but he doesn't want to live anymore.
The LORD addresses his request, but FIRST...
- Here is an example of praying to God
 - He is told to wait and keep working
 - His request is granted **DIFFERENTLY**, but better!



People who prayed

Daniel, a man of prayer

- **Daniel 2:17-19**, before telling and interpreting the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, he prays and fasts, along with his brethren. He blesses the God of heaven
- **Daniel 6:10-11**, he prayed 3 times a day, with his window open toward Jerusalem. He did not hide his faith. Cast into the lion's den but delivered.



People who prayed

Daniel, a man of prayer

- **Daniel 9:3-19**, as Darius becomes king, Daniel understands the timing of Jeremiah's prophecy (70 years in captivity).
He prays to God, with fasting and sackcloth.
 - A prayer of repentance for him & the people
 - He appeals to the Lord's righteousness, mercy and forgiveness**17-19** – he prays for restoration
20-21 – the LORD answers him



People who prayed

Ezra, the book and the man

- **Ezra 3:11**, as the site for rebuilding the temple is dedicated, they gave thanks to the LORD and sang.
- When Ezra arrives (**ch. 7**, ~55 years later) he helps restore worship.
Ezra 8:21-23, preparing to travel to Jerusalem, they prayed and fasted



People who prayed

Ezra, the book and the man

- **Ezra 10:1**, Ezra and the people are praying, confessing their sins, having unlawfully married. They addressed the issue.
- Sometimes we face hard decisions, especially repentance. We should pray.



People who prayed

Nehemiah, a godly leader of prayer

- The book deals with rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (~20 years after the conclusion of Ezra's arrival and restoration)
- **Nehemiah 1:4-11**, he hears of Jerusalem's deplorable condition and prays
 - Accountability and repentance
 - Humble requests
 - Recalling God's promises



People who prayed

Nehemiah, a godly leader of prayer

- **Nehemiah 2:4**, when asked by the king of his request, he first prays
- **Nehemiah 4:4-5**, facing resistance from enemies, he prays that God defeats their evil plans
- **Nehemiah 5:19**, “Remember me, my God, for good...”



People who prayed

Nehemiah, a godly leader of prayer

- **Nehemiah 8:6**, with Ezra who read the law and “blessed the LORD, the great God.”
- **Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 31**, “Remember me, my God, for good...” (3x)
- **Nehemiah 13:29**, Remember them, the ungodly who had defiled the priesthood



What can we learn from these examples?

- **Luke 18:1**, prayer has ALWAYS been a part of God's plans. He desires that we pray!
- **Cf. Hebrews 12:1**, "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...". We find great examples of when and how to pray.
- If you desire to learn how to improve your prayers, read and study the prayers of godly men and women.
HOW to praise, attitude, what to pray for, etc.



Looking to examples, is there a
need to improve your
“prayer life?”





Let us pray!