

“O Lord, Have Mercy!”

Daniel 9:1-19

If the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15) is the New Testament model for prayer, then Daniel 9:1-19 is the Old Testament equivalent. This prayer teaches us that *when times are difficult, we are to confess our sins and seek God’s mercy.*

- **What we read in Scripture and see in culture should drive us to our knees (1-3)**

Daniel understood the Scriptures

Daniel understood the times

Daniel intentionally sought God’s presence

- **When times are difficult, we are to confess our sins and seek God’s mercy (4-19)**

- **Come to God in light of who he has revealed himself to be (4)**

The more we recognize God’s majesty, the more we see our own sin

- **Confess your sins (5-15)**

Identify with the people you are praying for

Be specific when confessing sin

Before asking for help, acknowledge why you are in trouble

- **Ask God to show mercy (16-19)**

Link your requests with the promises of God

Focus your requests on a concern for God’s glory

Pray that God would lift his discipline and pour out his mercy

- **How can we use this model in praying for the USA, Massachusetts, and the Pioneer Valley?**
- **Acknowledge God’s majesty & authority**
- **Confess our sins**

Sin	Nation, State, Region	Church
Pride & arrogance	Technology Education Medicine Money Solve own problems	Money Intelligence Bible knowledge Judgmental Solve own problems
Tolerance	Accept everyone Ultimate virtue	Don’t offend Don’t talk about sin
Disrespect	Criticize elected leaders Politics of antagonism	Won’t follow leaders Demand a voice in the process
Flaunt sexuality	LBGTQIA2S+ Abortion Cohabitation Rising divorce rate Movies, theater, art No more shame	Rising divorce rate “Open & affirming” congregations
Ignore the needy	Homeless AIDS Injustice Schools Throw money at problems	So busy with “church” we don’t have time for ministry Let the government fix it
Self-centered	Affluence Entitlement	Consumer church Focus on comfort & personal preferences Meet my needs!
Reject God	#1 Post-Christian city in America Rise of unchurched; “nones” No faith involvement	Bible-based, but not Bible teaching Hearers but not doers Functional atheists
Byword & Laughingstock	Sexuality Liberal politics Government gridlock Political campaigns	Right-wing; haters Known for what we are against; not what we are for Not evangelical— evangelism is optional

- **Seek forgiveness and revival**