

ADDITIONS TO DANIEL



Bible, Revised Standard Version

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Prayer of Azariah

PrAzar.1

[2] Then Azariah stood and offered this prayer; in the midst of the fire he opened his mouth and said:

[3] "Blessed art thou, O Lord, God of our fathers,
and worthy of praise;
and thy name is glorified for ever.

[4] For thou art just in all that thou hast done to us,
and all thy works are true and thy ways right,
and all thy judgments are truth.

[5] Thou hast executed true judgments in all that
thou hast brought upon us
and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers,
for in truth and justice thou hast brought
all this upon us because of our sins.

Prayer of Azariah

[6] For we have sinfully and lawlessly departed from thee,
and have sinned in all things and have not
obeyed thy commandments;

[7] we have not observed them or done them,
as thou hast commanded us that it might go well with us.

[8] So all that thou hast brought upon us,
and all that thou hast done to us,
thou hast done in true judgment.

[9] Thou hast given us into the hands of lawless
enemies, most hateful rebels,
and to an unjust king, the most wicked in all the world.

[10] And now we cannot open our mouths;
shame and disgrace have befallen thy servants and
worshipers.

[11] For thy name's sake do not give us up utterly,
and do not break thy covenant,

[12] and do not withdraw thy mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham thy beloved
and for the sake of Isaac thy servant
and Israel thy holy one,

[13] to whom thou didst promise
to make their descendants as many as the stars of heaven
and as the sand on the shore of the sea.

[14] For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any nation,
and are brought low this day in all the world
because of our sins.

[15] And at this time there is no prince, or prophet, or
leader,
no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense,
no place to make an offering before thee or to find mercy.

[16] Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit
may we be accepted,
as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls,

and with tens of thousands of fat lambs;
[17] such may our sacrifice be in thy sight this day,
and may we wholly follow thee,
for there will be no shame for those who trust in thee.
[18] And now with all our heart we follow thee,
we fear thee and seek thy face.
[19] Do not put us to shame,
but deal with us in thy forbearance
and in thy abundant mercy.
[20] Deliver us in accordance with thy marvelous works,
and give glory to thy name, O Lord!
Let all who do harm to thy servants be put to shame;
[21] let them be disgraced and deprived of all power and
dominion,
and let their strength be broken.
[22] Let them know that thou art the Lord, the only God,
glorious over the whole world."
[23] Now the king's servants who threw them in did not
cease feeding the furnace fires with naphtha, pitch, tow, and
brush.
[24] And the flame streamed out above the furnace forty-
nine cubits,
[25] and it broke through and burned those of the Chaldeans
whom it caught about the furnace.
[26] But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace
to be with Azariah and his companions, and drove the fiery
flame out of the furnace,
[27] and made the midst of the furnace like a moist whistling
wind, so that the fire did not touch them at all or hurt or
trouble them.
[28] Then the three, as with one mouth, praised and glorified
and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

[29] "Blessed art thou, O Lord, God of our fathers,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever;

[30] And blessed is thy glorious, holy name
and to be highly praised and highly exalted for ever;

[31] Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holy glory
and to be extolled and highly glorified for ever.

[32] Blessed art thou, who sittest upon cherubim
and lookest upon the deeps,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever.

[33] Blessed art thou upon the throne of thy kingdom
and to be extolled and highly exalted for ever.

[34] Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven
and to be sung and glorified for ever.

[35] "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[36] Bless the Lord, you heavens,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[37] Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[38] Bless the Lord, all waters above the heaven,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[39] Bless the Lord, all powers,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[40] Bless the Lord, sun and moon,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[41] Bless the Lord, stars of heaven,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[42] Bless the Lord, all rain and dew,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[43] Bless the Lord, all winds,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[44] Bless the Lord, fire and heat,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[45] Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[46] Bless the Lord, dews and snows,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[47] Bless the Lord, nights and days,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[48] Bless the Lord, light and darkness,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[49] Bless the Lord, ice and cold,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[50] Bless the Lord, frosts and snows,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[51] Bless the Lord, lightnings and clouds,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[52] Let the earth bless the Lord;
let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[53] Bless the Lord, mountains and hills,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[54] Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[55] Bless the Lord, you springs,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[56] Bless the Lord, seas and rivers,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[57] Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures
that move in the waters,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[58] Bless the Lord, all birds of the air,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[59] Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
[60] Bless the Lord, you sons of men,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[61] Bless the Lord, O Israel,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[62] Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[63] Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[64] Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[65] Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

[66] Bless the Lord, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael,

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever;

for he has rescued us from Hades and saved

us from the hand of death,

and delivered us from the midst of the burning fiery furnace;

from the midst of the fire he has delivered us.

[67] Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

for his mercy endures for ever.

[68] Bless him, all who worship the Lord, the God of gods,

sing praise to him and give thanks to him,

for his mercy endures for ever."

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Susanna

Sus.1

[2] And he took a wife named Susanna, the daughter of Hilkiyah, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord.

[3] Her parents were righteous, and had taught their daughter according to the law of Moses.

[4] Joakim was very rich, and had a spacious garden adjoining his house; and the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honored of them all.

[5] In that year two elders from the people were appointed as judges. Concerning them the Lord had said: "Iniquity came forth from Babylon, from elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people."

[6] These men were frequently at Joakim's house, and all who had suits at law came to them.

[7] When the people departed at noon, Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk.

[8] The two elders used to see her every day, going in and walking about, and they began to desire her.

[9] And they perverted their minds and turned away their eyes from looking to Heaven or remembering righteous judgments.

[10] Both were overwhelmed with passion for her, but they did not tell each other of their distress,

[11] for they were ashamed to disclose their lustful desire to possess her.

[12] And they watched eagerly, day after day, to see her.

[13] They said to each other, "Let us go home, for it is mealtime."

[14] And when they went out, they parted from each other. But turning back, they met again; and when each pressed the other for the reason, they confessed their lust. And then together they arranged for a time when they could find her alone.

[15] Once, while they were watching for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids, and wished to bathe in the garden, for it was very hot.

[16] And no one was there except the two elders, who had hid themselves and were watching her.

[17] She said to her maids, "Bring me oil and ointments, and shut the garden doors so that I may bathe."

[18] They did as she said, shut the garden doors, and went out by the side doors to bring what they had been commanded; and they did not see the elders, because they were hidden.

[19] When the maids had gone out, the two elders rose and

ran to her, and said:

[20] "Look, the garden doors are shut, no one sees us, and we are in love with you; so give your consent, and lie with us.

[21] If you refuse, we will testify against you that a young man was with you, and this was why you sent your maids away."

[22] Susanna sighed deeply, and said, "I am hemmed in on every side. For if I do this thing, it is death for me; and if I do not, I shall not escape your hands.

[23] I choose not to do it and to fall into your hands, rather than to sin in the sight of the Lord."

[24] Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders shouted against her.

[25] And one of them ran and opened the garden doors.

[26] When the household servants heard the shouting in the garden, they rushed in at the side door to see what had happened to her.

[27] And when the elders told their tale, the servants were greatly ashamed, for nothing like this had ever been said about Susanna.

[28] The next day, when the people gathered at the house of her husband Joakim, the two elders came, full of their wicked plot to have Susanna put to death.

[29] They said before the people, "Send for Susanna, the daughter of Hilkiyah, who is the wife of Joakim."

[30] So they sent for her. And she came, with her parents, her children, and all her kindred.

[31] Now Susanna was a woman of great refinement, and beautiful in appearance.

[32] As she was veiled, the wicked men ordered her to be unveiled, that they might feed upon her beauty.

[33] But her family and friends and all who saw her wept.

[34] Then the two elders stood up in the midst of the people, and laid their hands upon her head.

[35] And she, weeping, looked up toward heaven, for her heart trusted in the Lord.

[36] The elders said, "As we were walking in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, shut the garden doors, and dismissed the maids.

[37] Then a young man, who had been hidden, came to her and lay with her.

[38] We were in a corner of the garden, and when we saw this wickedness we ran to them.

[39] We saw them embracing, but we could not hold the man, for he was too strong for us, and he opened the doors and dashed out.

[40] So we seized this woman and asked her who the young man was, but she would not tell us. These things we testify."

[41] The assembly believed them, because they were elders of the people and judges; and they condemned her to death.

[42] Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, "O eternal God, who dost discern what is secret, who art aware of all things before they come to be,

[43] thou knowest that these men have borne false witness against me. And now I am to die! Yet I have done none of the things that they have wickedly invented against me!"

[44] The Lord heard her cry.

[45] And as she was being led away to be put to death, God aroused the holy spirit of a young lad named Daniel;

[46] and he cried with a loud voice, "I am innocent of the blood of this woman."

[47] All the people turned to him, and said, "What is this that you have said?"

[48] Taking his stand in the midst of them, he said, "Are you such fools, you sons of Israel? Have you condemned a

daughter of Israel without examination and without learning the facts?

[49] Return to the place of judgment. For these men have borne false witness against her."

[50] Then all the people returned in haste. And the elders said to him, "Come, sit among us and inform us, for God has given you that right."

[51] And Daniel said to them, "Separate them far from each other, and I will examine them."

[52] When they were separated from each other, he summoned one of them and said to him, "You old relic of wicked days, your sins have now come home, which you have committed in the past,

[53] pronouncing unjust judgments, condemning the innocent and letting the guilty go free, though the Lord said, 'Do not put to death an innocent and righteous person.'

[54] Now then, if you really saw her, tell me this: Under what tree did you see them being intimate with each other?" He answered, "Under a mastic tree."

[55] And Daniel said, "Very well! You have lied against your own head, for the angel of God has received the sentence from God and will immediately cut you in two."

[56] Then he put him aside, and commanded them to bring the other. And he said to him, "You offspring of Canaan and not of Judah, beauty has deceived you and lust has perverted your heart.

[57] This is how you both have been dealing with the daughters of Israel, and they were intimate with you through fear; but a daughter of Judah would not endure your wickedness.

[58] Now then, tell me: Under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?" He answered, "Under an evergreen oak."

[59] And Daniel said to him, "Very well! You also have lied against your own head, for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to saw you in two, that he may destroy you both."

[60] Then all the assembly shouted loudly and blessed God, who saves those who hope in him.

[61] And they rose against the two elders, for out of their own mouths Daniel had convicted them of bearing false witness;

[62] and they did to them as they had wickedly planned to do to their neighbor; acting in accordance with the law of Moses, they put them to death. Thus innocent blood was saved that day.

[63] And Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, and so did Joakim her husband and all her kindred, because nothing shameful was found in her.

[64] And from that day onward Daniel had a great reputation among the people.

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Bel and the Dragon

Bel.1

[1] When King Astyages was laid with his fathers, Cyrus the Persian received his kingdom.

[2] And Daniel was a companion of the king, and was the most honored of his friends.

[3] Now the Babylonians had an idol called Bel, and every day they spent on it twelve bushels of fine flour and forty sheep and fifty gallons of wine.

[4] The king revered it and went every day to worship it. But Daniel worshiped his own God.

[5] And the king said to him, "Why do you not worship Bel?" He answered, "Because I do not revere man-made idols, but the living God, who created heaven and earth and has

dominion over all flesh."

[6] The king said to him, "Do you not think that Bel is a living God? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?"

[7] Then Daniel laughed, and said, "Do not be deceived, O king; for this is but clay inside and brass outside, and it never ate or drank anything."

[8] Then the king was angry, and he called his priests and said to them, "If you do not tell me who is eating these provisions, you shall die."

[9] But if you prove that Bel is eating them, Daniel shall die, because he blasphemed against Bel." And Daniel said to the king, "Let it be done as you have said."

[10] Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children. And the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

[11] And the priests of Bel said, "Behold, we are going outside; you yourself, O king, shall set forth the food and mix and place the wine, and shut the door and seal it with your signet."

[12] And when you return in the morning, if you do not find that Bel has eaten it all, we will die; or else Daniel will, who is telling lies about us."

[13] They were unconcerned, for beneath the table they had made a hidden entrance, through which they used to go in regularly and consume the provisions.

[14] When they had gone out, the king set forth the food for Bel. Then Daniel ordered his servants to bring ashes and they sifted them throughout the whole temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door and sealed it with the king's signet, and departed.

[15] In the night the priests came with their wives and children, as they were accustomed to do, and ate and drank

everything.

[16] Early in the morning the king rose and came, and Daniel with him.

[17] And the king said, "Are the seals unbroken, Daniel?" He answered, "They are unbroken, O king."

[18] As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table, and shouted in a loud voice, "You are great, O Bel; and with you there is no deceit, none at all."

[19] Then Daniel laughed, and restrained the king from going in, and said, "Look at the floor, and notice whose footsteps these are."

[20] The king said, "I see the footsteps of men and women and children."

[21] Then the king was enraged, and he seized the priests and their wives and children; and they showed him the secret doors through which they were accustomed to enter and devour what was on the table.

[22] Therefore the king put them to death, and gave Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

[23] There was also a great dragon, which the Babylonians revered.

[24] And the king said to Daniel, "You cannot deny that this is a living god; so worship him."

[25] Daniel said, "I will worship the Lord my God, for he is the living God.

[26] But if you, O king, will give me permission, I will slay the dragon without sword or club." The king said, "I give you permission."

[27] Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together and made cakes, which he fed to the dragon. The dragon ate them, and burst open. And Daniel said, "See what you have been worshiping!"

[28] When the Babylonians heard it, they were very

indignant and conspired against the king, saying, "The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, and slain the dragon, and slaughtered the priests."

[29] Going to the king, they said, "Hand Daniel over to us, or else we will kill you and your household."

[30] The king saw that they were pressing him hard, and under compulsion he handed Daniel over to them.

[31] They threw Daniel into the lions' den, and he was there for six days.

[32] There were seven lions in the den, and every day they had been given two human bodies and two sheep; but these were not given to them now, so that they might devour Daniel.

[33] Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea. He had boiled pottage and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going into the field to take it to the reapers.

[34] But the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, "Take the dinner which you have to Babylon, to Daniel, in the lions' den."

[35] Habakkuk said, "Sir, I have never seen Babylon, and I know nothing about the den."

[36] Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head, and lifted him by his hair and set him down in Babylon, right over the den, with the rushing sound of the wind itself.

[37] Then Habakkuk shouted, "Daniel, Daniel! Take the dinner which God has sent you."

[38] And Daniel said, "Thou hast remembered me, O God, and hast not forsaken those who love thee."

[39] So Daniel arose and ate. And the angel of God immediately returned Habakkuk to his own place.

[40] On the seventh day the king came to mourn for Daniel. When he came to the den he looked in, and there sat Daniel.

[41] And the king shouted with a loud voice, "Thou art great, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is no other besides thee."

[42] And he pulled Daniel out, and threw into the den the men who had attempted his destruction, and they were devoured immediately before his eyes.