

## 1. Opening Prayer

## 2. Intro: Prayer in the time of the Old Testament

*Tefilah* (תְּפִלָּה) referring to “prayer” is used 73 times in 67 verses.

It is from *Pallel* (פָּלַל), which originally means to judge, to decide, or to cut.

The Jews also use its reflexive form for prayer, *lehitpallel*, which means to judge oneself.

From “The Meaning of Prayer” [www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org)

Read those bible verses that use those Hebrew words and think of what prayer would mean to us.

Attitude: 1 Samuel 7:3-6, 2 Chronicles 6:26-30, Nehemiah 1:5-6

Frequency: Psalm 55:17 and 119:164, 1 Chronicles 23:30, Psalm 5:3 and 141:2

Action: Ezra 9:5, Nehemiah 8:6, 1 Kings 8:22, Nehemiah 1:4, 9:1, Esther 9:31, 1 Samuel 1:26

Regarding those bible verses and the definition of the words, how shall we understand prayer?

## 3. Structure of Ch. 5

### a. Royal Banquet and Mystery (vv. 1-6)

The King’s Order (vv. 1-2)

Terrifying Action (vv. 3-4)

Supernatural Response (vv. 5-6)

### b. Attempt to Interpret (vv. 7-12)

The King’s Order (vv. 7-8)

Terrified with Incapability (v. 9)

The Queen’s Response (vv. 10-12)

### c. Daniel before the King (vv. 13-29)

The King’s Order and Offer (vv. 13-16)

Daniel’s Reproach (vv. 17-23)

Daniel’s Interpretation (vv. 24-28)

The King’s Order (v. 29)

### d. The End and the New Beginning (vv. 30-31)

#### 4. Read Daniel Ch. 5

#### 5. Questions

- a. How would the ancient people, especially the high class people, understand the royal banquet for them?
- b. Why do you think the king ordered to bring the vessels taken from Jerusalem by his father Nebuchadnezzar?
- c. Verse 6 says, as soon as the king saw the finger writing, his thought terrified him. What would be his thoughts about?
- d. Why do you think the king offered a lot of rewards to the person who could interpret the writing?
- e. Why do you think Daniel was not with the other wise men when the king ordered to come?
- f. Do you know anyone in the bible who received such rewards of purple clothing and gold chain from a king?
- g. In the middle of perplexity, the queen appeared. What is her role in this story?
- h. Do you think the king didn't know about Daniel until the queen talked about him?
- i. What do you think about Daniel's speech in verses 17-29?
- j. Why do you think Daniel refused the king's offer in verse 17?
- k. Even though Daniel's interpretation sounds terrifying, and even though Daniel didn't want the rewards, why do you think the king gave the rewards to Daniel?

## 6. Structure of Ch. 6

### a. The Plot against Daniel (vv. 1-9)

The Promotion of Daniel (vv. 1-3)

The Adversaries' Scheme (vv. 4-5)

The King's Order (vv. 6-9)

### b. The Prosecution against Daniel (vv. 10-18)

Daniel's Uprightness (v. 10)

The Adversaries' Accusation against Daniel (vv. 11-15)

The King's Order (vv. 16-18)

### c. The Protection of God (vv. 19-28)

The King's Inquiry (vv. 19-20)

Daniel's Response (vv. 21-22)

The King's Order (vv. 23-24)

The King's Praise to God (vv. 25-27)

Daniel's Prosperity (v. 28)

## 7. Read Ch. 6

## 8. Questions

- a. Why do you think the satraps and administrators want to accuse Daniel?
- b. Why do you think the king agreed to decree the interdict?
- c. How come Daniel could continue to pray as he had done previously?
- d. Verse 14 says that the king made an effort to save Daniel. But why did he fail?
- e. What is the lesson we can find out in this story?

## 9. Closing Prayer