

# Daniel 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

## Analysis

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Daniel's petition becomes more direct: 'Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.' The word 'now' indicates urgency and transition from confession to petition. The request for God to 'hear' and for His face to 'shine upon' the desolate sanctuary uses covenantal language from the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26). The phrase 'for the Lord's sake' (or 'for Your own sake') is crucial: Daniel doesn't ask based on Israel's merit but God's own interests—His glory, reputation, and covenant promises. The sanctuary's desolation is emphasized—the temple, God's dwelling place, lies in ruins. This appeals to God's own honor: will He allow His sanctuary to remain destroyed? This represents mature intercession: appealing not to our worthiness but to God's character, glory, and promises.

## Historical Context

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The temple's destruction (586 BC) was catastrophic for Israel—it was God's dwelling place, the center of worship, and symbol of His presence. Its ruins throughout the 70-year exile testified to God's judgment. Daniel's prayer comes near the exile's end (c. 538 BC), as Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy neared fulfillment. The request for God's face to shine reflects Numbers 6:24-26's priestly blessing—invoking covenant relationship language. Historically, the temple's rebuilding began shortly after this prayer (539-516 BC under Cyrus's decree), fulfilling

Daniel's petition. The appeal 'for the Lord's sake' rather than Israel's merit accurately framed restoration: it demonstrated God's covenant faithfulness and mercy, not Israel's deserving. Church history shows revivals similarly come through intercession appealing to God's glory rather than claiming human merit.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does praying 'for the Lord's sake' rather than 'for our sake' teach about proper prayer motivation?
2. How does using covenantal language (like the Aaronic blessing) strengthen intercession?
3. Why is appealing to God's glory and character more effective than claiming personal worthiness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵל	עָזָב	וְאֵל	תְּפִלָּת	אֵל	שְׁמָעֵעַ וְעַפְתָּה	אֱלֹהִינוּ	שְׁמָעֵעַ
H413	H5650	H413	H8605	H413	H6258	H430	H8085
the prayer	of thy servant	the prayer	the prayer	the prayer	hear	Now therefore O our God	hear
H4720	H5921	H5921	H6440	H215	H8469	and his supplications	and his supplications
upon thy sanctuary	to shine	to shine					
H413	H413	H413	H413	H413	H413	and cause thy face	and cause thy face
that is desolate	for the Lord's	that is desolate	for the Lord's	that is desolate	that is desolate	Adonai	Adonai
H8076	H4616	H8076	H4616	H8076	H8076	H136	H136
desolate	for the Lord's	desolate	for the Lord's	desolate	desolate	Lord's	Lord's

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 80:19** (References God): Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

**Lamentations 5:18** (Parallel theme): Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it.

**Psalms 80:3** (References God): Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

**Psalms 80:7** (References God): Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.