

# Daniel 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

## Analysis

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While Daniel prays, God sends response: 'And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God.' This sets context for Gabriel's arrival (v. 21). The phrase 'whiles I was speaking' indicates God answered before Daniel finished praying (cf. Isaiah 65:24). The confession includes personal ('my sin') and corporate ('sin of my people') dimensions. His intercession for 'the holy mountain' (temple mount/Jerusalem) shows covenant concern for God's reputation and dwelling place.

## Historical Context

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Jewish prayer practice included confession, repentance, and supplication. Daniel's prayer (v. 4-19) exemplifies corporate confession where righteous individuals identify with their people's sin. The 'holy mountain' refers to Mount Zion/Jerusalem where the temple stood (now destroyed). Ancient Near Eastern religion closely linked gods with specific locations; Daniel's concern for God's dwelling place among His people reflects covenant theology where God's presence among Israel demonstrated His choice of them as His people.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Daniel's example of identifying with his people's sin model corporate responsibility rather than self-righteous distancing?
2. What does God's response before prayer concludes teach about His eagerness to answer those who earnestly seek Him?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעוֹד H5750	אֲנִי H589	מְדַבֵּר H1696	וּמְתַפִּיל H6419	וּמְתוֹדֶה H3034	וְחַטָּאת H2403
		And whiles I was speaking	and praying	and confessing	and the sin
וְחַטָּאת H2403	עַמִּי H5971	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	וּמִפְּנֵי H5307	תְּחִנָּתִי H8467	לִפְנֵי H6440
and the sin	of my people	Israel	and presenting	my supplication	before
יְהוָה H3068	אֱלֹהֵי H430	עַל H5921	הַר H2022	קִדְשׁ H6944	אֱלֹהֵי H430
the LORD	my God	mountain	for the holy	my God	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 145:18** (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

**Romans 3:23** (Sin): For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**Isaiah 58:9** (Kingdom): Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

**Isaiah 6:5** (Kingdom): Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

**Isaiah 65:24** (Kingdom): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**Psalms 32:5** (Sin): I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

**Daniel 9:16** (Holy): O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.