

## Prayer Theme and Variations

## Moses' Theme

[On the plains of Moab, at the end of his life, Moses reminded the people of their history and he spoke to them of the God who had lovingly singled them out.]

כִּי הִיא אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַוָּא אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֱדֹני הָאֱדֹנִים הַאֵל  
הַפָּדוֹל  
הַגָּבּוֹר  
וְהַנּוֹרָא

*Adonai is your God, the God of gods, Lord of lords, the God who is great, mighty and awesome*

*who shows no favor and takes no bribe, but upholds the cause of the fatherless and the widow...*  
(Deuteronomy 10:17-18)

## Jeremiah's Variation

[Jerusalem and its Temple were about to be destroyed by the Babylonians. As a sign of hopefulness for a renewed future, Jeremiah redeemed some family land in the doomed city, demonstrating his own willingness to make a hopeful investment in a city about to be lost. After he demonstrated his loyalty to a promised future, he prayed:]

וְאַתְּפַלֵּל אֶל ה' אֶחָרִי תִתְּנִיחַ אֶת-סִפְר הַמִּקְנָה אֶל-בָּרוּך בָּן-גַּרְיָה לְאָמֵר: אֲהָה  
ה' אֱלֹהִים הַנָּה אַתָּה עֲשֵׂית אֶת-הַשָּׁמִים וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ בְּכֹחַ הַגָּדוֹל וּבְזַרְעָךְ  
הַגִּטוּיָה לֹא-יִפְלָא מִפְּנֵךְ כָּל-דָּבָר. עֲשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְאֶלְפִּים וּמְשִׁלְם עֲוֹן אֲבוֹת אֶל-  
מִיק בְּנֵיכֶם אֶמְרֵיכֶם הַאֵל  
מַגְדּוֹל  
מַגְבּוֹר  
ה' צְבָאות שָׁמָוֹן.

*I prayed to the Lord after I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch ben Neriah: Oh, Lord God! Surely you made the heavens and the earth with your great strength and your outstretched arm. There is nothing too wondrous for you. You act with loving kindness towards thousands and requite the sin of the ancestors in the lives of their descendants; The God who is great mighty whose name is “Lord of Hosts.”*  
(Jeremiah 32:16-18)

## Daniel's Variation

[Daniel was among the exiles from Jerusalem to Babylon. The following verses set the stage for Daniel's prayer variation: *In the first year of Darius, son of Ahashverosh of the Medes who ruled over the kingdom of Chaldees. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, consulted the books concerning the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord that had come to Jeremiah the prophet, were to be the term of Jerusalem's desolation—seventy years. I turned my face to the Lord God, devoting myself to prayer and supplication, in fasting, in sackcloth and ashes (Daniel 9:1-3):]*

וְאַתְּפַלֵּחַ לְהִי אֱלֹהִי וְאַתְּזָה וְאַמְרָה אֲנָא הִי חָאֵל  
מָגָדָל  
וְמָפָרָא  
שָׁמֵר הַבְּרִית וְהַחֶסֶד לְאַהֲבָיו וְלִשְׁמַרְיוּ מִצּוֹתָיו.

*And I prayed before the Lord My God, I confessed and I said: O, Lord, God who is great and awesome who maintains covenant and kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments... (Daniel 9:4)*