

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

Make of list of America's "national" sins.

Beside that list, make another one explaining the serious nature of those sins.

Underneath the two lists, explain why America needs God's grace and mercy.

Write a prayer petitioning God for grace and mercy. Perhaps you would like to pray for 40 minutes!



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville
Church of Christ

Moses' 40 Day Prayer
Deut 9:18-29

Prayer Study #10

Study Series by Bill Denton, D.Min.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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Moses' 40 Day Prayer

Deut 9:18-29

Deuteronomy contains a series of speeches given by Moses to Israel, and in many ways is a summary of the history of this wandering band of God's people.

In this section, Moses reminded them of the national sin at Sinai when they bowed to a golden calf and rebelled against God.

Moses himself, reveals something about his own prayer life and effort at communicating with God on behalf of his people.

It is another example of prayer that will challenge and encourage us today. Prayer is serious business! Behind it lies the foundation of a deep faith in the one to whom we pray.

What Can We Learn?

1. Moses' prayer seems to be motivated by two things he knew about God:

- A. He understood how much God hated sin, and
- B. He understood God was a God of grace and mercy.

2. Moses' boldness in prayer is not based on some brash confidence in himself, rather it is based on something about God — God's lovingkindness and faithfulness to his promises.

3. 40 days is a long time to fast and pray. What other Bible character can you think of who did something similar?

4. This is a prayer of sorrow and penitence on behalf of his people. It is motivated by serious attention to sin. This is an attitude often lacking, not only in the Israelites, but in Christians today.

5. Before an appeal can be made for God's grace and mercy, one must realize the awful problem of sin.

Questions to Ponder

1. Why was it important that the people understand that it wasn't by their goodness or power that they finally entered the promised land, but that it was through God's power and righteousness?
2. Why did Moses repeatedly tell the people what bad people they had been?
3. What thoughts are generated by Moses' statements that he had "prayed for Aaron," and that he prayed to the Lord, ". . . do not destroy Your people?"
4. 9:25 reveals why Moses prayed 40 days. Why do you think it took such a lengthy prayer?
5. Why is the statement of 9:29 so important to Moses' prayer? Does God need to be reminded, or is there another purpose in those words?
6. What picture of God is being drawn through the prayers of Moses?
7. Can you list at least three ways that Moses' prayers help us to pray?

