

STYMIES TO PRAYER

By way of introduction, I am directing our attention to prayers by two outstanding believers, the answers of which were stymied for a time.

1. **Daniel:** Daniel 10

- v.1 A _____ in 536 or 535 B.C.
- v.2-3 Effect of the vision on Daniel: mourning, fasting, prayer (see v.12)
- v. 4-14 An angelic interaction about the vision
- v.14 _____ of angelic revelation – WHAT SHALL HAPPEN TO ISRAEL IN THE LATTER DAYS?
- v.12-13 The STYMY to Daniel’s prayers: _____ conflict!

2. **Paul requests prayer:** Romans 1:8-12 (written 57 A.D. from Corinth, 16:22-23)

- v.9-10 Specific prayer request: Paul’s visit to Roman believers
- v. 15:29-31 _____ specific prayer requests

Stymy to Paul’s prayer: His arrest in Jerusalem in 58 A.D., Acts 21:22-24; 22:25-27

Answer to Paul’s prayer: Acts 23:11; 26:31-32 - he goes to Rome at the government’s expense!

PUZZLING THOUGHTS THAT WOULD STYMIE PRAYER

It is possible for believers to rationalize away the imperative to pray. Despite the repeated biblical encouragement in this regard, there are those who think they can get along without it. Here are some puzzling ideas that I have run up against that would prevent prayer.

1. The _____ of God & the apparent _____ of man.

Psa. 8: 3,4

Is God mindful of man? See Mt. 6:25-34; 10:25,26

2. The _____ of God.

Mt. 6:8 Note Jesus' acknowledgement of God's _____ of our needs.

6:9 Note also His command for us to _____ and _____.

Rom. 1: 8-10; 15: 28-32 Relate Paul's prayers, plans, and the results to God's omniscience and sovereignty.

3. The problem of _____ Law (cause & effect).

Who instituted natural law? See 2Kings 20:1-11 where God circumvents natural law due to a believer's prayer.

4. The _____ of God.

Since every molecule is part of God's plan and purpose, why pray?

Answer: because God uses prayer to accomplish His purposes. It is he that designed prayer!

PRAYER HELPS US PERSONALLY RELATE TO GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN!