

## 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 ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הוּא אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֲדֹנֵי הָאֲדֹנִים הָאֵל  
הַגָּדֹל  
הַגִּבּוֹר  
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:]

וְאֶתְפַּלֵּל אֶל ה' אֲחֵרֵי תַתִּי אֶת-סֹפֶר הַמְּקִנָה אֶל-בְּרוּךְ בֶּן-נֶרְיָה לֵאמֹר : אֵהָה  
ה' אֱלֹהִים הִנֵּה אַתָּה עֹשֶׂת אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ בְּכַחַד הַגָּדוֹל וּבְזֵרְעָךְ  
הַנְּטוּיָה לֹא-יִפְּלֵא מִמֶּךָ כָּל-דָּבָר . עֲשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלֹפִים וּמִשְׁלָם עֹן אָבוֹת אֶל-  
חֵיק בְּנֵיהֶם אַחֲרֵיהֶם הָאֵל  
הַגָּדֹל  
הַגִּבּוֹר  
ה' צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ .

*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 Chaldes. 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):*]

וְאֶתְפַּלֶּלָה לְה' אֱלֹהֵי וְאֶתְוַדֶּה וְאֶמְרָה אָנָּה ה' הָאֵל  
הַגָּדוֹל  
וְהַנּוֹרָא  
שֹׁמֵר הַבְּרִית וְהַחֲסֵד לְאֶהֱבָיו וּלְשֹׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתָיו.

*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)*