

DANIEL who opened his windows
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(DANIEL 6: 10)

The dawn was breaking over old Babylon; the city would soon be awake. Probably the breeze was beginning to stir the flowers in the ornate hanging gardens, as the rising sun shed radiance over the ancient streets. And at his window stood Daniel the Hebrew. His eyes were those of a seer; his face was that of a saint. It would be interesting to know when he first decided to open his windows toward Jerusalem. His act was not the commonplace deed of an ordinary citizen, but the planned intelligent act of a visionary. Through his windows many worlds may still be seen.

Daniel . . . who opened his Bible

We may never be sure whether Daniel was taught by the elders, or whether he discovered truth for himself. When the Hebrews were carried into captivity, they either took the sacred writings in their luggage or the message in their hearts, for long afterward in the city of Babylon, they were able to recall the words from I Kings 8:45-49. "Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause . . . if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent . . . and pray unto Thee toward their land . . . Then hear thou their prayer. . . ." Long and often Daniel looked at the immortal statement, and then with calm deliberation rose to open his windows. His actions were magnificently eloquent.

Daniel . . . who opened his soul

" Yet if they ... repent and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them away captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; and so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul in the land of their enemies ... and pray toward their land . . . then hear thou their prayer Through the window in Babylon Daniel looked toward Jerusalem; through that same window we may look into the Hebrew's soul. Remembering the words of Solomon, Daniel's act was an open confession of sin; and this is all the more thought-provoking in view of the fact that there is no record of Daniel's failure. He was probably the most saintly man in Babylon, but he himself would have strenuously denied the assertion. Great saints invariably believe they are the chief of sinners (see Dan. 9:3-19).

Daniel ... who opened his windows

Probably Daniel, having read the ancient account, proceeded to emulate Solomon's example, for it is written, ". . . and when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose . . . from kneeling on his knees, with his hands spread up to heaven." His soul yearned for the blessing which only God could give; but conscious of his unworthiness, the saint knew how to express the deep desires of his heart. Undoubtedly he confessed his guilt, his need, and his faith; and when in due course he arose to meet the demands of a new day, like Solomon of old, he could have cried, " Blessed be the Lord. . . ." Here is progression of thought. The Holy Scriptures are a searchlight revealing both the need of man and the sufficiency of God. Daniel would have appreciated the chorus-

DANIEL who opened his windows
Make the Book live to me, O Lord;
Show me myself within Thy word:
Show me myself and show me my Saviour,
And make the Book live to me.

Daniel . . . who opened the heavens

There is a basic law in Scripture which provides the key to spiritual prosperity. God has said, ". . . prove me . . . if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes " (Mal. 3: 10-11). If we open our windows toward God, He opens His windows toward us. This was proved by the prophet Daniel. The Hebrew was penitent, prayerful, powerful; and the devourers were indeed rebuked, for the ancient records say, " And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions God's word says, " I will honor them who honor me."

Daniel . . . who opened the future

" And the Lord said . . . I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days " (Dan. 10: 14). Daniel became God's instrument to instruct the world, and as a reward for faithful service was given a priceless promise. "But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days " (12: 13). This man was the greatest window-opener of all time; but there is reason to believe he opened more windows when he was on his knees than he ever did when he was on his feet I

Are your windows open toward Jerusalem
Whilst as captives here a little while you stay?
For the coming of the King in His glory
Are you watching day by day?

The Woman who Interceded for D. L. Moody

In his book, Power through Prayer, the Rev. E. M. Bounds tells a remarkable story. I take the liberty of re-telling this, and at the same time to commend Mr. Bounds' thrilling book to all my readers. On page 148 he writes, "When D. L. Moody's church in Chicago lay in ashes, he went over to England, not to preach, but to listen to others preach, while his new church was being built. One Sunday morning he was prevailed upon to preach in a London pulpit. But somehow the spiritual atmosphere was lacking. He confessed afterward that he never had such a hard time preaching in his life. Everything was perfectly dead, and, as he vainly tried to preach, he said to himself, 'What a fool I was to consent to preach. I came here to listen, and here I am preaching.' Then the awful thought came to him that he had to preach again that night, and only the fact that he had given the promise to do so, kept him faithful to the engagement. But when Mr. Moody entered the pulpit at night, and faced the crowded congregation, he was conscious of a new atmosphere. 'The powers of an unseen world seemed to have fallen on the audience.' As he drew toward the close of his sermon he became emboldened to give out an invitation, and as he concluded, said, 'If there is a man or woman here who will tonight accept Jesus Christ, please stand up.' At once about 500 people rose to their feet. Thinking that there must be some mistake, he asked the people to be seated, and then,

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in order that there could be no possible misunderstanding,
repeated the invitation, couching it in even more definite
and difficult terms. Again the same number arose.
Still thinking that something must be wrong, Mr. Moody for
the second time asked the standing men and women to be
seated, and then invited all who really meant to accept
Christ to
pass into the vestry. Fully five hundred people did as
requested, and that was the beginning of a revival in that
church and neighborhood. This brought Mr. Moody back
from Dublin, a few days later, that he might assist the won-
derful work of God.

"The sequel, however, must be given, or our purpose in
relating the incident will be defeated. When Mr. Moody
preached at the morning service, there was a woman in the
congregation who had an invalid sister. When she returned
home she told the invalid that the preacher had been a Mr.
Moody from Chicago, and on hearing this, the sister turned
pale. 'What,' she said, 'Mr. Moody from Chicago! I read
about him some time ago in an American paper, and I have
been praying God to send him to our country and our church.
If I had known he was going to preach this morning I would
have eaten no breakfast. Now, sister, go out of the room,
lock the door, send me no dinner; no matter who comes,
don't let them see me. I am going to spend the whole after-
noon and evening in prayer.' And so while Mr. Moody stood
in the pulpit that had been like an ice-chamber in the
morning, the bed-ridden saint was holding him up before
God. The Lord, Who ever delights to answer prayer, poured
out His Spirit in mighty power."

Mr. Hyde, Please Pray for Me

One of the outstanding prayer warriors of this country
was Praying Hyde. The story of his life and spiritual exploits
has often been told, so that today even the youngest Christians
know something of this great saint. During the year 1911,
Mr. Hyde attended a mission service where Dr. Wilbur
Chapman and Charles Alexander were having a very difficult
time. Appreciating the difficulties confronting the evangelists,
Mr. Hyde decided to pray the mission through to victory.
When his prayers had been fully answered, and the power
of God was falling continually upon the gatherings, Dr.
Chapman, recognizing the spiritual greatness of his friend,
asked Mr. Hyde to pray for him. Some time later the
renowned preacher wrote of the memorable experience when
his desire was granted.

"He came to my room, turned the key in the door, dropped
on his knees, waited five minutes without a single syllable
coming from his lips. I could hear my own heart thumping
and beating. I felt the hot tears running down my face. I
knew I was with God. . . . Then with upturned face down
which the tears were running, he said, 'Oh God!' Then for
five minutes at least he was still again, and then, when he
knew he was talking with God, his arm went around my
shoulder, and there came up from the depth of his heart
such petitions for men as I had never heard before. I rose
from my knees to know what real prayer was. We believe
that prayer is mighty, and we believe it as we never did
before."

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered, or unexpressed:
The motion of a hidden fire

DANIEL who opened his windows
That trembles in the breast.

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