

FOUR GREAT PRAYERS IN THE BIBLE

PROBLEM	JEHOSHAPHAT <i>2 Chronicles 20:1–12</i> Immediate Problem 20:1–2 Jehoshaphat and Judah Seek Help from God 20:3–4	HEZEKIAH <i>2 Kings 19:15–19</i> Immediate Problem 19:10–14a Daniel Seeks Help from God 19:14b	NEHEMIAH <i>Nehemiah 1:4–11</i> Immediate Problem 1:2–3 Nehemiah Seeks Help from God 1:4	DANIEL <i>Daniel 9:2–19</i> Immediate Problem 9:2 Daniel Seeks Help from God 9:3
ORIENTATION TO PERSON AND WORK OF GOD	PRAYER Focus on God's Sovereignty 20:6 Focus on God's Omnipotence 20:6 Jehoshaphat Cites a Similar Event in Israel's History 20:7–8 Jehoshaphat Reminds God of a Promise that Applies to the Present Situation 20:9 (= 2 Chr. 6:28–30) Jehoshaphat Cites the Immediate Problem 20:10–11	PRAYER Focus on God's Sovereignty 9:15a–c Focus on God's Omnipotence 9:15d (God's Promise to Deliver Hezekiah and Jerusalem in 2 Kings 20:6 Underlies Hezekiah's Prayer) Hezekiah Cites the Immediate Problem and Similar Historical Examples 19:16–18	PRAYER Focus on God's Greatness 1:5 Focus on God's Faithfulness 1:5 Nehemiah Confesses Israel's Sins 1:6–7 Nehemiah Reminds God of a Promise that Applies to the Present Situation 1:8–9 Nehemiah Cites a Similar Event in Israel's History and Focuses on God's Omnipotence 1:10	PRAYER Focus on God's Greatness 9:4 Focus on God's Faithfulness 9:4 Daniel Confesses Israel's Sins 9:5–14 (God's Promise to Regather Israel in Jeremiah 25:11 and 29:10 Underlies Daniel's Prayer. Compare Daniel 9:2) Daniel Cites a Similar Event in Israel's History and Focuses on God's Omnipotence 9:15
REQUEST	Jehoshaphat Asks God for Help 20:12	Hezekiah Asks God for Help 19:19	Nehemiah Asks God for Help 1:11	Daniel Focuses on God's Righteousness and Asks God for Help 9:16–19

Prayer Technique of Great Old Testament Saints: When you have a problem so big that it's about to crush you with its weight, take time to build a big God in your mind *before* making prayer requests. Focus on God's character, the times God has helped you in the past, and applicable promises *first* before mentioning your problems and asking for help. This mentally reduces the size of seemingly insurmountable problems and at the same time increases your faith to believe God can solve them (cf. Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24). This prayer outline is repeated in part and in full many times in the Bible.