Praying for the Nation(s)

Jerry E. Smith, Ed.D.

God has called us to pray for our own nation and the nations of the earth. Transformation of nations is possible as the church, the body of Christ, releases the power of God through scriptural prayer.

Isaiah 56:7 My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

Mark 11:17 Jesus reminds us, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?"

2 Chron 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The preceding promise is not contingent upon lost people coming to Jesus. It is dependent upon us--God's people--humbling ourselves, praying, seeking God's face, and turning from our wicked ways!

Praying for the nations of the world, the world itself, seems to be a vast undertaking; but our God is able.

He is the "Holy, holy, holy, **Lord God <u>Almighty</u>**, Who was and is and is to come!" "O Lord, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; for **You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."** "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, **You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. <u>There is nothing too hard for You.</u>" "<u>With God all things are possible</u>."** (Rev 4:8, 11; Jere 32:17, Mk 10:27)

Jesus taught us to pray to the Lord God Almighty, the One for whom nothing is too hard, the One with whom all things are possible. He said to pray in this manner:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed by Your name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven…

We are to pray for God's kingdom to be manifest on planet earth. We're to pray for His will to be done on planet earth, that His kingdom and His will be manifest here as they are now manifest in Heaven.

Reminding ourselves of "how things are in Heaven," will help us pray His will/kingdom be established on earth.

How are things in Heaven? The will of God is being done, therefore there must be: life, love, light, truth, unity, harmony, agreement, selflessness, morality, acceptance of responsibility, subordination to authority, obedience, provision, health…

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What is NOT in Heaven? Satan, sin, death, satanic beings, demons, rebellion, lying, strife, discord, division, insubordination, hate, anger, resentment, hostility, lust for power and wealth, promotion of self, casting blame, disease, poverty…

Jesus ends His prayer with "Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

His is the kingdom. His is the power. His is the glory. In other words, Jesus is saying "Our Father God is the one who is and possesses everything needed to answer the prayer. His is the power, glory, authority, rule, dominion… He is the One who has the wherewithal to get it done!

As we consider prayer to establish His kingdom on earth, the keys of binding and loosing come to mind.

Matt 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The prayer of binding and loosing is a prayer designed to manifest the kingdom of Heaven. To establish His kingdom, we bind and cast out of the earth those things that are not found in Heaven and we loose those things that are found in Heaven to be manifest in the earth.

What do we bind? What do we loose?

When praying for the nation(s) it is important this: What is happening on our society and world society is the fruit of a spiritual war for control of the earth and its inhabitants. It is God versus Satan. It is good versus evil. It is life versus death. It is Heaven versus hell. It is the ongoing manifestation of Genesis 3:15:

"The LORD God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel."

The war on planet earth is the Seed of woman, Jesus, and His church, versus the serpent, Satan, and his followers. Obviously, God is the supreme entity of the universe. All power is His. However, He gave authority in the earth to man, therefore He requires the involvement of man to accomplish His will in the earth. Jesus has totally defeated Satan, but God depends on His people, the church, to enforce His victory. "If my people will…" "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, go therefore…" (Matt 28:18). "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

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Since our warfare is with a spiritual hierarchy of satanic beings who are "pulling the strings" of the world and those in positions of worldly leadership, it would be profitable to know who these spirit beings are.

Jesus said, "A tree is known by its fruit" (Matt 12:33). What satanic "fruit" do we see in our society, media, government…? We should pray against it, bind it, cast it out…

I see strife, discord, hate, violence, rebellion, selfishness, lack of respect for authority, lack of forgiveness, lack of mercy, lack of concern for others, immorality, lying, stealing, killing, destruction, fear, manipulation, control, lust for power, lust for money, antichrists, globalism, unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, deceit, evil-mindedness, backbiting, pride…

Let's bind and cast those fruit out of our society and let's loose into our society their opposites, those fruit found in Heaven: life, light, harmony, unity, love, grace, mercy, selflessness, compassion, forgiveness, righteousness, humility, truth, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, loyalty, subordination to authority, respect of authority…

Also, we have opportunity to ask the Lord to send forth His heavenly hosts to do warfare against satanic entities.

Heb 1:14 Are they *(angels)* not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Ps 103:20-21 Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

It seems that God's heavenly hosts of angels heed the voice of His word. May we conclude that believers may dispatch them by speaking God's word?

Here are some scriptures which may be helpful in praying for our community, state, nation, and world:

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Rom 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God…

1 Tim 2:1-6 I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For <u>this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the</u>

knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Ps 75:6-7 Exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south, but God is the Judge, He puts down one and exalts another.

Ps 72:11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.

Dan 2:20-23 Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.

Ps 2:7-9 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" The Father has given Jesus the nations as His inheritance. We can pray in agreement.

Jeremiah 29:7 Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away as captives and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall you have peace.

Proverbs 11:11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked." If a city can be exalted by the blessing of God's people, cannot a nation and the earth also?

Gen 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." For any nation to be blessed by God, it must bless Israel.

Pray along these lines:

- That local, state, and national leaders would be born-again and serve God
- That God would give leaders (whether they know Him or not) wisdom and surround them with godly counselors
- That leaders would stand boldly and courageously for righteousness
- That leaders would have ears to hear God's instruction, wisdom, and strategies
- That God would raise up and bless every leader who suits His purposes and that He bring down every leader who does not

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- That the Lord lead us the way of peace and welfare as a nation, that He would make our crooked paths straight
- That U.S. would be (remain) a faithful ally of Israel
- That revival would be manifest in the church
- That Christians would get right with God; return to their first love; and seek God with all their hearts
- That Christians love and serve their community, state, and nation in practical ways such as seeking public office, involving themselves in civic affairs…
- That Christians become entrepreneurs and business leaders, godly influences
- That God would empower us, His children, to keep our mind stayed on Him and experience peace amidst the noise of current society (Isaiah 26:3)
- That God convict and empower His people to walk in righteousness and holiness
- That the love, forgiveness, and peace of God would reign in the hearts of men
- That the hatred in the heart of man be replaced by the love of God
- That God would enable us to walk in love towards all men
- That people would be moved with compassion toward one another, that they esteem others as they desire to be esteemed
- That the Lord would thrust forth laborers into the harvest fields
- That the laborers be filled with the Holy Spirit and fire. That great grace be upon them all. That they speak the word of God with boldness and with great power give witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus
- That the Lord would open the minds of unbelievers and enable them to receive the light of the glorious gospel (2 Cor 4:3-4)
- That the word of God would spread rapidly
- That ministers of the Lord would be delivered and kept safe from evil and the evil one
- That witnesses/ministers have freedom of utterance in proclaiming the word of God
- That the ministers of the gospel faithfully preach/teach the whole counsel of God's word

In conclusion, never forget, "**The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit" (James 5:16-18).