

INTERCESSIONS POWER TO AFFECT NATIONS AND THE COURSE OF HISTORY

Introduction

Intercession is the primary means that God has chosen to release His government both in His relationship with Jesus within the fellowship of the Trinity and with His people now and forever. God's government is released through intercession. In this, God has given the human race great dignity. We have a free will, which means we have been given the ability to make choices that make a real difference. These choices for righteousness or for sin will bring either blessing or evil to us and those around us. If we choose righteousness, we open doors of blessing on others. The choices we make provide the legal entry for both angels and demons to be more active in the natural realm. We affect the quality of life by our choices. God governs (or releases His power) the universe in partnership with His people via intercession. The governmental center of the universe is the "Prayer Room," which includes all the holy prayers in heaven and on earth that converge in unity before the Father's Throne. God has given His people a dynamic role in determining some of the measure of the "quality of life" that we experience. We make significant contributions in the quality of life by intercession, obedience and meekness. He chose intercession as the primary means in which we could govern with Him.

I. THE PRIMARY WAY GOD HAS CHOSEN TO GOVERN IS THROUGH INTERCESSION

- A. God is waiting for our persistence in prayer before Him. Isaiah taught the He longs to release His grace and power, but actually waits until He hears the cry of His people in Intercession.

Isaiah 30:18-19 "Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you."

1. God longs and desires to be gracious to us.
2. God has given us the ministry of intercession.
3. God waits on us to pray that He may be compassionate towards us.
4. God's compassion and graciousness is dependant on us crying out to Him in intercession.
5. Prayer keeps us dependant on God.
6. Prayer keeps pride and self-reliance in check through the spirit of humility.

- B. Ezekiel taught that God searched for one who would stand in the gap between Himself and Israel; someone who would pray in a way that would cause God's judgment to be withheld.

Ezekiel 22:30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

- C. Corporate intercessory worship is the *primary means* God has chosen to release His government (power). It is the highest expression of His government in time and eternity and is the most powerful weapon that exists. It is the front line of defense in our war against darkness. Many who love Jesus in context to communion with God as well as many who love worship music do not have a revelation of the authority of intercessory worship.
1. ***Corporate-*** God desires prayer that is corporate. It requires humility to embrace all that is implied in gathering corporately. The differences between worship and prayer styles, doctrinal emphases, as well as our personalities, make humility necessary if we are to gather together in a regular way. Also, this bonds us together as a spiritual family.
 2. ***Intercessory-*** we stand in the gap for others as we declare back to God what He promised to do for His people (salvation, healing, blessing, etc.)
 3. ***Worship-*** combines the issue of, "I love You, God" with godly music. This provides a unique dynamic in enabling large numbers of people to feel the same truths together in unity for sustained periods of time. The Spirit of God is musical. Thus, the human spirit is musical. We are moved by music in being created in God's image.

II. INTERCESSION IMPACTS THE SPIRIT REALM

- A. In Daniel 10, we receive insight into the impact that intercession has on governmental structures in both the natural and spiritual realm. The war in the spirit realm greatly impacts the events of the nations of the earth (including their elections and legislative policies). Natural governmental infrastructure includes the kings (presidents) of nations and their vast infrastructures. This passage gives us a model of how the governmental authority structures of the nations are affected by angels and demons and how they are affected by sustained intercession. Spiritual hierarchies include both angelic and demonic authority structures over cities and nations.

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

- B. Daniel was praying and fasting (Daniel 10:2-3). He was approximately 85 years old and lived in Babylon. The Babylonian empire (modern day Iraq) had been conquered by the King of Persia (modern day Iran) three years earlier (Daniel 10:1).

Daniel 10:2-3 "In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³ I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

- C. Daniel saw the powers that were working behind the scenes to affect the King of Persia. He saw a demonic prince over Persia warring against Israel by seeking to stir up the natural King of Persia against Israel (Daniel 10:13, 20-21)

Daniel 10:12-13 "Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."

Daniel 10:20-21 "Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. ²¹ But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince."

Daniel 12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book."

- D. Michael contends or fights with Satan and by speaking the word of God against him. Michael is called an archangel (Jude 9), but is also called a prince in Daniel (Daniel 10:21; 12:1)

Jude 9 "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Zechariah 3:1-2 "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

- E. The End-Time war in the spirit realm will be affected by intercession as Satan is cast to the earth.

Revelation 12:7-12 "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

- F. Angelic governmental ministries are sent forth by prayer of people in covenant with God through Jesus. Behind every nation there is an angelic hierarchy and a demonic hierarchy authority structure that fight. The result impacts the leadership of the nation. If the church lives in agreement with God in righteousness and persevering intercession, then angelic ministries will be released to fight against mighty demonic powers to dislodge them and cancel out their assignment. Some have a very casual attitude towards Satan. We are not afraid of him because of the authority we have in the name of Jesus. However, neither are we to be casual and flippant related to his rage. He will be driven off the earth, yet there will be hundreds of millions of martyrs in the process of his final battles.

II. DANIEL'S ENCOUNTER WITH A MIGHTY ANGEL

Daniel 10:12-13 "Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."

- A. Daniel's prayer released a high ranking angel (Daniel 10:5-6; Rev 10:1). The angel came because of Daniel's prayer (Daniela 10:12). If Daniel had not have prayed the angel would not have come.
- B. The demonic principality who resisted this angel was and still is powerful (he remembers the massive defeat he experienced when Daniel fought him in fasting and prayer). This mighty angel who caused Daniel's friends to flee in terror could not overpower the prince of Persia without help from Michael. Michael came because of Daniel's continued prayer. Our prayers make a dynamic impact on what happens in the earthly and heavenly realm. The prayer ministry of the End-Time Church will come to fullness as the bowls of prayer will be totally full (Rev 5:8).