

INTERCESSION AND THE RELEASE OF JUSTICE

Introduction

Scripture describes many necessary elements that work together to release His justice on earth. In Luke 18, Jesus emphasized that night and day prayer was necessary preparation for the full release of His justice (by changing the spiritual atmosphere of cities/nations).

Luke 18:7-8 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Justice is God making wrong things right. The two sides of God's justice:

1. Judgment (punishment, vengeance) to the rebellious who resist God's justice.
2. Salvation (deliverance, vindication) to the redeemed as He makes wrong things right for them.

I. THE NEED FOR NIGHT AND DAY PRAYER

- A. Jesus requires night and day prayer as the condition to release justice. Jesus is the ultimate social reformer. He was the first to connect justice (social reform and making wrong things right) to night and day prayer. Prayer is a practical expression of the commandment to love one another.
- B. Examples of God's justice (judgment/salvation) that makes wrong things right
 1. **Revival:** God's judgment on compromise is seen in reviving the Church by the Spirit.
 2. **Soul winning:** God's judgment on the kingdom of darkness is seen when people get saved.
 3. **Righteous legislation:** God's judgment on unrighteous legislation (abortion laws, etc)
 4. **End-Time Judgments:** God's judgment against the evil governments and their actions.
 5. **Unity (reconciliation):** God's judgment on division in the family, society, and the Church.
 6. **Holiness:** God's judgment on sin, anger, pornography, drugs, and rebellion, etc.
 7. **Healing:** God's judgment on sickness is seen in the manifestation of healing power.

II. GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS RELEASED THROUGH CORPORATE INTERCESSORY WORSHIP

- A. God governs the universe in intimate partnership with His people through 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.

Some “trust” the sovereignty of God in a non-biblical way by “trusting” God to do the role that He has assigned to us. This is not truly trusting God, but rather it is presumption before Him. We cannot do God’s part and He will not do our part. The bible is clear that the universe is upheld by the word of God and intercessory prayer.

Hebrews 1:3 “*who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*”

Hebrews 7:24-27 “*But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*”

- B. God has already determined the primary events in His eternal plan (Second coming of Jesus, Jesus reigning over the earth as King, Satan being cast into the Lake of Fire, the establishing of the New Heavens and Earth, etc.), regardless of what people do, God will accomplish these.
- C. The choices we make provide the legal entry point for angels and demons to be more active in the natural realm. When we live in righteousness, we open legal access for angelic activity in the natural realm. Living in sin opens up the legal entry points for demonic activity to be heightened.

Genesis 28:12 “*Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*”

Revelation 13:4 “*So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*”

III. INTERCESSORY WORSHIP RELEASES GOD’S POWER THROUGH GOD’S PEOPLE

- A. Corporate intercessory worship releases God’s judgment and blessing and stops the enemy.

Psalms 149:6-9 “*Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment— This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!*”

- B. **Corporate**- requires humility to embrace all that is implied in gathering corporately. The differences in prayer styles, doctrinal emphases, and personalities make humility necessary.
- C. **Intercession**- stands in the gap for others as we declare to God what He promised to do.
- D. **Worship**- prayer based in prophetic music unifies God's people in a unique way. Through worship, thousands can remain in unity for sustained periods of time as they feel the same truths.

IV. GOD'S REQUIRED RESPONSE: SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES

Joel 2:12-16 " Now, therefore," says the LORD, " Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room."

- A. One of God's primary calls to a nation in crisis is that they gather for solemn assemblies, that is, for prayer, worship, fasting, and to repent of our sins while asking God to release His power. We must turn to God with all our heart or with wholeheartedness. God wants our hearts more than anything else. He wants all of our love (Matt 22:37). Joel defined turning to God with all our hearts as involving fasting, weeping, and mourning before the Lord.
- B. We must rend our hearts and not just our garments. Rending or tearing our hearts an essential part of wholeheartedness. It speaks with radically dealing with the matters of our heart. We separate our hearts from anything which hinders us in God.

Joel 2:13 "So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm."

- C. Intercession that brings about repentance could lessen the severity of pending judgment.

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***Zephaniah 2:1-3 "Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together,
O undesirable nation, Before the decree is issued,
Or the day passes like chaff, Before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you,
Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you! Seek the LORD, all you meek of
the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility.
It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD's anger."***

- D. In the response to our prayer, God changes what He releases in a nation or a family. The end result of a coming disaster can be changed (Gen 18:22-32; Ex 32:9-14; 2 Sam 12:15-23; 24:10-14; 2 Chr. 34:22-28; Jer. 18:7-10; 51:6-8; Ezek 18:21,22,28; 33:10-14; Dan. 4:29; Amos 5:1-3, 14-15, 7:1-6; Zeph 2:1-3; Hab. 3:16-19; Jon 3:4-10; Mal 3:16-4:6).