



# Prayer:

## Jesus' Method of Government

### **I. Jesus' Model for Governmental Rule in the Millenium: Zch. 6:12-13**

- A. Why is Jesus going to build the Temple?
- B. What is it that goes on at the Temple?
  - C. Why will this be the place of His throne and not the palace?

There will be no Temple in Jerusalem because it will have been destroyed during the Great Tribulation. Jesus will rebuild it because it will be from the Temple that He will rule the nations. The reason it is substantial that He rules from the Temple is because the Temple is the place where Israel was directed to come make atonement for their sins, offer prayers of thanksgiving, gather for feasts and fasts, plead for forgiveness and repent, worship, and recognize God's leadership (2Ch. 6:12-7:21). In other words, it was the place where prayer was to be centralized, because God vowed to lead His people through prayer.

*"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2Ch 7:14)."*

This is more than a promise about repentance, it is one of many statements about God's leadership style. He doesn't say, "if my people will burn a lot of sacrifices," or "if my people will read the 10 commandments," He says "pray." It is important to note that this has always and will always continue to be the way God leads His people and interacts with them. God's rule is not from a palace it is from His Temple, His rule is not by force it's by prayer.

### **II. Millennial Nations will be gathered to the Holy Mountain: Is.56:6-7**

- A. Why will all the nations be brought to the holy mountain?
- B. When's Jerusalem's Temple ever been a House of Prayer for all nations?
- C. What would things have to look like for that to be the case?
  - D. Why would God even want all the nations to come pray there?

"Will be called" is a never ending idea, the temple "will be called" a House of Prayer for all Nations forever because there will ALWAYS be need of the nations praying and Jesus listening. Prayer is Jesus' method of government. It's pretty different from how things are in our national governments, but in the Spirit it's really this way now already. When we pray we have representation before God, those that pray more and understand Him better through prayer have greater representation before God. Unlike man-made government, in Jesus' kingdom, representation is all about righteousness and faithfulness. Just like now, Jesus will know those best who spend the most amount of time with Him in prayer, fasting, and seeking after righteousness. Interesting how the principles of the Kingdom carry over into eternity.

### **III. Jesus was appointed as our High Priest forever: He. 7:21-25**

- A. What is a priest?
- B. Why does this role matter?
- C. How will Jesus rule the nations of the Millenium as Priest?

The job of the priest was to stand in the gap between men and God making atonement for them and specifically asking for their forgiveness. The priest is the Old Testament's picture to us of an intercessor. One who makes petition to God on for another, for cities, or even for nations so that God would move on their behalf, or change his heart toward them. During the times in Israel's apostasy where there were no priests to make intercession the nation suffered greatly because no one stood in the gap for their sins.

With Jesus as High Priest forever, as this scripture clearly states, He will continue performing the priestly role of intercession on into eternity. That makes for an interesting concept, because it then not only establishes prayer forever, including the Millenium, but it also infers a need for it, why pray if there is no benefit or need? If Jesus finds it necessary to pray in the Millenium and beyond, why would we be excused from this important ministry? More over, it is not just that Jesus does pray and will pray, it is that the role of priest requires that he do so. He is priest forever, and He has called us to be a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:6), meaning that we too will have the role of intercession, worship, etc. for eternity as well. We will be praying forever, have you ever thought about that?

### **IV. God's Response to Prayer in the Millenium: Zch. 14:16-18, 8:20-23**

- A. What are the peoples of the earth coming up to Jerusalem to do?
  - B. What happens when the people don't pray?

God will require the nations to come and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem and to pray to Him for rain. All those nations that do not come will have no rain. God promised long ago that if people would obey His commands and seeks His face that He would pour out abundance on them, to include rain in it's season.

*"The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom (Duet. 28:12-13)."*

So why are we told in Zechariah that the nations that don't come and pray will have no rain? This is again to show that prayer is an essential part of the Kingdom and of obedience. Prayer will be required from all the peoples of the earth even to fulfill what God had promised; rain. Prayer will be required to accomplish many kinds of activities. The picture from Zech. 8:20-23 is of people wandering about from city to city trying to figure out how to make things work in the Millennial Kingdom, trying to find somebody who knows how the system works because things just aren't working out for them. Someone suggests, "I'm going to the CAPITAL to see the KING and pray to Him so that I can find out what we need to do, wanna come?" Look at Ps. 48 to see what they find.

### **V. Effective Ministry now and in the Millenium:**

“You will not be effective as a king unless you are effective as a priest,” as Wes Hall said on the CD. He was referring to “king” as being a good leader. It goes beyond this, but that is certainly the central meaning of what he was talking about. Priests are just LOVERS, lovers of God and then lovers of men, laying their lives down for both, and in that order.

David functioned as a priest over his function as a king and so was an excellent king because his priorities were right. We have a lot we can learn from David’s lifestyle in this regard. He, though he was king of God’s nation, gave himself first to prayer and worship over his duties as king. This is the way God honors men. It is the same now. If we as husbands, wives, friends, sons, workers, ministers, Americans, will give ourselves 1<sup>st</sup> to prayer and worship, 1<sup>st</sup> to “let your kingdom come and your will be done,” 1<sup>st</sup> to “Jesus, I need you and I love you,” then all else will be given to us. The problem is too many are still trying to chase after the things of this life, even things God gave them...like being king. But we will never be good at “king” (or daughter, husband, businessman, teacher, minister) unless we 1<sup>st</sup> become good at being a priest before God as we have been called.

### **Conclusion:**

The Ministry of Prayer is most important ministry on the earth because it moves God. Nothing moves God apart from this system because it alone is the means by which He has prescribed we should interact with Him. The reason that prayer must be corporate is because **WE** are the Church, the Bride, and His People, not **ME**. The Ministry of Prayer carries over into the age to come and so we are indebted to learn how this system works and become proficient at it both for now and forever, both for us and those we will impact.