

“The Lord was moved by prayer for the land . . .” 2 Samuel 24.25 NASB

Prayer for Our Nation

October 26th - November 14th

“Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great,
a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption!
They have forsaken the LORD;
they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.
Why should you be beaten anymore?
Why do you persist in rebellion?
Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted.
From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—
only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with olive oil.
Your country is desolate, your cities burned with fire;
your fields are being stripped by foreigners right before you . . .
Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!”

ISAIAH 1.4-7, 10

These words were spoken by God to Israel. To this nation that has been endowed with more blessing and a greater share of God's Word and more ministries than any other nation in the history of the world—would God's condemnation have less relevance? Does God look with less severity upon the sin of this nation? Would He address us as Sodom or Gomorrah?

- ❖ The vast majority of Christians are apathetic about the spiritual state of the church and our land. Pray that God's grace will prevail on their hearts, will enlighten their minds, and will provoke them to see what God sees and turn to Him in urgency and with deep repentance.
- ❖ This year we have seen—and it continues daily—what spiritual leaders saw in visions in 2019 and what the words of Isaiah declare: “your cities burned with fire.” Pray that these kinds of prophetic words and their fulfillments will cause us to cry out to God for mercy and grace.
- ❖ This week continues a year that has been characterized by one calamity after another. We must continue to intercede that, as a nation, we will not be blind to God's warnings and discipline. Pray that we have eyes to see and ears to hear, that we have a sincere desire to turn from our ways and seek His ways and righteousness.

“If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in His eyes,
if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees,
I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians,
for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

EXODUS 15.26

For He wounds, but He also binds up;
He injures, but His hands also heal.

JOB 5.18

I said, “O LORD, have mercy on me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You.”

PSALM 41.4

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins
and live for righteousness; by his stripes you have been healed.

1 PETER 2.24

- ❖ Our nation, with more and better medical resources than any other nation, has experienced more cases and more deaths of COVID-19. Is this solely attributable, as many declare, to the incompetence of certain people in government? The arrogance and disregard of others? Scripture is clear, that in particular cases, there is an indisputable link between sin, sickness, and judgment. As a nation, we have willfully and arrogantly rejected God's truth. Pray that we as believers would humble our hearts in repentance and seek God for mercy and healing.
- ❖ Abraham appealed to God, *"Far be it from You to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* Pray for protection over the many believers, whether health care providers like those in our church or patients like Pastor Samuel. Pray that God will continue to deliver His people "from the deadly pestilence" (Psalm 91.3).
- ❖ Let's thank God for those who working hard to care for the sick, administer tests, or working in labs to find a cure. Pray that they would be protected and strengthened, and that they look to God for His wisdom and salvation.

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and . . . He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us.”

ACTS 17.24-27

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

1 PETER 2.24

- ❖ Our nation is torn by the systemic presence and consequences of racism and division. It is the strategy of the adversary to divide people and magnify offenses, both those that are legitimate and those that are perceived. Classism, oppression, and injustice were major themes of the warnings of the Old Testament prophets. As those to whom God has committed His ministry and message of reconciliation, Christ-followers should have the greatest concern about the divisions in our nation—recognizing them as the works of darkness and unrighteousness, and repenting on behalf of the people and the land. Pray for a spirit of humility and repentance; pray that the Church models reconciliation and ministry to all; pray that God heals our land of this grave wound.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

ROMANS 13.1-2

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority . . .

1 PETER 2.13

If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.

2 PETER 2.9-10

- ❖ Our nation is gripped by the spirit of lawlessness and by a rejection of authority. The response to legitimate concerns, abuses, and failures on the part of law enforcement, has resulted in an unleashing of hatred and rebellion toward those in authority, especially “those who carry the sword”—

They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities . . .

Ultimately, this is a rejection of God and His authority and will result in God’s judgment.

- ❖ Pray for men and women in law enforcement—they are God’s servants. Pray for their encouragement and safety; pray for their families and their peace of mind. Pray that they will have confidence and courage to do their job without intimidation.
- ❖ Pray that leaders—police commissions, mayors—would seek God-given wisdom to address the challenges and crises that are raging in many American cities.

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.

2 TIMOTHY 3.1-5, 10-13; 4.1-3

- ❖ Almost 70% of Americans oppose legislation that would guarantee religious freedom and freedom of conscience when it comes to issues such as “reproductive rights” and LGBTQ rights. Courts and government agencies on a state level have endeavored, in numerous cases, to severely punish individuals who, in these areas, have acted according to conscience and religious belief. A generation ago this would have been unthinkable; now it is the individual and political perspective of the majority. What does that portend for us as believers who hold to historical Biblical values as God’s infallible truth? How will the future for us be impacted by the coming elections? How should we pray?

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24.7-13)

- ❖ Pray that God will give us “those in authority” who will fulfill His desire expressed in 1 Timothy 2.2-3: that we are able to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. Pray that remnant will be strong and able to withstand the pressure of compromising to survive.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

GENESIS 6.11-13

The LORD examines the righteous,
but the wicked, those who love violence,
He hates with a passion.

PSALM 11.6

"This is what the LORD says: 'Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. . . . if you do not obey these commands, declares the LORD, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.' "

JEREMIAH 22.3, 5

From the legitimized violence of so-called reproductive rights (61 million abortions in 47 years), to the constant and indiscriminate gun violence of cities like Baltimore and Chicago, the looting and burning of property during protests, the separation of families at the border and the forced sterilization of ICE detainees, our addiction to entertainment depicting and engaging in violence—and dozens of other expressions—America has saturated its soil and its soul with violence. Violence for convenience, revenge, pleasure, or political ends has become embedded on our psyche. Our society radiates the nature of the one who comes to steal, kill and destroy. The church's lack of concern for those who live in the midst of violence and our failure to see or feel any need to repent on behalf of our land makes us complicit and guilty in the eyes of the God who abhors violence—

“Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.”

EZEKIEL 9.4

When was the last time you grieved before the throne of grace over the violence in our land? The last time your heart was filled with pain as God's heart was in Noah's day and therefore is in our day? God has every reason to judge this nation for its violence—and His judgment begins with the people of God. May we present repentance sufficient to turn His hand of judgment—or may He find the mark of grief on our foreheads when the time of judgment comes.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;
love and faithfulness go before You.

PSALM 89.14

No one calls for justice;
no one pleads his case with integrity.
They rely on empty arguments and speak lies;
they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

ISAIAH 59.4

These are the things you are to do:
speak truth to each other,
and render true and sound judgment in your courts.

ZECHARIAH 8.16

- ❖ As we approach this election, we have already seen numerous court decisions on various levels regarding ballot collection and deadlines for counting ballots. We read reports of both parties preparing hundreds of lawyers to file lawsuits across the country and contest the results. Hundreds of local and national groups have prepared to contest the results through civil disorder. Stack the court, file lawsuits, promote civil unrest—it seems that no one is objectively seeking truth and righteousness; it more resembles the days in Israel when everyone did what was right in their own eyes, pursuing their version of justice. The failure to administer justice without favoritism was a major theme of the prophets and a primary reason for God’s judgment—

*“Hear this, you leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers the house of Israel,
who despise justice and distort all that is right.”*

MICAH 3.9

- ❖ Pray that there would be sufficient righteous and unbiased prayer on the part of those whose hearts truly reflect the *God-of-Order-and-Righteousness*—prayer that is effective to counter the work of the *Author-of-Confusion-and-Division* who seeks to sow discord and disorder. Pray that judges and justices would not rule with favoritism or allegiance but with hearts and spirits that under the control and will of God. Pray that we will not see the disorder and unrest that many have predicted and planned. Pray for God to have mercy on us.

Can a corrupt throne be allied with You—
one that brings on misery by its decrees?

PSALM 94.20

Do not lose heart or be afraid
when rumors are heard in the land;
one rumor comes this year, another the next,
rumors of violence in the land
and of ruler against ruler.

JEREMIAH 51.46

The LORD will be king over the whole earth.
On that day there will be one LORD
and His name the only name.

ZECHARIAH 14.9

- ❖ *Almighty God, You have eternal power. Any human power is borrowed form You. May those who sit in authority use it for good and honor You.*

WILLIAM TYNDALE (1494-1536)

- ❖ *O righteous Lord, You love righteousness. May Your Holy Spirit be with our rulers, that they may govern in faith and honor, striving to put down all that is evil and encourage all that is good. Give Your spirit of wisdom to lawmakers, May they grasp the gravity of the work You have given them to do, that they may not do it lightly. May they put away all wrong and oppression and advance the welfare of all people.*

THOMAS ARNOLD (1795-1842)

- ❖ Authorities are being elected today on every level of government. Because of where we are as a nation and where we are on God's prophetic timeline, their leadership, ideology, and decisions will impact our lives in greater ways than we have ever seen. Whether they were our choice and from our chosen party is irrelevant; their leadership will only have the blessing of God if they seek to know and follow the will and righteousness of God. It is our duty to pray for all leaders to be led by the wisdom of God.
- ❖ Let's pray that our hearts will not be unsettled regardless of the results or the issues that manifest themselves in the days ahead. Pray that as God's people our hope and trust will be in His future for us.

He changes times and seasons;
He sets up kings and deposes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.

DANIEL 2.21

They set up kings without My consent;
they choose princes without My approval.
With their gold and silver
they make idols for themselves
to their own destruction.

HOSEA 8.4

Can a corrupt throne be allied with You—
one that brings on misery by its decrees?

PSALM 94.20

- ❖ Every leader rules with God's permission, but not every leader is God's choice. God "rules in the affairs of men" but our election of an individual does not mean a validation by God of that leader nor an indication of God's blessing. Politicians invariably see their election as a mandate and validation of their agenda. Yet God's word is clear: if one's agenda reflects the sinfulness of an unregenerate heart, God is opposed to that individual.

*For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
And what accord has Christ with Belial?*

2 CORINTHIANS 6.14-15

*Can a corrupt throne be allied with You —
one that brings on misery by its decrees?*

PSALM 94.20

Pray that those who have been elected will not set their hearts on agendas that are unrighteous and incompatible with God's purposes—the outcomes of which would bring God's disfavor and judgment. Pray that the hearts of our leaders would not be hardened by sin and subject to the influence of the powers of darkness. Pray that they would not be exalted in pride, possessing no fear of God. Pray that they will have hearts and spirits that God can influence and affirm.

- ❖ Political entities are neither righteous nor neutral. As it was revealed to Daniel, the principalities over nations seek to control the affairs of those nations to serve the purposes of the kingdom of darkness. Apart from the prayers of God's people according to 1 Timothy 2 prevailing in the spiritual realm over the powers of darkness and the unregenerate hearts of politicians (as Daniel's prayer prevailed over the heart of King Cyrus to bring about God's purposes for Israel), the agenda of any politician or party is inherently at odds with God's purposes—

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

ROMANS 8.7-8

The truth is that God's people leave too much in the hands and subject to the will of unregenerate leaders, or they assume a sort of “divine fate”—“*Inshallah*.” Daniel did neither; he prayed God's will and purposes into reality, understanding the spiritual realities that impacted Israel's future. **Let us pray that we will pray!** We have a divine mandate to pray for those in authority for the purpose of achieving a specific outcome that is God's will.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2.1-4

- ❖ The outcome of the election seems destined to be impacted to some extent by the courts. Apart from God's intervention in response to the prayers of the righteous, this is certain produce divisive and unacceptable results, and ultimately benefiting the kingdom of darkness—

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

JAMES 3.14-16

Let us pray that the process will be transparent and judicial decisions clearly impartial so that any outcome will not be subject to God's judgment and be leveraged by the adversary.

“Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

2 CHRONICLES 19.7

“So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed My ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.”

MALACHI 2.9

Surely you desire truth in the inward parts . . .

PSALM 51.6

Buy the truth and do not sell it . . .

PROVERBS 23.23

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem,
look around and consider,
search through her squares.

If you can find but one person
who deals honestly and speaks the truth.
I will forgive this city.

Although they say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives,’
still they are swearing falsely.

O LORD, do not Your eyes look for truth?

JEREMIAH 5.1-3a

Friend deceives friend,
and no one speaks the truth.
They have taught their tongues to lie;
they weary themselves with sinning.
You live in the midst of deception;
in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge Me,”
declares the LORD.

JEREMIAH 9.5-6

So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.
Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

ISAIAH 59.14-15

- ❖ Hyer-partisanship. Impeachment. QAnon. Twitter. Disinformation. Lawsuits, lawsuits, lawsuits. Does anyone really believe anyone else anymore—except maybe those who say (or spew) the same perspective? If one seeks the truth, who can be trusted to be honest, unbiased, and without agenda? The fact is that no one believes anyone can be trusted to be truthful.

This year has been characterized by numerous and unwarranted police shootings and killings, leading to a summer of protests, riots, and violent clashes. Now police departments in every city are preparing for more violent post-election demonstrations. Protesters are confronting police with more sophisticated and organized means of overwhelming law enforcement tactics. Across America, hundreds of businesses are boarded up in anticipation of vandalism and looting. Police are distrusted and hated by many. Law enforcement personnel are weary, frustrated, and aggressive. Everywhere we look and in all we hear, the spirit of lawlessness rules hearts, mouths and behavior. The accounts of Scripture as well as the examples of history are painful clear about what happens to a society that devolves to the place we now find ourselves as a nation.

- ❖ How do we pray? We continue to implore God to have mercy on us. We cry out to Him to send revival, to bring a national conviction of sin and judgment—for nothing less will change the hearts of people toward one another, impart righteousness, and write truth on the hearts of a nation.

“When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness *there is*; whatever prayer, whatever supplication is *made* by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple: then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men), that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

2 CHRONICLES 6.28-31

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 CORINTHIANS 1.4-5

- ❖ Since the beginning of the pandemic in the United States, people across the nation have suffered great losses: jobs, businesses, savings, dreams, and most costly and irreplaceable of all, the lives of loved ones. Nationally, COVID-19 cases reached a single day record of 126,403 on Thursday; to date, according to Johns Hopkins University data, at least 235,000 Americans have died of the virus. Let's again seek God for mercy, forgiveness, and healing of our land. Ask the Father of compassion to heal broken hearts, comfort the grieving, restore livelihoods, and provide for struggling families.
- ❖ Lockdowns and quarantines have isolated people like never before. Loneliness has become epidemic; suicide rates, already tragic among the young, are increasing. As many people silently struggle on their own, including the sick and elderly (suicide is the leading cause of death among males 75 and older), let's seek the God of all comfort to give comfort to the hurting; let's petition Him to move Christians to care for those who are lonely, forgotten, and hurting. Let's ask the God of hope to enable us to give hope where people and circumstances seem hopeless.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*