

## Prayers of Intercession #2

### Who else should we intercede for?

#### 10. Jerusalem and Israel, the Jewish nation

Isa. 62:1 – “For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.”

Isa. 62:6-7 – “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

God has a great concern for Israel, even in their current state of unbelief. He repeatedly predicted their return from the nations. Even before Zionism and the war of 1948, men of God recognized that they would eventually return, and that this would need to occur before the return of Christ.

The callings of God are without repentance. God gave promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give them **seed** (descendants) and **land, forever**. As a nation, they are God’s people. This does not mean that every individual is saved, but that as a nation, they have a special calling and have not been forgotten. God has a purpose for the nation now, even though many, if not most, of them are not Christians. In fact a significant number of Israelis are agnostic or even atheistic. Do not be dismayed at this. See them instead as being the great army of Ezek. 37 – bones and flesh and sinews, but no life. At the right time, the Spirit of God will blow upon them and they will live spiritually. We should be praying for a great end-time conversion of the Jews. This has already begun, but not in the numbers that we will eventually see. During the time of Rev. 7, there will be 144,000 believing Jews.

Not only should we be believing for the salvation of Jews now, and the preservation of Israel as a nation now, but we should know that a great number will live to see the return of Christ upon Mt. Zion. They will “look upon me whom they have pierced, and mourn for him ...” (Zech. 12:10).

#### 11. Nations of the world

Rees Howells and about 100 others prayed continually through WW 2, for Britain and other nations, against the Nazis. Currently we should be praying for Taiwan, and against the Communist Chinese menace.

### When should we intercede?

Surprisingly, there are times when we are not to intercede! Jer. 7:16 – “Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.” Our intercessions can only be effective if they are according to God’s will. In the case of Judah in the years leading up to the destruction of Babylon (586 BC), they were so far down the path of apostasy and destruction that nothing could prevent it from happening, so more than once, Jeremiah was forbidden to pray for them.

On the other hand, there have been times when God threatened or even began judgment, and was turned from it by the intercessions of holy men of God.

Ex. 32:32 – (Moses, after the golden calf incident) “Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin ---; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book, which thou hast written.”

Dt. 9:25-26 – “Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you. I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O LORD God, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.”

Num. 12:13 – Moses, for Miriam (leprosy)

Num. 14:10-21 – Moses on behalf of Israel when they listened to the 10 spies

In another case, God hearkened to the intercessions of Abraham for Sodom, so far as to have turned away if there had been only 10 righteous in the city (Gen. 18).

So what do we learn from this? We should make intercessions for people, cities, nations even in the face of great threats of impending judgment, until God tells us to stop. But just make sure it is really God telling you this, and not your own desire not to pray for them (like Jonah and the Ninevites).

### Why should we intercede?

1. Because God in his mercy is seeking for intercessors to pray on behalf of those in trouble  
Isa. 59:15-16 – (in times of great evil) “And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.”
2. Because God has given us the responsibility and duty to pray for those within our sphere of influence.  
1 Sam. 12:23 – (after the people had sinned by asking for a king) “Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.”
3. Because even when God’s will is to do something, he works that will through the prayers of his saints.  
e.g. Daniel praying for the return of the Jews from Babylon at the end of the predicted seventy years. It is God’s will to save his elect, but we still have to preach, to pray and respond to the gospel. It may be God’s will to save your loved ones, but it still requires your prayers and intercessions on their behalf.  
God knew all along that he would suspend judgment on the Ninevites, but Jonah had to warn them, and they had to respond.
4. God gives us warning so that we can and will do something about it.  
Amos 3:7 – “Surely the LORD God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret into his servants the prophets.”

### How do we intercede?

1. Pray according to God’s will.  
Start by praying to know God’s will. The first part of our praying should not be directed merely at what we want to happen. We are small, God is great. He sees and is in control of the large picture; we only see a part. Our first order of prayer should be in determining God’s will, so that we can pray accordingly. Examples abound in the lives of Guy Bevington and Rees Howells. Once we have the confidence that we are “on the right track”, we can get down to praying for the specific result with confidence.
2. Let God direct your prayers – you cannot pray for everything. Pray about what matters to you, the things that God “lays on your heart.”
3. Pray earnestly and with persistence. Jas. 5:16-18  
Many of us settle for a “quicky” prayer and then forget it. Be willing to press in and persist to the desired conclusion. Concentrate on that one thing. Do not allow distractions.
4. Identify with the person or cause for which you are praying.  
This was carried to some extremes by famous intercessors like Rees Howells. Let God show you what this means in your own praying. Isaiah and Ezekiel and Hosea did some rather strange things to illustrate their prophesies. The ultimate example of identification to empower intercession is Christ – he became a human being and suffered the same temptations and humiliations that we endure (yet without sin). Heb. 2:14-18, 4:14-15, 7:25-26 Phl. 2:5-8
5. When you really have the answer by faith (Heb. 11:1), stop praying about that particular thing, and expect God to bring the manifestation. Thank him, and watch him move.
6. Know that there is no spatial limitation on your prayers. They can be as effective from 2000 miles as if sitting next to a person.