



Editor: Gloria Jean Woodard

Ezra 9:5-11, 15 A FERVENT PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE

9:5 Finally I stood before the Lord in great embarrassment; then I fell to my knees and lifted my hands to the Lord, 6 and cried out, O my God, I am ashamed; I

blush to lift up my face to you, for our sins are piled higher than our heads and our guilt is as boundless as the heavens. 7 Our whole history has been one of sin; that is why we and our kings and our priests were slain by the heathen kings—we were captured, robbed, and disgraced, just as we are today. 8 But now we have been given a moment of peace, for you have permitted a few of us to return to Jerusalem from our exile. You have given us a moment of joy and new life in our slavery. 9 For we were slaves, but in your love and mercy you did not abandon us to slavery; instead you caused the kings of Persia to be favorable to us. They have even given us their assistance in rebuilding the Temple of our God and in giving us Je-

Ezra was a priest, a scribe, and a great leader. His name means *"help"* and his whole life was dedicated to serving God and God's people. Ezra heard the news of the priests and the Levites intermarrying, for they were the leaders of the children of Israel and they were the ones to set the example of right and wrong. Today, we have transgressed to same sex marrying.

Ezra's heart is so sensitive to the need of the people, just as Jesus' heart was broken as He saw the people's need for God. A sensitive heart will be quick to pray— Praying to the only

One who is able to do the impossible; Praying until there is a breakthrough; Praying where food does not matter; Praying around a bedside while others are laughing and talking; Praying until the answer comes. All that matters is your connection to God, and the need of the person you're praying for. You have to be fanatical, zealous, and eager to do this thing— this thing is prayer. Anything that's fervently done is done with passion, with an obsession, a boil or hotness, and it really becomes a part of your physical, mental, and spiritual posture. That's how Ezra was. We keep hearing the phrase *"Black Lives Matter."* Even though all lives matter, are we fervently praying for our black lives?

Jerusalem as a walled city in Judah. 10 And now, O God, what can we say after all of this? For once again we have abandoned you and broken your laws! 11 The prophets warned us that the land we would possess was totally defiled by the horrible practices of the people living there. From one end to the other it is filled with corruption. 15 O Lord God of Israel, you are a just God; what hope can we have if you give us justice as we stand here before you in our wickedness? (TLB).

Are we praying for the sick, the hopeless, or even our nation; or have we given up hope?

Ezra being a priest was accustomed to going before God for the people's sake. However, this sin of disobedience against God's Law, espe- Con't on page 2

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cially concerning the leaders (the priest and the Levites), had eaten Ezra up, till he tore off his robe, pulled the hair from his head and his beard which was held in high respect and greatly valued in the East and was never cut off; well this symbolized for Ezra extreme personal pain, and all he could do was drop to his knees, and fall on his face. When your face is to the ground, it's saying, I am not worthy to look upon You Lord—*"This sin has separated You and I, and I am in need of your Mercy and Forgiveness."*

He begins with *"I am ashamed and disgraced"* (meaning embarrassed) even to approach God. That's why sin has to be nipped in the bud because a little leaven spoils the whole loaf. Ezra describes the magnitude of the transgression as he puts himself into it saying *"our sins, our guilt"*, admitting sin, even though he did not commit it. You may not have committed the sin but if you're in the company of it, the repercussions will affect you. When sin is in the camp the whole camp suffers, just as in the same instance of the disobedience of Achan (Joshua 7) in the battle of Ai. The whole camp was affected when they went to war. Sin had to be destroyed and Ezra begin with prayer.

Ezra comes down to verse 8 in

his prayer and rejoices that God had left a remnant (a small portion of those who had survived and maintained a committed relationship with Him). He sees a little light, even in the midst of all this—God's past kindness is showing forth. God always have a little ray of light to let us know we're coming out; we're gonna make it; He has a plan, for He is the plan. This image of a remnant brings about the stability of God to restore. However, Jerusalem's literal, physical wall is still down at this point. It will not be rebuilt until the time of Nehemiah, about 14 years down the road.

Ezra now says, *"What can we say, what's left to say?"* Because God in His kindness had permitted them to return to their homeland, and had used kings to help them, even warned them through His prophets; and all Ezra could say was, *"Well Lord you are righteous, I give up, we are guilty."* As Kenny Rodgers would say—*"You've got to know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em, know when to walk away, know when to run."* But I would say—You've got to know when to cry to God, know when to repent, know when to ask for forgiveness, and you've got to remember that the ultimate demonstration of punishment for sin was Jesus' death and that death satisfied God's righteous re-

quirement. (It doesn't have to rhyme). Ezra knew it was the LORD who had punished the people for their disobedience and yet even in their captivity and disobedience the LORD had still blessed them.

In closing, sin is serious. Sin ordered God's only begotten Son to the cross, but Love drew us to repent of our sin. In order to repent we have to abandon sin, so we can receive His forgiveness. Pray until that sin is broken off you and off of others. Pray fervently with a passion to touch God by being humble with a contrite heart. Have any of you been ashamed to go before God at anytime? Don't allow your guilt to separate you from a holy God. Get rid of the guilt by repenting and laying it on the altar, praying to the Father who loves you dearly, as you wait for His return. As He did for the Israelites through Ezra's prayer, Jesus' continual intercession for us, makes us see our error before a holy God and we, as His people needing His mighty unconditional love —WHAT DO YOU KNOW, HE FORGIVE US! *Can't nobody do me like Jesus!* **God Bless!**

9/15/2009

Revised: August 28, 2015

PAUSE TO REMEMBER



INSIDE STORY HEADLINE REMEMBERING THE 1836 LIVES LOST IN THE KATRINA HURRICANE IN LOUISIANA. 1577 LIVES IN LOUISIANA AND 238 LIVES IN MISSISSIPPI.



REMEMBERING THE 2,977 LIVES LOST ON THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PRAYING FOR AMERICA

Heavenly Father, we as a nation come to You now in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ repenting of our sins. Forgive us dear Lord when we went against You morally, calling right wrong and wrong right; when we've went against the leading of Your Holy Spirit, and neglected to help others. Cleanse our hearts from every sin that's disgraced You, and set us free according to Your Will in Jesus' Name. Father, according to Psalm 91, we thank you that we can abide under the shadow of the Almighty God where no foe can harm us. You have given Your angels charge over us to keep us in all of our ways. We thank You that a thousand may fall at our side, and ten thousand at our right hand, but none will come near us. And You are our Refuge and Stronghold in times of trouble. Praise God!

Heavenly Father, we pray for the President of this nation, all of the Executive Branch of this nation, and all members of Congress, all of the leadership of all local, state, regional, and federal agencies, commissions and governments of this nation. We ask You to guide and direct the leadership of this nation in every way according to Your Will and plan.

Father, we declare with our mouths that the people of this nation will dwell safely in this land, and prosper abundantly. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. We declare that no weapon formed against us shall prosper. Thank You for Your protective hand that has shielded our nation. We continue to ask You for divine protection from plans of destruction that have been plotted against us; ensuring our safety by keeping the nation from harm's way, extending Your hand of protection against all of the destructive forces of terrorism and evil attacks or acts of terrorism, stopping the terrorists or aggressors that attempt to bring destruction against our nation. Praise God!

Father, enable the military forces of this nation to become swift, powerful and accurate in any action of intelligence gathering and retaliation. May You give knowledge of the terrorist's planned attacks to them; reveal Your wisdom and discernment to our national and international security; provide insight to national, international, and local au-

POWER IN THE WORD MINISTRY

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.

MY MISSION: Reach and encourage others in letting you know that God is able to do the impossible.

MY VISION: Articles to be written in a Book to inspire others.

IT CAN HAPPEN

How much more shall your Father which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:11b

MY MISSION: Use this God-given gift for His glory!

MY VISION: Teach others to reach for those God given gifts in them!

On The Web—pitwm.net

DATES TO REMEMBER 2015

Labor Day	Sept. 7
Nat'l Grandparent's Day	Sept. 13
Autumn Begins	Sept. 23

BIBLE QUIZ: THE WAY HOME

1. According to Philippians 3:20, where is a Christian's true citizenship

2. In 2 Corinthians 5:1, Paul discussed how Christians will eventually have "a building from God, a house not made with hands." Where is that house located?

3. According to Matthew 25:46, what are the only two options regarding where a person's soul can end up for eternity?

4. Jesus said in John 14:6 that there is only one way to Heaven. What is that one way?

5. What statement did King David make in 2 Samuel 12:23 that showed his desire to one day go to Heaven?

6. What "torn feelings" did the apostle Paul express in Philippians 1:23-24?

Con't PRAYING FOR AMERICA

thorities to act swiftly and to avert all danger of this nation; provide instruction and guide the authorities in efforts to seek out and eradicate terrorists. Help everyone in authority to be alert to signs of wrongdoings in this nation; destroy any plans that Satan, and any physical and spiritual enemies of this nation have against us. Thank You Father.

By the authority of the Name of Jesus, loose Your mighty warring and guardian angels to expose and destroy any potential acts of terrorism against any city, town, or any of Your people of this nation. We ask You to expose and destroy all terrorist cells that

are located in this nation. Again, bless, strengthen, and loose in great abundance Your mighty warring and guardian angels over this nation to guard and protect; do all of these things according to Your Word, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. We pray with thanksgiving and rejoice in the victory we have in this nation. Thank You for hearing the prayers and requests of Your people on behalf of this nation. We submit this to Your Hand, Father, in the Name of Jesus. We give You the Praise and we give You the Glory, that You have daily heard our prayers and our supplications. Amen.

Revised 8/31/15

7. In Matthew 6:33, what did Jesus command His disciples to do?

8. In Joshua 24:15, what did Joshua tell the Israelite people to do?

9. What two attributes of God are discussed in 2 Peter 3:9?

10. According to 2 Corinthians 5:10, what appointment do all people have scheduled in the future that cannot be avoided?

11. Isaiah 35:8 describes a certain "highway" that we need to ply if we expect to make it to Heaven. What did Isaiah call that highway?

12. What did Jesus tell His followers in Matthew 16:24 regarding the road home?