



Sermon Series Notes

“The Present Privilege of Intercessory Prayer” (Revelation 15)

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Intro: The plan was to cover chapters 15 & 16 this weekend, but the Lord spoke to me through chapter 15 in a very fresh and what I might call unusual way. What He said does not at all violate the text. As a matter of fact, what I will emphasize is in the text, just not on the surface. We have to think a little, and we have to compare Scripture with Scripture.

vv.1-4 They sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb. The song of Moses celebrated Israel’s deliverance from Egypt and the defeat of the Egyptian army at the Red Sea (Ex.15). The song of the Lamb celebrates the ultimate deliverance of God’s people from the power of Satan and the wrath of God. Each line of the song comes from a phrase in the O.T.

Many if not all of these singing this song have given their lives for their faith. They received Christ as their Savior during this last seven year period called The Great Tribulation, and as a result they were martyred.

Question/Thought: I wonder if anybody prayed for these people who are saved during this terrible time in world history? I wonder if friends or relatives or work associates who were raptured before the Tribulation prayed for them? I wonder if some great great grandmother or grandfather prayed for them. My mother and grandmother had a key part in me being what I am today. They prayed me into the kingdom of God. My mother also shocked me once by telling me that she had prayed one of her boys would be a preacher.

When we pray for someone, this type of prayer is called intercession. See I Tim.2:1-3.

We can intercede for people for many different reasons. Examples below

- Moses interceding for the Israelites(see Num.21:7); for Aaron (Deut.9:20); Hezekiah (II Chron.30:18); Job (Job 42:10); What would have happened had Moses not prayed for Israel, etc.?
- Jesus interceding for Peter...that your faith may not fail; What would have happened had Jesus not prayed for Peter?
- Jesus praying for our sanctification (John 17:17), protection (John 17:11), trip to heaven (John 17:21).
- Paul praying for saints in different churches (Phil.1:9; Col.1:9; I Thess.5:23; II Thess.1:11;

While we can intercede for people for many different reasons, the greatest intercessory prayer for someone is for their salvation. See story of rich man & Lazarus (A prayer from hell).

See I Tim.2:1-6a.

I know of at least one who prayed for the apostle Paul's salvation (see Acts 7:59-8:1). Jesus told us to pray for our enemies, and that's exactly what Stephen did.

Interceding for someone does not guarantee their salvation.

Interceding for someone guarantees God "goading" them toward salvation (Acts 26:14).

Do we realize, can we even fathom the eternal judgment that will come upon all those who have rejected the grace of God available through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross? We really need to pray for people's salvation!

Paul the apostle was willing to go to hell if his fellow Israelites would be saved by him doing so.

Rom.9:2-4a I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel...

Paul knew the eternal fate of anyone who rejects Christ, that is why he said this. What love he had for his fellow Israelites. Oh God, give us that same love!

See Rom.2:5-8

vv.5-7 These angels come out of the temple (the Tabernacle of the Testimony). This is the place of God's residence among his people. They wear "clean, shining linen," and "golden sashes." They are free from immorality, injustice, or corruption. They are on a holy mission.

Joel 3: 12 'Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. 13 Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!'

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

The wrath of God is what awaits anyone and everyone who rejects the grace of God found only through Jesus Christ. Some people cannot come to terms with a God who is love pouring out wrath upon mankind like that described in the Bible. But that is because we do not see sin as God sees it, and we do not see the holiness of God for what it really is.

Rom.3:23; Isaiah 6:1-7

Isa.64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...

See also Rom.3:10-16.

vv.7-8 There is coming a time when prayer will do no good...

- Lam.3: 43-44 You have covered yourself with anger and pursued us; you have slain without pity. You have covered yourself with a cloud ***so that no prayer can get through.***
- God's patience has run out here; His patience must not be construed as weakness (II Peter 3:3-13).
- Gen.6: 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Can you imagine listening to Noah warn of coming judgment? Perhaps there were some who really paid attention at first. But after months, then years passed, and even though Noah kept preaching the same message, there was no sign of impending doom. So people went right back to living as they pleased. And all this time, all people had to do was believe God (through his prophetic messenger, Noah), repent, and they would have been spared, they would have been saved.

- Matthew 24:37-39 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
- Prov.29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

Hindrances/Blockages to prayer:

- You don't know Christ
 - I Tim.2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.
- Cherished sin
 - Psalm 66:18-19 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.
- Lack of fervency
 - James 5:17-18 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.
 - See I Kings 18:41-45; Luke 18:1-8
 - Fasting (my confession); Matthew 17:21; Promo Wed day of fasting
- Lack of humility
 - See Matthew 15:21-28
 - James 4:6...God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.
 - Get on your knees

CONCLUSION

* Is there someone you need to add to your prayer list, and begin interceding for regularly? Is there someone you used to pray for but you've stopped, or last pulled back in fervency?

* Perhaps someone has been praying for you...the fruit of those prayers may come today...