

When Anti-Semitism and Other Religious Spirits try to Control Our World:

Prayer and the Will of Man

Part One



For the last several months I have had different people ask me about prayer and teaching on prayer. I have recommended several good books to people. I made a decision a long time ago not to add to the clutter of information on the market by adding to that clutter. If I feel the Holy Spirit really highlight a specific direction, I will walk in that direction. Usually I refer people to the good books already in print on any one subject. After much prayer on what the Lord wanted to talk about in our next few articles (I don't know how long the Lord wants to stay on this subject), I realized all the people asking me for teachings on prayer was not a coincidence. As I pressed in closer I realized the Lord had a very specific subject matter that He wanted to discuss. All

I pray is that I write it as succinctly as I hear the Lord piecing it together in my spirit. (To the prayer group in Tennessee, thank you—this is for you!)

In a February 24, 2003, Newsweek magazine article titled “A Great Divide,” author, Christopher Dickey writes, “*Europe and America are largely split over whether a war to change the regime in Iraq is now justified. But the divisions go much deeper than that—to differing perceptions of history and politics, power and God.*” One might wonder what prayer and the will of man have to do with religious spirits that influence gender bias, anti-Semitism and even other seemingly benign religious practices, even within Holy Spirit-filled Christian churches. When religious spirits are involved in circumstances, separations or divisions will always take place. This is because of overall judgment in the world and specifically a judgment against our first parents. Eve was called the mother of all the living. In her was housed all the different ethnic diversities we see in the world today. She was called with Adam to birth these diversities in unity. Any judgment, unjust rules and regulations against women have quite a lot to do with our judgment against Eve and her sin. The Bible makes it clear that when we judge someone the negative effects of that judgment come right back on us (See Matthew 7:1,2). Because of Eve's special call to birth the nations, judgment against women will reproduce ethnic, gender and nation against nation divisions. If religious groups must control women based upon their fear of falling into sin, either by

deception or rebellion, and they fear ‘Eve’ or women will open the door to sin, their controls are manmade and can eventually be controlled by demonic religious spirits. Mary, Jesus’ mother, was also ordained by God to be an instrument to overcome the separation that existed between mankind and God through birthing Jesus. Our continued judgments against women will continue to reproduce the same judgment of separation being measured back to us. As long as we insist upon this judgment, even in subtle ways, all of Eve's descendants will continue to judge each other. Race relations and gender divisions will never become healed until we repent and bring these judgments to the cross of Christ, where there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Gentile, bond or free. (See Galatians 3:28) The devil is tricky. Who would think that such a small sin could produce such devastating effects as divisions among people, which would set up hindrances to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These hindrances would eventually open the door to many religious spirits to divide people and persecute those they did not like.

It should not surprise us that there is such a division in the world, as the Newsweek reporter wrote. Once people are in a separate environment without the benefit of the Holy Spirit-indwelled life of Christ, they start to set up systems to live by. Unfortunately, the devil is able to use these systems extremely well if they are not something that God has ordained, or if they begin to leave their ‘first love’— JESUS, and refuse to repent. For example, can our enemy use democracy,

Christian churches, Jewish synagogues and other decent societies to masquerade in and cause strife and revolt? Of course. Is there an antidote? Amen: The Bible, Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Yet even if we feel that we are following ‘hard’ after Jesus and His Word and the Holy Spirit, we can still be very wrong. Over the next few articles we will talk about Divine Sovereignty, human responsibility, the will of man and the effect this has on our earth as people pray. For now, let me share two stories from the Bible that may be an example of hope to us through our present troubles.

While we support our President and our troops, some people believe all wars to be sin and an act of the will of man. Others feel some wars are just and those who participate are acting under the divine direction of God. When the Angel of the Lord meets Joshua before the fall of Jericho (See Joshua 5:13-15), Joshua asks Him whose side he is on. I’ll paraphrase here, but basically the Angel says He’s not on anyone’s side—He’s on the side of the Lord. Wherever you stand on this particular war, I feel led to share something from God’s Word that may give both sides a different perspective and Godly hope. What I feel absolutely certain of is that even if something is an act of the will of man in violation to everything that God sees as holy and just, it can still have an outcome in which our awesome God will receive glory and praise for His awesome plan being accomplished. Let’s look at a situation where the will of man instigated by satan, but allowed by the Lord causes judgment from God, repentance from man, the glory

of God revealed and the plan of God enacted from before the foundation of the world.

In what might be an extremely unorthodox way to start this subject, I felt the Lord take me to two portions of Scripture: 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21. These two texts tell the same story, but from ever so slightly different vantage points. It is the story of David counting the number of the fighting men in Israel. As a quick overview, 2 Samuel tells us that the Lord was angry with Israel and incited David to count them. 1 Chronicles tells us that it was satan that incited David. Most scholars believe this to be a scribal over-write. In other words, the scribes would not want to paint the Lord in a light so as to allow a ‘problem.’ In my opinion, even if this is a scribal over-write, it portrays what goes on sometimes in the spiritual realm, outside the vision of our natural eyesight, far more clearly than we care to admit.

David’s commander of the armed forces, Joab, puts up a valiant argument against doing this, as do others that have a voice (the Hebrew texts seem clearer on this point). David does not listen. The king’s command stands and Joab, along with some troops start the count. Part of the way through, David realizes his sin and repents. There are Jewish scholars who see the sin here as the presumptuousness of power in numbering the population, which could also have had a connection with the ancient reluctance of counting, which was rooted in a belief in magic (In other words in counting—See Everett Fox’s “Give Us A

King!” Schocken Books, NY, NY, 1999, page 277). I always thought the actual sin here was in numbering the soldiers. While presumption and the deceit of power are at work (which can always lead to witchcraft or the magic arts), the Lord always numbered the Levites—the priests. If numbering was a problem, they should have been smitten long before David did it here. I think the presumption here is in mistaking the power of the arm of the Lord. Let me explain. The might of an army is rooted in the will and power of man. But the might of a priesthood is rooted in the will of God and in His power. That power is something you can see—it’s something you can ‘count’ on. When Israel needs to take over Jericho, the priests (musicians) are commanded by God to go in first on the bloody front lines. They have no natural weapons, just a consecration to Yahweh to worship. (See Joshua 6) It is one of David’s later descendants, King Jehoshaphat, who does the same thing before a battle. (See 2 Chronicles 20) Can you imagine what the media would do if Donald Rumsfeld got up and told everyone that God said to send the church’s best musicians and singers that America and England could find—those who spent all their days in church ministering before God with the power of the Holy Spirit, into Iraq? The reason why God did this was to prove to the nation that it wasn’t in the power of their military—though they supported and prayed for their military—but it was in the power of their God.

In this case King David, through an act of his will and the deceit of the presumption of

power unleashes a devastating effect on the nation. An effect, it seems that he and the kingdom shall never recover from. The Good News here is that David repents. After David's repentance, the Lord sends Gad to David with an ultimatum: Experience 3 years of famine (2 Samuel says seven, but this is almost certainly a scribal error), 3 months of war or 3 days of plague. David, wisely enough takes the 3 days. But the day count in the Hebrew is interesting, somewhat like the day count of Jesus being resurrected on the third day. We do not view this as Westerners would view a day, and thus three transpired. Many Jewish scholars translate 2 Samuel 24:15 as "...from morning to the time of the assembly." *Assembly* here means the time of the evening sacrifice and morning would extend sometime after sundown of the day before. (See Alfred Edersheim's "Bible History: Old Testament," Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., Peabody, MA, 1995, pg 572) Whatever the time frame was, 70,000 lost their lives. Most Jewish Bibles translate 2 Samuel as 77,000, but most English translators view this as a scribal error also. Sometimes I wonder whether that was an error. Matthew 18:21, 22 comes to mind where Peter asks how many times we should forgive a brother. Jesus replies seventy times seven. In Jewish Bibles 2 Samuel 24 says that seven and seventy thousand men were struck by this plague.

Thereafter, during a time of intense fasting and prayer by the elders and David in sackcloth and ashes, David looks up and sees the Angel of the Lord standing between

heaven and earth ready to strike Jerusalem. Further repentance and humbling now opens David's spiritual eyes. Beforehand he was the King. He was in control, but spiritually blinded. Now he cries out to God and pleads for the sheep, finally blaming himself and assuming the sin for him and his family, and begging for the sheep to go free. This is the second time that God answers David in this situation, and it is by no accident that each time David must painfully acknowledge, in a very public way, his sin. God then sends the prophet to give David instruction. David obeys the full council of the Lord and offers the sacrifice in roughly what many Bible scholars believe to be the same place that Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac. While Jerusalem was always within the borders of the tribe of Benjamin, David still must buy the land from Araunah, the Jebusite. This man is a Gentile, a heathen—just like Abraham. I don't believe this is by accident either. In the place where Abraham, a former pagan, willingly attempts to offer to God a sacrifice that will cost him everything—thus starting the Jewish nation—the most famous king of that Jewish nation will buy the land back from another pagan to start an order of worship in which both Jew and Gentile can be one in Christ—who is the rightful heir of David's throne. Jesus is called King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (See Revelation 17:14; 19:16)

As a result of a total act of the will of man, God Almighty receives David's repentance and commands him to gather the material necessary to start a house of worship—at the exact spot where that sin of presumption

would have had its full effect. God intervenes and the style of worship that would go on in that temple would be a template for the worship of God for every Jewish and Christian believer for many generations to come. Through this one act God judges satan (principalities and powers—they still exist today in Iraq, America and the rest of the world) for instigating David—God judges Israel and David for their sin also. With an act of repentance and obedient sacrifice on the part of mankind, God now institutes a permanent place of rest, which will point all mankind to the cross of Christ and the worship of the one true God. This is not the first time we see this concept at work. When Moses saw an Egyptian abuse a Hebrew, he rose up and killed the Egyptian. Obviously, this was done in the flesh. But this act of the will of man had a very interesting Godly outcome. It causes Moses to flee to the back side of the desert. There he has an encounter with a bush that burns but is not consumed. This encounter eventually leads Moses back to Egypt in order to deliver the nation of Israel from total bondage and slavery.

Could an act of the flesh or a prayer according to the will of man have an outcome that can be in the plan of God from before the foundation of the world? Am I saying it is okay to sin or pray in the flesh or abuse people? Absolutely NOT! When we do these things we have no idea what doors we open to demonic spirits of religion whose sole goal is to murder the body of Christ—along with other people. What I feel the Lord would have us look at over the next

few months is that no matter how many doors we open to these forces, God is awesome. He is able to turn it around for His greater good and best plan—if we don't become critical, bitter and lose sight of Him. In the next few months we will look at the specifics of prayer and some other specific doors that can open us up to these forces. Log on next month for more.

This Ministry is here to help you:

- If you need prayer
- If You have a need in your life

We are here to allow Jesus to be His hand extended through us.

Please don't hesitate to contact Christ Centered Ministries for World Wind Worship, contact us by telephone, mail or e-mail.

Telephone:
850.623.4259

Comments:
ccm@worldwindworship.org

Snail Mail:
Christ Centered Ministries, Inc.
8688 AD McCall Road
Milton, Florida 32583

Submit All Customer Service Inquiries to:
customerservice@worldwindworship.org

Please submit any prayer requests to:
prayer@worldwindworship.org

For Art of Worship Inquiries submit correspondence to:
artist@worldwindworship.org

To Contact Christine or Bill Meier Direct:
cmeier@worldwindworship.org
bmeier@worldwindworship.org

