A Crucial Time - November 15, 2020

This is <u>a very critical time</u> in American history. Also in the whole world. All Christians everywhere need to cry out to God for revival. Yes... God has made many wonderful promises to the church in our days. But we also need to <u>pray</u> these promises through.

God's Will Is very connected to our choices. He's not willing that any should perish, so why do people perish, Who's will is it? It's not Gods will, it's man will.

God did not want to destroy the earth with a flood in Noah's time. The Lord is extremely kind, merciful, long-suffering, patient, forbearing But after years of pleading with men to repent, God had to judge.

God makes many wonderful promises, but there are <u>conditions</u>. There are many examples of this in scripture. I want to use an example from the book of Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar, who had exiled Judah, destroying the temple, had died, Eventually he was succeeded by Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon. In Daniel chapter 5, Belshazzar was having a feast.

They were all drinking out of all the golden and silver vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem... and praising all of gods of silver and gold, brass, Iron, wood and stone. God was very angry.

While they were drinking, a hand came and started writing on the wall.
Saying the kingdom is taken from you, given to Medes & Persians.
Dan 5:28 Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
That night, Belshazzar was slain, and Babylon had fallen.
The kingdom of Babylon was then divided to the Medes and Persians.
And Darius became king.

Darius was the king of the Medes, and Cyrus was king of Persia. Judah and Jerusalem had been exiled to Babylon for 70 years. God had promised that at the end of 70 years, He would bring them back their own land in Judah and Jerusalem. It was time for the Jews to return to their homeland. 70 years were up.

This brings us to Dan.9:1-3..Daniel was reading the prophecies of Jeremiah. He understood that at the end of 70 years, the Jews were to return home. And the 70 years were up, so Daniel began to pray and fast. Even though God had promised it, he's fasting, praying, crying out to God. Let's read Daniel 9:1-3:

"In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:" Daniel 9:1-3, KJV.

<u>There is something very important to see in this account.</u> 70 yrs were up God had promised restoration, it was now time to return home to Judah. Daniel begins to pray and intercede, Lord its time for you to work.

Often, Christians have an attitude, if God promised it, he'll do it. I accept it by faith. I don't have to ask God to do what he has already promised! But... There are times when <u>we do have to pray through</u> what God has promised. In this case, Daniel was interceding for his nation. He's asking God to cleanse and forgive His people. And to prepare them for restoration to their homeland. God has promised revival at the end of the church age. In Joel 2:28-31

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come." Joel 2:28-31, KJV.

Although Peter quotes these verses in Acts 2:17-21, They only had a partial fulfillment in the early church. This was the early rain. The latter rain comes at the end of the church age.

But my point is this: yes, God has promised revival in our times. But we need to begin to start praying. Lord, it is time to move. And we need to <u>prepare ourselves</u> for an end-time harvest God will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh before the great and terrible day of the Lord. This is a clear promise of revival before Jesus comes. But <u>we need to pray</u>. Even though God has promised this. And we want to be part of this revival, and to help many others find God.

Just like Daniel understood the times.

He knew the 70 years of captivity were over. It was time to return home. So he started to pray, and intercede for his people.

To confess their sins... to cleanse them and prepare them for the return.

We also know that we are at the end of the church age. It's time for world harvest. God has promised it, but we must pray. Let's be in harmony with heaven.

Delays are not denials

Jn. 11:1* ¶ Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2* (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3* Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

4* When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Jesus was not in a hurry to get there and heal him.

He had something far better than mind. There was a delay of several days. Lazarus died. And God was going to do something far better than heal. He wanted to raise him from the dead. To do even a greater miracle.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

<u>15* And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may</u> <u>believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.</u>

Jesus wanted to do a far greater miracle.

This is the whole purpose for delays.

To bring about greater commitment and dedication, and faith. To do far greater miracles, and to show the power and glory of God.

32* Mary fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

39* Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. 41* Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42* And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43* And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44* And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45* ¶ Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, <u>believed on him</u>.

God used this delay to do you something even far greater. Can you imagine someone buried for 4 days, coming alive.

Once again, delays are for our benefit: <u>To get our attention</u>, Sharpen our focus, <u>Deepen our commitment</u> <u>Increase our expectation.</u>

We need to pray. - Ps 119:126 It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.

Never have we seen America's morality so low.

There's a terrible loss of common sense.

Many are given over to a reprobate mind, incapable of sound thinking. It is time oh God for you to work, for they have made void thy law.

This is the reason we are praying for right election results in America. One side is so vile, so corrupt, they are instruments of Satan. Satan wants to take over and control our country. But we are asking God to thwart the works of darkness. To expose the works of darkness: Pray - let there be light! Lord, do not allow a corrupt administration to govern our land. Politics should not control Gods people, should not control the church. God wants to use people in High places to <u>help</u> the church. We see this in the life of Nehemiah.

In Nehemiah Chapter 1, Nehemiah learns of the sad state of Jerusalem. The 70 year captivity had ended a number of years before. But Nehemiah heard that the returned captives were in terrible condition The walls in Jerusalem we're still broken down, the city was a mess. So Nehemiah began to pray for Jerusalem's restoration. He was the kings cup bearer in Persia, And he also prayed for the Kings favor, He requested the king to allow him

to return to Jerusalem to rebuild Jerusalem.

"Then the king said unto me, For what do you make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? <u>So it pleased the king to send me</u>; and I set him a time." Nehemiah 2:4-6, KJV.

We are to pray for those in high places, in government. And God granted Nehemiah favor, in the sight of the King. And he allowed Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild it.

We have the same thought in the book of Esther.

A wicked man named Haman, wanted to destroy all Jews in the Kingdom. Esther, a Jewish woman, prayed, appealed to the king to save all the Jews. In the book of Esther 7:3-6, she said to the king, There is a man who wants to kill me, and all my people. The king asked, who is this. She said, Haman. And Haman was hanged. (7:10). Esther's godly example and prayers, influenced the king. And she saved many many thousands of lives. We need to continue to pray for America, and the outcome of our election. It is very important who governs a nation. There are wicked people who want to gain total control our country. This is the whole objective of Satan. He wants wants to be at the very top, and have total control.

We have an example of this in first Kings chapter 1.

"Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." 1 Kings 1:5, KJV.

King David was old, ready to die. He head selected Solomon to take the throne. Solomon was to be the next king. But Adonijah wanted to steal it. He exalted himself, saying I will be king.

Today there is much fraud and deceit in our National election. One man is already proclaiming himself to be president. He's trying to steal a position that does not belong to him. So, that church must continue to pray that God will expose all deceit.

We are to cry out - Lord, let there be light. Expose all darkness! Remember, God is light. In him there is no darkness. God the son what is the co-creator of the universe. He is the one that said in Genesis, let there be light. And there was light.

Jesus declared in Luke 8:17: "For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad." May this be so as the ballots in our election are reviewed and recounted. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we decree Let there be light. Expose all darkness and deceit. Amen!