

Praying for Rulers and Authorities

I Timothy 2:1-4

- I. **All of the activities in I Timothy 2:1 can be summarized by the word “prayer.”**
 - A. Jesus cleansed the temple, because there was no prayer (Mark 11:15-17).
 - B. Praying for “kings and all those in authority” produces good fruit.
 - 1. “Peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (I Timothy 2:1-4)
 - 2. The framers of our Constitution believed good government was only possible through the protection of God. Good government pleases God (I Timothy 2:3) and allows “people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (I Tim. 2:4).
 - C. We don’t get good government, because we don’t genuinely pray for it.
- II. **God releases the authority of His Kingdom through us (Luke 12:32; Matthew 10:7-10).**
 - A. We are unselfish problem solvers, a “royal priesthood” (I Peter 2:9), which corresponds to the original calling given to Israel in Exodus 19:5-6 (a “kingdom of priests”).
 - B. Psalm 110:1-4 paints a picture of Christ reigning as both King and Priest.
 - 1. Jesus extends His scepter from Zion (the place of assembly of God’s people).
 - 2. Today as God’s people and royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9), the practice of our priestly ministry of intercession is the key to the exercise of our kingly authority.
 - C. How does this work?
 - 1. Like Jeremiah, we can speak the words God puts in our mouth (Jeremiah 1:9).
 - 2. We make divine pronouncements and anointed petitions to God (Acts 3:6).
 - 3. Jeremiah operated on a special plane with his words, “To uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:9-10).
 - 4. Jeremiah’s words declared the destinies of nations, just as Daniel discerned and prayed until the Jews returned to their homeland.
 - 5. Today, God gives believers the authority to bind and loose in prayer—including the activities of the rulers of the nations (Matthew 18:18-20; 21:21-22).
- III. **Rulers are God’s agents, including the lowliest of them.**
 - A. “God deposes kings and raises up others” (Daniel 2:21).
 - B. God humbled Nebuchadnezzar and gave a verdict over his reign (Daniel 4:9, 24-37).
 - C. Daniel even became a key leader in the next empire (Medo-Persian—King Cyrus).
 - 1. Daniel 6:10-13 explains that prayer was so central to Daniel’s life that he would not give it up at the threat of his own life. He was on a 70-year mission.
 - 2. Instead of being destroyed, Daniel’s enemies were destroyed; and the king’s heart was turned toward the Lord (Daniel 6:24-28).
 - D. Daniel discovered that the 70 years of exile, prophesied by Jeremiah, had come to an end. His prayer released angels as soon as he prayed (Daniel 9:1-3, 17-23).
 - E. The Lord moved on the heart of Cyrus the Persian to let Israel go home.
 - F. Through repentance and prayer, we lay hold of God’s mercy. He can remove bad rulers or change their hearts and make them instruments of mercy. David shows us the fruit of having good leaders (II Samuel 23:1-4).

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