

Praying for Nations, Authorities, and Governments

1 Tim 2:1-4—“I exhort first of all that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all (kinds of) men, for kings, and all (kinds of) men in authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. **For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all (kinds of) men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.**”

2 Chron 7:12-14—“Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him, ‘I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, **if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land.**”

James 5:16-18—“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

Pro 29:2—“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

Dan 2:20-21—“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; **He removes kings and raises up kings**; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”

Pro 21:1—**The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD**, like the rivers of water; **He turns it wherever He wishes.**”

Dan 4:32,34-36—“And they shall drive you from men . . .until you know that **the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and give it to whomever He chooses . . . For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation.** All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; **He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand** or say to Him, ‘What have you done?’ . . .**And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**”

Dan 6:26-27—“I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; **His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end.** He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Dan 9:4-19—“O Lord, great and awesome God, . . . we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded (those) who spoke in Your name to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face—to those near and far off in all the places to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our (leaders, to our lawmakers, to our judges, to our churches, to our fathers) because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, We have transgressed Your law, and have departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has been poured out on us, because we have sinned

Praying for Nations, Authorities, and Governments

against Him. . . As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray,, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from (our country, our cities, our churches) because of our sins, and the iniquities of our fathers, we are a reproach to all those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake be gracious and merciful unto Your (people). O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

Ps 27:13—“Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

Ps 2 1-5—“Why do the heathen rage, and the people plot a vain thing? **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed,** saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then **He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure.**”

Ps 5:4-6, 9-10—“**For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.** . . . For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open tomb; they flatter with their tongue. **Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against You.**”

Ps 9:19-20—“**Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O LORD, that the nations may know themselves to be but men.**”

Ps 10:1-4, 12-15—“Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? **The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts . . . Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble.** Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, ‘You will not require an account.’ **But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand.** The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. **Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; seek out his wickedness until you find none.**

Ps 17:6-10, 13-14—“I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; **incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech. Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who oppress me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.** They have closed up their fat hearts; with their mouths they speak proudly. . . **Arise, O LORD. Confront him, cast him down; deliver my life from the wicked with**

Praying for Nations, Authorities, and Governments

Your sword, with Your hand from men, O LORD, from men of the world who have their portion in this life, and whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure.”

Ps 31:1-5, 13-20—“**In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defense to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your names’ sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength.** Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth. . . For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life. But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me for Your mercies’ sake. **Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; Let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.**”

O how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.”

Ps 33:8-19—Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance. **The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.**

No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.”

Ps 34:16-22—“**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.** The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He Guards all his bones; not one of them is broken. **Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be held guilty.** The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.”

Ps 71:1-16—“In You, O LORD. I put my trust; let me never be put to shame. Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me, and save me. Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth. . . Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails. For my enemies speak against me; and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together, saying, ‘God has forsaken him; pursue and take him, for there is none to deliver him.’

O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! **Let them be confounded and consumed who are adversaries of my life; let them be covered with reproach and dishonor who seek my hurt.** But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth

Praying for Nations, Authorities, and Governments

shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.”

Ps 83:1-8, 13-18—“Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make an uproar; and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You . . . O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind! As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm. Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.”

Biblical Guidelines for Rulers:

Ex 18:21—“You shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such to be rulers . . .”

Deut 17:18-20—“It shall be, when he (the ruler) sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book . . . And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, . . .”

2 Sam 23:3-4—“The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: ‘He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of the God.’”

Biblical Guidelines for Judges:

2 Chron 19:5-7—“Then he set judges in the land . . . and said to the judges, ‘Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.’”

Ezra 7:25—“According to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people . . . all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.” (A charge from King Artaxerxes to Ezra)

Rom 13:1-7—“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. . . for rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience sake. For because of this you pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”