

The Ministry of Night and Day Intercession Before the Coming of the Lord

I. HEARING ONE OF JESUS' STRONGEST APPEALS IN SCRIPTURE

- A. In the Gospels and in the book of Revelation we find Jesus' repetitious use of a particular phrase:

He who has ears to hear, let him hear. (Matthew 11:15)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches... (Rev. 2:7; 11; 17; 29; 3:6; 13; 22)

- B. The central truths of the Gospel never change. But specific word of the Lord from generation to generation changes quite dramatically. We never graduate from the main and plain truths of the Gospel nor do we cease laboring to emphasize them as such. But it must be understood that there are transitional moments of history in which the Holy Spirit emphasizes unique and particular messages specific to that hour.
- C. For example, in Matthew 11:15 Jesus beckoned that generation to hear what the Spirit was emphasizing through Jesus and John the Baptist. Matthew chapter 11 addresses a generation that by and large failed to discern and heed that message.
- D. In Revelation chapters 2-3 Jesus addresses 7 churches in what is now the modern day nation of Turkey. He declared specific messages that were unique to that season of history and articulated to address each individual congregation uniquely. Jesus wasn't replacing or undermining the central message of the Gospel by declaring the messages that He did. The messages He declared were necessary for the churches to hear to remain faithful in their devotion to Him through the rigors of life and the pressures of unfolding history.
- E. We in this generation must discern what the Spirit is saying to us. We must ask "What is the Spirit emphasizing? What is He saying? What is He doing? What kind of hour are we living in? What is on the horizon?"

II. THE MINISTRY OF NIGHT AND DAY INTERCESSION BEFORE THE COMING OF THE LORD

- A. One of the primary messages the Spirit is emphasizing in this hour is the reality of the return of Jesus. We are living at the beginning of the transitional generation that will witness the coming of the Son of Man. Right now the Lord is raising up leaders and ministries across the earth that will effectively prepare the nations for the unique dynamics that will soon be manifest as we approach the great and terrible Day of the Lord.
- B. One of the primary ministries that will prepare the nations of the return of the Lord is the ministry of night and day intercession. God has promised to establish a global prayer movement before the appearing of His Son that will testify of what is to come. While this ministry seems strange to many in our generation, there is a profound wealth of historical and Biblical evidence that points to its power and value. (Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; 25:1-13; Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; 149:6-9; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9).
- C. Before we explore the eschatological ministry of night and day intercession it's important to hear the testimony of history as the emergence of night and day prayer is by no means unique to the generation of the Lord's return. Around 1000 BC King David called and financially released 38,000 full-time staff to lead and facilitate incessant worship in Jerusalem (see 1 Chronicles 23-25). And no less than seven times in Israel's history between David and the birth of Jesus we see the reemergence of this critical ministry "according to the command of David" (as in Nehemiah 12:45, Ezra 3:10-11, 2 Chr. 23:18, 2 Chr. 35:3-15 and many other places).
- D. This model of ministry is by no means unique to David. David pioneered the ministry in Jerusalem based upon a heavenly model that he was given by revelation and divine command (see 1 Chr. 28:11-19). He was basing their ministry or perpetual worship around the perpetual worship in heaven where those around the Throne "never rest day or night" gazing and adoring the "holy" and "worthy" One.

III. THE TESTIMONY OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF ANNA

Many of the trends and events observable in the generation of Jesus' first coming will again be observable in the generation of Jesus' second coming. One of those trends is the emergence of the ministry of night and day intercession. In the life of a Jewish woman named Anna we see a clear picture of what God is doing on the earth right now. Luke 2:36-38 details the testimony of her life and ministry.

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)

- A. Anna the prophetess
- B. Anna the widow
- C. Anna the intercessor
- D. Anna the evangelist

IV. INTERCESSORY MISSIONARIES WITH A VISION FOR PERSEVERING PRAYER AT THE END OF THE AGE

- A. God is raising up intercessory missionaries who will “cry out night and day” and will “give God no rest until He establishes” His purposes on the earth.

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give

justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? , Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:1-8)

- B. The Lord has promised to “set” what He refers to as “watchmen” in the place of ministry before Him in preparation for His return. While Isaiah 62:6-7 is specific to the city of Jerusalem at the end of the Age, the grace that will be poured out upon the people of God for Jerusalem will also be poured out upon believers in the nations.

6 On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest. 7 and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)