

WORD AT WORK

Dear Friend:

During the life and ministry of Jesus, the same stronghold continually arose when attempting to instruct believing people. In Mark 7:8-13 Jesus addressed it forcefully:

‘For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men – the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. And He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother,’ “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban (that is, dedicated to the temple)”’; And you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.’”’

If Jesus were to address the American church, what tradition would He challenge? Would we be surprised if it was our misapplication of mercy? Mercy to a North American Christian usually means escaping a deserved penalty. Covenant mercy to David meant the utter destruction of his adversaries by God’s hand. We have yet to learn the distinction between mercy extended to an individual releasing their penalty versus mercy extended to the nation dispatching their enemies.

David had no such problem with tradition and therefore becomes our example for extending covenant mercy to a nation. David invoked his covenant and God moved mightily. It is high time we followed his example. The season for breaking years of tradition is at hand. Psalm 143 is a brilliant model for intercession that moves God’s hand for the nation. When we can fully follow David’s model in Psalm 143, we too can move God’s hand to save the land!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER XI
Imprecatory Mercy I

THURSDAY, November 1

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-7a

In Matthew 24:3-7a we are told about the end of the age and challenged with the conditions that Jesus identifies. In verse 6 and 7a He says: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” The first spiritual temperature test we can take is a very simple one. Jesus said there will be “...wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled....” Does war trouble us to the point that we will support compromise with evil to buy a few months of peace? Why do so many vote for those who claim they can end war with Islam? War did not end for Joshua until the enemy was dispatched. Jesus also went on to say that we face a transition from nation coming against nation to kingdom against kingdom. The rise of Islam and their willingness to kill and destroy any place, anywhere, any time demonstrates the reality of “...kingdom against kingdom.” What is unbelievably sad is to watch the reaction of a significant portion of the population in the United States who not only seem to be losing their ability to support war but obviously would capitulate in the face of the rise of Islam’s demands right here in America. Why are officials building footbaths in airports and prayer rooms in public schools for Islamics? Our forefathers bled and died for the freedom we have and the gutless and the spineless are rising up increasingly willing to give it away. Jesus would be ashamed of His church that did not stand and subdue this most abominable, filthy, perverse and vile of all enemies. Are we troubled by war? Take your spiritual temperature. If you are troubled by war it is time for a baptism that puts steel in the backbone to prepare us for what is ahead. When Joshua extended the spear, he did not withdraw it until the last enemy was dead.

FRIDAY, November 2

Scripture: Matthew 24:7-14

Those who live in the end times will face an avalanche of sorrows causing many to be offended. Christians will betray one another and they will even hate one another. The rise of false prophets will bring tremendous deception. Do we know what a false prophet looks like? What if it is a person who only prophesies good things. That seems to be the measuring line in the Old Testament for false prophets. The true prophets were

often criticized for never prophesying anything good. The lawless have nearly prevailed in their effort to redefine marriage. How do real Christians respond? Verse 14 gives us significant hope and a great promise because with full declaring authority Jesus decrees: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations...” (one translation says, “...against all the nations.”) and then the end will come.” If the gospel has to be preached as a witness against all the nations, that means God is going to have a company of believers that declare the gospel and nobody can kill them until they are finished. Perhaps we should be pursuing that level of God’s anointing and then the “...wars and rumors of wars...” really wouldn’t trouble us. Where is the anointing to put death under our feet?

SATURDAY, November 3

Scripture: II Timothy 3:1-7

Paul told Timothy, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:” We can certainly agree that the perilous times are here because all the prophesied marks of those perilous times are characteristics that can be seen in many: “...men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, covenant breakers, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...” The truth of this statement is consistently culturally revealed. When an individual gives himself over in any one of these areas, then he certainly becomes a pawn in the hands of the enemy for contributing to a much larger plan of destruction. I’m specifically thinking of the news media when they choose to be “...slanders, brutal, despisers of good, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” The news media today does every bit as much damage to the nation as the 9-11 terrorists. No other entity promotes perversion with a willingness to twist the news for their own ends. By choice they fail to report the good things that are accomplished by our troops. They consistently denigrate the sacrifice of our bravest Americans who continually put their life on the line. The news media is a kingdom that needs to be brought into utter and complete financial devastation. The church can never expect to save the nation if they are not willing to bring the justice of God upon the heads of the news media whose perversion knows no boundaries!

SUNDAY, November 4

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:17-19

Verses 17-19 state: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’” We have God’s promise that He will “...destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” I don’t know of a group that fits this any more than the news media. The church can tap in to the justice of God and bring the kind of devastation that will cause them to repent! When we realize that we are in a war and there is a kingdom doing everything they can to destroy the church, our heritage and the nation,

then we move to action. When we are in a war of this magnitude, the church cannot bring the sword if it has no salt. Moving God's hand for justice is a manifestation of mercy to the nation. One of the most merciful things that could happen to America would be the sudden and complete bankruptcy of CBS, NBC and ABC complete with all their news divisions. God help us!

MONDAY, November 5

Scripture: II Timothy 3:8,9

Verses 8 and 9 say: "Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was." One of the great encouragements of Timothy is that while we are going to face perilous times, and a magnitude of concentrated evil exceeding anything any generation has ever seen, it can only go so far until Jesus the Judge appears! The demonic nature of the character agenda and activities that they promote will come against the King of kings and suddenly God will manifest as He did with Moses. We need to realize we are facing demonized people who will stop at nothing in the promotion of their perverse agenda. At that point we have already reached a place of judgment. God is willing. The question is: Are we? Are we expectant? Are we asking? Are we calling for the judgment available? The prophetic promise is that God will back us like He backed Moses. He will make their folly manifest to all. The emphasis is, "...as theirs also was." When I read the events that are referred to by the apostle Paul, speaking prophetically here, it is obvious that what made their folly manifest was the judgment of God. Where is it? Where is the church that is calling it forth? Perhaps we need to review the pattern, process and how it was manifested.

TUESDAY, November 6

Scripture: Genesis 15:13-14

In Genesis 15:13,14 we are told: "Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.'" We need to ask ourselves, "Did God fulfill the prophecy that He gave to Abraham concerning his family, Israel?" The answer is: "Yes, He did!" What is the difference between the word God gave to Abraham concerning his family and the word He gave the apostle Paul for the end time church? Is there any difference? Are not the two equally believable? Has God changed? Is Jesus not the same yesterday, today and forever? Then should we not expect the same God who fulfilled this prophetic promise to Abraham – to fulfill the promise that He will make the folly of the God-haters as visible as He did with Jannes and Jambres? Maybe we need to start believing God's Word!

WEDNESDAY, November 7

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-14

Exodus 1:8-14 starts a pattern of prophetic covenant based fulfillment of words that we should note because if we can draw the same parallels then we know we are entering a season that God is about to dramatically show the difference between those who speak for Him and those who are like Jannes and Jambres. The first issue of note is like-spirits attract. All those who had the spirit of Jannes and Jambres decided to join together to afflict the godly people and make their life miserable by completely destroying any influence they had on society. Verse 14 tells us "...they made their lives bitter...." They made it very very hard. We have had fifty years of the denigration of anything Christian in society. Many champion the removal of the voice of the church from the public arena. The church in America parallels the Israelites in Egypt in loss of freedom. Today's elite want us to pay for bricks rather than make them while they dictate cultural norms. What they dictate brings the judgment of God and could easily destroy the nation.

THURSDAY, November 8

Scripture: Psalm 105:23-25

This passage says: "Israel also came into Egypt, And Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. And He increased His people greatly, And made them stronger than their enemies. He turned their heart to hate His people, To deal craftily with His servants." Why did God turn the heart of the Egyptians against His people? So it is obvious that God had a hand in this process. He did some orchestration. He did some moving. We are told: "He turned their heart to hate His people." Why is the hate for Christianity growing so dramatically in the earth? Islam provides the doctrine for the Antichrist and considers it service to God to kill both the Jew and the Christian. There is something about pressure, where your life is hanging in the balance, that brings an intercession that cannot be uttered in any other circumstances. Perhaps God is looking for something that only these circumstances can produce.

FRIDAY, November 9

Scripture: Exodus 2:23

We are told, "Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage." The depth of the bondage produced a heart-cry upon which life itself depended. This heart-cry pierced the heavens, entered the Throne Room and gained God's attention. Why is it that the church refuses to move until their very safety and freedom is threatened and something touches them personally so they feel the pain of the decision before they will really cry out to God? The "groan" upon which life itself depended is what God needed to hear and it appears only these very desperate circumstances brought it. This pattern is repeating itself!

SATURDAY, November 10

Scripture: Exodus 2:24,25

What is God's response to the "groan"? We are told in verses 24 and 25: "So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them." The people had to "groan" in order to activate the covenant. As soon as that "groan" came, upon which life depended, it activated the covenant. God heard. God saw. And God acknowledged! How much more adversity do we have to face before we are there? Certainly the Christians in Darfur are facing it now along with those in Egypt, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. There is hardly an Islamic country where, if you are a Christian, your life is not in utter danger and there is barely a step between you and death. How long before it comes to America? The Islamists are threatening in Britain now. There seems to be a pattern of prophetic fulfillment and we appear to be moving dramatically in that direction.

SUNDAY, November 11

Scripture: Exodus 3:19-22

God's first response to that "groan" was to find agents who would stand up to Jannes and Jambres so He could honor the spoken Word. He found one in Moses and He went on to promise that not only would He fulfill the word, of bringing the people out, but they would not go empty-handed. They would come out with silver. They would come out with gold. And in verse 22 we are told: "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians." The "groan" not only produced a deliverance but it also produced an anointing to spoil. Perhaps here is one of the missing ingredients of the wealth transfer which those who preach it for the wrong reason have obviously missed. Prophetic promises that cost will not manifest without the cross. It is time that the "groan" which is coming out of the church produces a confrontation with the spirit of Jannes and Jambres in our society.

MONDAY, November 12


Scripture: Exodus 7:10-13

Now we come to the actual confrontation. We are told in verses 10-13: "So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said." Perhaps it is time to note that one of the problems encountered from the church side of this equation is that we go into an encounter several times only to be rebuffed and completely ignored as irrelevant. Do we remember the confrontations over abortion and the demonstrations at the clinics and yet we stand as irrelevant. When the church tries to tell the courts in the land what is going to happen if you open the floodgate to homosexual marriage, we are rebuffed and considered utterly irrelevant. It appears that the same pattern that unfolded for Moses and Aaron facing

Jannes and Jambres has been happening with the church! How many of these must we endure before God begins to uphold the voice of His servants.

TUESDAY, November 13

Scripture: II Timothy 3:8-9 and Exodus 8:1,2,7

The thing we have to remember in this process is that we have already been warned about exactly what it is going to look like. And what it looks like when we are reading it historically seems a  Lot better than what it looks like when we are actually in it. Because reading it historically we can easily read over the length of time, the number of encounters and a lot of the adversity that happened in the process. Paul told us in Second Timothy that "...men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith..." would resist us. But they will reach a point when "...they can progress no further." It is obvious we have not reached that point yet because they are still progressing. Just as Moses had to be reassured, we have to be reassured. Round Two, in Exodus 7:19 finds Moses extending his rod over the river and the water becomes blood. We are told in verse 22: "Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments." So the blood throughout the land didn't do anything because Jannes and Jambres accomplished the same thing. The Third incident of confrontation was the plague of the frogs. In verse 7 we are told, "And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt." We now have three levels of confrontation, serpent, blood and frogs and Jannes and Jambres have matched Moses every step of the way. I rather imagine that at this point Moses and Aaron were wondering, "God are You ever going to change things? Are You ever going to show up? Are You ever going to execute Your covenant promises? Are You ever really going to be God to us? Are You ever going to turn things around so we can get into our own land?" Successive demonic confrontations is a lot to endure, especially when they are national in scope. They pretty much had the whole nation against them at this point. Even the people thought they were failures. Of what value is the church? Many are ready to throw in the towel. That is usually what we can expect in this process of prophetic fulfillment. It is not easy to stand for God when the majority refuse to do so.

WEDNESDAY, November 14

Scripture: Exodus 8:16-19

Exodus 8:16-19 records the Fourth confrontation and this time Moses extends his rod and says let the dust become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Aaron stretched out his hand and it happened. But something changed in the Fourth confrontation. In verse 18 we are told: "Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast." In verse 19 we are told: "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God.' But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said." God finally drew the line to show a difference between the two leadership teams. Jannes and Jambres could proceed no further but it still didn't change Pharaoh's heart! The difference was too small. There was still more that had to be done. How much more has to be done from where we stand right now? Are we willing to walk this all the way to the conclusion? The only opposition the church has registered is verbal scolding and minor civil disobedience during anti-

abortion demonstrations. Where is the “hand of the Lord” that Samuel and Paul summoned when needed? A church that cannot move God’s hand is a saltless group!

THURSDAY, November 15

Scripture: Exodus 8:20-24

Exodus 8 also records the Fifth confrontation. Moses rises early in the morning and stands before Pharaoh declaring “...swarms of flies...” but God is now going to make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites. There will be “...no swarms of flies...” on the Israelites, only on the Egyptians. And God brought it to pass! In the next plague, outlined in chapter 9, Moses moved the hand of the Lord on the cattle and all Egyptian livestock died. The Israelite livestock was untouched. They finally got the justice they were looking for and ultimately it would bring a change. God tells us we are going to experience the very same thing that Moses and Aaron did with Jannes and Jambres. We then need to be prepared to move the hand of God in the same measure and magnitude that Moses did in Egypt. Moving the hand of God is a biblical call for every generation and it is time we caught it.

FRIDAY, November 16

Scripture: Exodus 2:23-25

The spiritual place we find ourselves in is not impossible. Many generations have faced persecution. This is a pattern and this pattern is following what is outlined in Exodus 2:23-25. In stage One things become so difficult that the people groan and cry out because their very life depends on it. Our freedom for Christianity in America depends on our groaning and crying out. Congress has already passed two bills which will put preachers in jail for preaching against homosexuality. We have the Exodus pattern unfolding in America. It started with a progressive loss of freedom. The people’s first response was to groan and cry out. Stage Two shows God heard their groan when their life depended on it. Three, God remembered His covenant. When He remembered His covenant He looked on the condition of the people just like Jesus looked on the Temple, surveyed it, came out and decided what to do in order to recapture covenantal freedom. The money changers had to be judged! Jesus looked at the condition of the people in the land in order to determine step Number Five, which was His acknowledging them and the level of anointing necessary to dispatch, destroy or cut off the enemy. That is the process. God acknowledges by giving an anointing that allows us to access moving His hand. Paul moved His hand, in Acts chapter 13. This is not just an Old Testament issue. It is a pattern and a process that goes throughout scripture from Old to New. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. It is time to recognize the process and it is time to put a demand on the anointing to cut off those who desire to cut off the freedom of the church. Mercy to the land means their removal (by the hand of God). As it was with Jannes and Jambres – so it will be ... so it is now with us. Paul said it by the Holy Spirit and we are living it. The question is: “Are we going to complete the pattern and possess the anointing?”

SATURDAY, November 17

Scripture: Exodus 14:10-12

One of the great temptations in a long season of war is that further adversity causes people to return in their heart to the days of no confrontation. We are told in this passage: “And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, ‘Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” One of the sad testaments of human nature is the willingness to trade adversity for peace. We know trading adversity for peace only leads to more bondage. We would do well to remember that principle in the midst of this process because once you start trying to trade adversity for peace or peace for land – you get neither! No one has ever successfully negotiated with demonized people. You must put them under your feet. Seven times in the New Testament we are promised that God will put our enemies under our feet. The testimony of scripture is, that does not happen without a fight. To settle for anything less is to bow to demons. Will we be the church or will we be weasels? The choice is ours!

SUNDAY, November 18

Scripture: Exodus 14:21-22

God had an answer for the Israelites but it came at the end of a long progression of confrontations with a significant number of interventions which displayed the difference between the believer and the unbeliever. By the time we get to the major manifestation of the Red Sea, the Egyptians are utterly without excuse. It is only hardness of heart and pride that drives them on toward great destruction. The Israelites paid the price for Pharaoh’s choice to fill the cup of iniquity by holding on to hardness of heart. Pharaoh’s choices brought great adversity and warfare. We need to understand that God’s people pay a price when mercy is extended in the form of time. God will eventually judge but while the enemy fills the cup of iniquity, the church suffers pain, hurt, agony, rejection and warfare. Verse 21 records the final judgment for their deliverance. It says: “Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.” Verse 22 says: “So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Just as God demonstrated His power over Jannes and Jambres, He completed the conquest with the main event. We need to realize that in our individual skirmishes with the enemy we are moving toward some main events. Egypt in Exodus is like radical Islam of today. We need main events in a variety of nations.

MONDAY, November 19

Scripture: Exodus 15:6-13

In Exodus 15:6-13 we discover after the event, and the prophetic response of the people, God's view of what has just taken place. Verses 11 through 13 expound a covenant perspective: "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them. You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation." Covenant mercy was manifested in the destruction of the entire Egyptian army. Covenant mercy could be manifested in the utter destruction of every terrorist cell in America. To pray, proclaim, declare and decree such justice is an anointing we desperately need to pursue. Covenant mercy means the utter destruction of the demonized who are intent on stealing everything we have, doing away with our Constitution and establishing the most perverse and vile code of law that ever existed, where for the slightest transgression you can lose your hands, lose your feet or lose your head. Once a covenant nation openly allows the worship of demons in their land, of the magnitude which Islam brings, then we know as a church we will face Jannes and Jambres and all that follows them. Now is the preparation time and we better get with the program.

TUESDAY, November 20


Scripture: Acts 13:6-12

We should ask ourselves: "Did the apostles in the New Testament have to face a spirit anything like that of Jannes and Jambres?" The answer is: "Absolutely." The apostle Paul faced it in Acts 13 where fullness meets fullness. Two individuals face each other, both full of the respective God/god which they worship. In verse 9 we are told: "Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, 'O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?'" Those who are full of the Spirit are even now facing those who are full of demonized doctrine, intent on killing anyone who is a Jew or Christian. We already stand where Paul stood but somehow it seems that our preparation is lacking. We have spent a lifetime learning "turn the other cheek" Christianity when we should have been more balanced in our approach to God's Word. "Turn the other cheek" does not mean forfeit governmental authority. God does not "turn the other cheek" to evil. He judges it! He ordained political and spiritual government to execute wrath (judgment, justice and covenant vengeance) on evil doers. Ask Ananias and Sapphira if God turns the other cheek! The only ones we "turn the other cheek" to are the ones we want to win, not the ones who are trying to kill us and take away the (Christian) heritage of our forefathers. The apostle Paul did not "turn the other cheek" to a man full of demons and we are not allowed to "turn the other cheek" to Islam. Paul confronted it and brought the justice of God and moved the hand of God much like Moses in Exodus. What we are talking about is every bit as much of New Testament doctrine as it is in the Old – because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our problem is that we have refused to recognize the difference between mercy to the individual and mercy to the nation.

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WEDNESDAY, November 21

Scripture: Psalm 143

Psalm 143 records David fleeing from Jerusalem, because Absalom has taken the throne. His intercession turns judicial. David ends this Psalm with a prayer demanding covenant mercy manifest in the death and destruction of the enemy. He prays: “In Your mercy cut off... (The  Hebrew word is psaw-math. It means to extirpate or utterly destroy.) ...my enemies, And destroy... (aw-bad which means to perish, die, be exterminated. It is a Hebrew hiphel perfect verb meaning to destroy, to put to death, bring divine judgment) ...all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.” David understood covenant mercy whereas we have not. When we think of covenant mercy we only think of one application and that is mercy to every individual. David thought of covenant mercy in terms of mercy to the nation meaning God’s destruction of the enemy. David understood that mercy had a cutting edge that was judgment unto utter destruction. Moses understood that and that is why at the end of the Red Sea in Exodus 15:13 we read: “You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.” It was God’s mercy that killed the entire Egyptian army – mercy to the Israelites. It would be God’s mercy to America if he killed every terrorist cell intent on exploding their suitcase nuclear weapons and utterly destroyed them. But what does it take to bring national mercy? It takes a heart-cry from those who are perishing.

THURSDAY, November 22

Scripture: Psalm 143:1,2

Tradition makes the Word of God “of none effect.” If our “turn the other cheek” tradition prevents us from praying as David did, we could easily lose the nation. Please don’t say: “I cannot pray that way. I couldn’t ask God to destroy somebody. I’m afraid that I am not qualified.” David undoubtedly had the same issue, because at the time of losing his throne to Absalom, he had already been through the Bathsheba incident and had the major failure of his life. So it is interesting to watch how David prays covenantally and perhaps evokes a pattern we should consider following. In Psalm 143:1,2 he says: “Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.” David starts out telling God, “Please ...do not enter into judgment with Your servant for in Your sight, no one living is fully righteous.” Now today we would have to frame that a bit differently, for the simple reason that we are told in Romans that all “...who receive the ...gift of righteousness shall reign in life through One, Jesus Christ.” Jesus gave us His righteousness and we have to choose to put that on. When we choose to put on the righteousness of Christ, we can still pray “Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, O LORD, for no one in Your sight is without sin.” We could all agree with that. We’re simply asking God not to enter into judgment with us because we are asking for covenant mercy for the nation. David knew a little bit about relating to God and gives us a great model for activating covenant mercy!

FRIDAY, November 23

Scripture: Psalm 143:3

After reminding God that all men are just flesh and asking for personal mercy, David switches gears by focusing on all the transgressions of the enemy. He says in verse 3: “For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.” Now David moves from “Do not judge Your servant, O LORD for all have sinned” into “Look what the enemy has done to the heart of the church. The enemy is so perverse, so filthy and so vile that his darkness has been spread over all the land. It is so bad, so deep, so gross that everywhere you go the atmosphere is like those who have long been dead! Such is the perversion, the depth of filth and the abomination that has been spread throughout the nation.” David paints a picture of just how successful the enemy has been in filling the land with iniquity. Talk about knowing how to win someone over to your point of view – David was a master!

SATURDAY, November 24

Scripture: Psalm 143:4

Verse 4 says: “Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed.” David masterfully describes the fruit of what the enemy has done and the inroads he has made in the land. He describes the depth of darkness, because of the spiritual death that rules and reigns everywhere and how it impacted God’s church and God’s servants. “Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is (utterly) distressed.” “God, I am overwhelmed. There is no where to go. There is no way out. I need YOU. YOU are the only answer. Human strength won’t do anything. I’m toast. It is over. HELP LORD.” What a masterful approach in the Throne Room! David knew how to pray!

SUNDAY, November 25

Scripture: Psalm 143:5,6a

Verse 5 says: “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You.” “I don’t have the strength. I can’t do it. I’m overwhelmed. God, You can do it. I remember days when You did it. I’m thinking about all those deliverances. I’m thinking about what You did in Egypt. I’m thinking about how Your great right hand moved at the prophetic word of Elijah and you brought blindness on an entire army. I’m thinking about all you did with Moses and how you delivered the people. I’m spreading out my hands to You so that Your hand can move again. Do for us what You did for Joshua!” WHAT an approach to GOD. WHAT a stand on the covenant. WHAT a way to put it. WHAT a way to utterly describe the bankruptcy of his condition, as opposed to the utter invincibility of God’s position. David is setting the stage to move God’s hand! What stage are we setting?

MONDAY, November 26

Scripture: Psalm 143:7-8

Verses 7 and 8 says: “Answer me speedily, O LORD; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You.” Now David starts pulling on God’s heart. “God, if You wait, it is all over. I don’t have an eternity. I don’t have much time. I don’t live in the realm of eternity like You do. My spirit is about to fail. But You could answer me in the snap of Your fingers. If You don’t hide Your face, then I’ll walk out of this in victory. But if You do, I will be taken into the pit never again to rise. Is that really what You want? Do You want my demise? Do You want my death or do You want my lips to praise You? I’m in Your hands. You are the covenant-keeping King. What will You do?” David makes it clear to God, “I want to hear You every morning. I want You every day of my life. It is in You that I trust and in Your covenant I trust because You are the covenant-keeping God. You keep covenant to a thousand generations, therefore I will lift up my soul to You. God, I trust You. You are trustworthy.” The brilliance of David’s presentation in his intercession is almost beyond words. He is praying as if his very life depends on it! How are we praying?

TUESDAY, November 27

Scripture: Psalm 143:9

Verse 9 says: “Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter.” Here again we find the plea. “Deliver me, the enemy is out there. My life hangs in the balance. My only shelter is in You.” How would David pray for America? “God, if You don’t come through it is over. If You don’t come through we lose the nation. If You don’t stand and fight for us everything our forefathers spilt their blood for is gone from the earth and they connected You with the United States of America. IN YOU GOD WE TRUST.” Would David have any reservation in moving God’s hand to utterly annihilate the enemy? I believe if we would follow this pattern we would see the hand of God move in such a dramatic way that the majority of people in the church would be stunned at what God does to the enemy. The GOD OF JUSTICE is ready to move for the church! All we have to do is take a lesson out of David’s life in how to activate that covenant and this is probably the pinnacle of his brilliance in intercession standing on the COVENANT. God did exactly what David asked!

WEDNESDAY, November 28

Scripture: Psalm 143:10

Verse 10 says: “Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.” “God, here I am. I’m teachable. I don’t know it all. There is a whole lot that I have missed but I trust You to teach me. I trust You to get me there. You won’t abandon me. Your Spirit is good. You know how to lead me out of this imminent death into utter deliverance. You know how to save the day and get the glory in the process so that everybody recognizes YOU DID IT. Once again make YOUR name glorious. Once again hear the praises of the people who say, ‘OUR FATHER DID IT!’”

THURSDAY, November 29

Scripture: Psalm 143:11

Verse 11 says: “Revive me, O LORD, for Your name’s sake! For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble.” “For Your righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble.” “God, You gave me a covenant of “sure mercy” – it wasn’t my idea. Sure, I’ve blown it but Your covenant of mercy says You would make my greatest mistakes a platform for the ultimate fulfillment and that my mistakes You would redeem and they would praise You. And I know You are going to do that and You can’t do it when the enemy wins. You can’t do it if we lose the nation. The only way to do it is to save the land.” WHAT a brilliant progression of intercession. Did it work? DID it WORK! Everyone who came against David in the rebellion – died. It WORKED. David was delivered and the nation was returned!

FRIDAY, November 30

Scripture: Psalm 143:12

David culminates everything in verse 12 with an appeal to the imprecatory side of the covenant of “sure mercy.” He says, “In Your mercy kill my enemies, destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.” David understood the difference between individual mercy and corporate mercy. Individual mercy saves us from our sin. Corporate mercy saves us from the enemy who is trying to destroy our land. If the church in America ever understands and embraces the difference between individual mercy and corporate mercy and begins to pray accordingly, we may well see a visible hand in the heaven coming upon Hollywood. We may see it coming upon individual terrorists cells. We may see the hand of God coming on Judges. We may see once again the hand of God moving on perverse politicians at the intercession of the church. Isn’t it time we offered a “thanksgiving” to God in the Davidic pattern outlined by Psalm 143? God is ready. Are we?