

Strong Reasons To Pray

Jer.29:4-14

5-02-2010

Jer 29:4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

When Israel was carried into their captivity into the heathen nation of Babylon God sent with them a hope for a future and a directive to live pro-actively for their captive nation. Why? God wanted them to know that their own peace and prosperity and security and success was directly related to the nation to which they found themselves living.

Wisdom certainly would agree that praying for the nation you live in would be intimately connected to your own life's successes. The following passages are some N.T. Biblical truths worth considering as we enter into our local elections this week and also what may be our last official “National Day of Prayer”. (1Pet.2:13-17; 1Tim.2:1-2) Both Peter and Paul relate to us the opinion of God on the matter of praying for our national and local leaders and living in co-operation with their success.

Jesus spoke from a higher insight into who and what is ultimately in control of our lives; God and His own will and purposes. (Jn.19:8-11 “...you would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above...”Acts 4:28) (See also Rm.13:1; Dan.5:21) We all have a part to play in

the affairs of our country, our nation, our state and our county and it begins in prayer. Read the rest of what Paul has to say in Romans 13:1-7 and we then can see more clearly the heart of God.

Our opening passage from Jeremiah (Jer.29:4-11) helps us see what our Lord Jesus might expect of us in our own country. How do you suppose Jeremiahs words to the captivity might look if we could see them portrayed in real life? Daniel and Jeremiah are linked together in history in that Jeremiah writes to the beginning of the captivity and Daniel as a recipient of those judgments some 30 or 40 years later. (Dan.9:1-3, 20-23)

When a study of Daniel's words and action are looked at, we soon see a man who in action and in pray labored pro-actively for the nation in which he found himself living. (Dan.4:27, 6:4-5) Daniel labored on behalf of his captive nation and king. I am convinced that Daniel was no 5 minute prayer but rather one who labored intently and prolonged. (see Dan.10:2,12-14)

There are three men that God singles out as prayer warriors even though we may not have thought of them as such; Noah, Job, and Daniel. (Ezek.14:14, 19-20) Armed with these words from God's Holy Scripture it seems right and good to encourage you to be pro-active for the sake of your country and it's peoples and for those men and women whom God calls to serve His purposes for this great nation that we have opportunity to live in.

I invite you this Tuesday to pray through the elections that God will move into position or keep in position those people who best serve His purposes for the future and our benefit. I also invite you to join with me and other servants of God this Thursday at noon as we gather to pray at the court house for our nation and it's leaders and it's people.