The Revelation of Intercession

I. INTERCESSION IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

- A. In September 1982, the Lord said, "I will change the understanding of Christianity in the earth in one generation. In May 1983, He said: "I will establish 24-hour-a-day prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David." This was a prophecy of God's determination to establish 24/7 prayer across the earth. I combine these prophetic words into one message: I will change the expression of Christianity by establishing 24/7 prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. It is as if the Lord paused for a year between each installment of this one prophetic paragraph.
- B. The fullness of God's promise to restore the tabernacle of David speaks of the full release of Jesus' government across all nations in context to worship with intercession. It will only be <u>completely</u> restored in Jesus' millennial government based on 24/7 worship (Amos 9:11-12).
 - ¹¹I will raise up the <u>tabernacle of David</u>, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹² that they may <u>possess the remnant of Edom</u> [Islam] and <u>all the Gentiles</u> [harvest in the nations]... ¹⁵I will <u>plant them in their land</u> [May 1948], and <u>no longer shall they be pulled up from the land... (Amos 9:11-15)</u>
 - 1. Edom speaks of the Arab nations, specifically the Islamic nations. A key to winning Islam to Jesus is seen in the Church functioning in the spirit of David's tabernacle.
 - 2. The time of Israel being restored to the land signaled the time in which a new measure of the spirit of the tabernacle of David reality would be released connected with the harvest. We are the only generation in 2,000 years in which God restored Israel to their land.

II. THE MAJESTY AND MYSTERY OF INTERCESSION

A. <u>The majesty of intercession:</u> God has chosen intercession as the primary means in which He releases His power now and forever. Jesus operated in the principle of intercession when He created the earth by speaking the Word to the Father (Gen. 1). He releases His power now and will rule the nations forever in partnership with His people through intercession.

³⁴Christ...at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)

- B. <u>The mystery of intercession:</u> The primary principle of intercession is simply to tell God what He tells us to tell Him as the means of releasing His power. It is profoundly simple. Intercession is God's brilliant strategy for including the saints in ruling with Him in power. Its mystery is in its "weakness", simplicity, humility, and accessibility to all.
- C. God requires us to cooperate with Him in the grace of God. This is an expression of His desire for intimate partnership with us. *God will not do our part* and *we cannot do His part*. If we do not do our part, then God withholds some of the help and blessing He would have given us.

²⁵He always [forever] lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)

III. JESUS CREATED THE EARTH: THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION

- A. The Father has many plans burning in His heart. The Father ordained that Jesus would speak out the Father's plan in intercession as the way to release the Spirit's power as seen in Genesis 1.
 - ²The earth was without form, and void...the <u>Spirit was hovering</u> over the...waters. ³God said, "<u>Let there be light</u>"; and there was light. ⁹God said, "<u>Let the waters</u>...be gathered together ...and it was so... ¹¹God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass...and it was so." (Gen. 1:2-11)
- B. Jesus is identified as the creator who spoke and said, "let there be light" in Genesis 1 and who sustains the universe by His word (Jn. 1:3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2-3).
 - ⁹God who created all things through Jesus Christ... (Eph. 3:9)

IV. JESUS CREATES, SUSTAINS AND GOVERNS BY SPEAKING GOD'S WORD

- A. Jesus sustains, upholds or holds together the created order <u>by speaking</u> the word of His power to the Father. This is a type of intercession.
 - ³Who [Jesus]...upholding all things by the word of His power... (Heb. 1:3)
 - ¹⁷And in Him all things consist [hold together: NIV, NAS]. (Col. 1:17)
- B. When Jesus articulates the Father's thoughts, He functions as the Living Word. One reason that Jesus is called the Word is because He brings God's ideas into existence in the natural world by speaking. In other words, He acts and rules by speaking the Word of God.
 - ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word, was with God, and the Word was God [Jesus] ... ³All things were made through Him [Jesus in intercession]... (Jn. 1:1-3)
 - ¹³His <u>name</u> is called The Word of God... (Rev. 19:13)
- C. God "brings us forth" in blessing and power as Jesus speaks His word over our lives.
 - ¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth... (Jas. 1:18)
- D. The sword of Jesus' mouth refers to His power being released by the commands of His mouth. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He used God's Word like a sword to strike Satan's domain.
 - ¹⁷Take...the <u>sword</u> of the Spirit, <u>which is the Word of God</u>. (Eph. 6:17)
 - ⁴He...said, "<u>It is written</u>, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."... ⁷Jesus said..." <u>It is written again</u>, 'You shall not tempt the Lord...'" (Mt. 4:4-7)
- E. Jesus' judgment of the nations includes His striking them with the sword of His mouth. By the decree of His mouth, His end-time judgments are released. He will use the sword or the rod of His mouth or intercessory decrees to remove all resistance to His rule (Isa. 11:4; Rev. 19:15-16).
 - ¹⁵Out of His mouth goes a sharp <u>sword</u>, that with it He should <u>strike the nations</u>. (Rev. 19:15)
 - ⁴He shall strike the earth with the <u>rod of His mouth</u>... (Isa. 11:4)

V. JESUS RELEASES GOD'S JUSTICE IN RESPONSE TO INTERCESSION

- A. Justice is released in connection to night and day prayer (speaking God's Word). Justice is God making wrong things right. Jesus is the ultimate social reformer. He was the first to connect justice to night and day prayer. Prayer confronts the source of injustice in the spirit realm.
 - ⁷Shall God not <u>avenge</u> [bring about justice; NAS] His elect who <u>cry out day and night</u> to Him? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge [bring about justice to; NAS] them speedily. (Lk. 18:7-8)
- B. Examples of God's justice (judgment/salvation) that makes wrong things right:
 - 1. *Healing:* God's judgment on sickness is seen in the manifestation of healing power
 - 2. Revival: God's judgment on compromise is seen in reviving the Church by the Spirit
 - 3. Soul winning: God's judgment on the kingdom of darkness is seen when people get saved
 - 4. *End-time judgments:* God's judgments against the evil governments and their actions
 - 5. *Righteous legislation:* God's judgment on unrighteous laws (abortion laws, etc.)
 - 6. *Unity (reconciliation):* God's judgment on division in the family, society, and the Church
 - 7. *Holiness:* God's judgment on sin, anger, pornography, drugs, and rebellion, etc.
- C. Jesus requires night and day prayer as the condition to release justice. Prayer is a very practical expression of the commandment to love one another in that it releases deliverance for the needy.
 - ¹⁹This will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer... (Phil. 1:19)

VI. JESUS WILL RULE BY INTERCESSION IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. Jesus will rule all the nations in the Millennium in part by intercession as He declares the Father's decrees and asks Him for the full possession and transformation of all nations.
 - ⁷I [Jesus] will <u>declare the decree</u>: the LORD [the Father] has said to Me, "You are My Son... ⁸<u>Ask of Me</u>, and I [the Father] will give You the nations for Your <u>inheritance</u>, and the ends of the earth for Your <u>possession</u>. (Ps. 2:7-8)
- B. The Father commissioned Jesus to rule in the midst of His enemies in this age. From the Father's right hand, Jesus rules by releasing His rod of strength through His obedient praying Church. Jesus will rule by intercession which is referred to as the rod of His mouth (Rev. 19:15; 12:5; Ps. 2:7, 9; 110:2; Isa. 11:4; Eph. 6:17-18). Moses' rod that released judgment was a picture of this.
 - ¹The LORD [the Father] said to my Lord [Jesus], "Sit at My right hand, <u>till</u> I make Your enemies Your footstool." ²The LORD shall send <u>the rod</u> of Your [Jesus'] strength out of Zion. <u>Rule in the midst of Your enemies!</u> (Ps. 110:1-2)
- C. The governmental center of the universe is in the prayer ministry, which includes all the Spirit inspired prayers on earth and in heaven converging before God. Corporate intercessory worship is the primary means God has chosen to release His power. It is the highest expression of His government in time and eternity and is the most powerful weapon that exists. We do not just pray for the work that we do in the kingdom, but part of *our main work is prayer*.

¹¹You also helping together in prayer for us ... (2 Cor. 1:11)

VII. THE WEAKNESS AND WISDOM OF INTERCESSION: THE BENEFITS WE RECEIVE

- A. God has chosen to use the things that men consider as weak to triumph over the things that men consider wise and mighty. God will use those who embrace the "so called weakness" of praying, fasting, giving, serving and suffering persecution to triumph over human wisdom and might. We see God's wisdom in sharing His government in a way that leaves no place for man to boast.
 - ²⁷God has chosen the [so called] <u>foolish things</u> of the world to put to shame the [so called] wise, and God has chosen the [so called] <u>weak things</u> of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...²⁹that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:27-29)
- B. Intercession is a form of "voluntary weakness" (as are fasting, persecution, giving, etc.). The fact that God chose the simplicity of intercession expresses His desire for partnership with us. Often our prayers are <u>offered</u> without feeling God's power yet they <u>ascend</u> before God in power.
 - ⁹My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)
- C. Intercession causes us to <u>internalize</u> God's Word by saying it back to Him throughout our life. Each time we say what God says, it <u>marks</u> our mind and spirit and changes us. God's words are <u>spirit and life</u>. They impart God's life to us as we receive a small impartation of His life that illuminates our mind and tenderizes our heart. This process progressively renews our inner man. I compare it to a computer programmer who rewrites many lines of code when developing a computer program. I compare this to "rewriting many lines of code" in our mind and heart.
 - ⁶³The words that I [Jesus] speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (Jn. 6:63)
- D. Intercession <u>unites our heart</u> to the people and places that we pray for. We love who and what we pray for. Intercession <u>renews our faith</u> as we speak God's Word back to Him while <u>waiting</u> for the release of His promises. Intercession makes a <u>long term impact</u>. Our prayers for people and cities continue to have an impact in the age to come. Prayers from history are stored in a bowl near God's Throne (Rev. 5:8; 8:1-6). Intercession gives us an "inheritance" in the people and places that we pray for. This inheritance begins in this age and continues in the age to come.
- E. Intercession for others causes <u>multiplied blessings to return back on the life of the intercessor</u>. Every prayer of blessing for another is a prayer that God returns back on you and your family. The law of the kingdom requires that we always receive more than what we give away by faith.
 - ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you: good measure...and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the <u>same measure</u> that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Lk. 6:38)
- F. Intercession <u>changes</u> the spiritual atmosphere of cities and nations and thus prepares the way for the presence of God. There is an irrefutable law in history that revival (justice) is released in a far greater measure whenever night and day prayer is offered. No power can stop it.
- G. <u>Summary</u>: Intercession is God's brilliant strategy for including the saints in ruling with Him in power. Yet, it has such great impact on us as it draws us into <u>intimacy</u> with God, <u>protects</u> with humility, <u>transforms</u> with holiness, <u>anoints</u> with power, <u>unifies</u> in community, releases <u>revelation</u>, and increases our <u>inheritance</u> while it <u>trains</u> us to rule with His wisdom.