

## **PRAYING EFFECTIVELY FOR NIGERIA – UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES: (PART 1)**

Let us consider the import of this statement by **the Preacher** that we often quote:

*To everything there is **a season**, and **a time** to every purpose under the heaven (Eccl.3:1):*

In a broad context, mankind is in **the Season of the last Global move of God** that will herald the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ in Glory.

For many nations including Nigeria, it is a Time of reckoning and judgment (See Rev.6:12-17; Hag.2:6-7). Effective Intercession has to do with understanding the Seasons and Times, and then doing what the season demands as guided by the Holy Spirit. Doing less is religious, ineffective and in most cases a waste of precious time.

For an individual or nation to experience true salvation and be established in the eternal counsels of God, the individual or nation must be exposed to the two streams that make up the promises of God in the Bible.

**Proverbs 16:6** puts it clearly: *By **mercy** and **truth** iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

**Mercy** and **Truth** are the two sides of the same coin of salvation and this is the current that runs through the whole scripture. See Ps.40:10,11; Ps.85:10.

John 1:17 says: *For the Law was given by Moses, but **Grace** (mercy) and **Truth** came by Jesus Christ.*

Grace talks about the benefits that accrued to us as a result of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for our sins. Is.53 is the key Chapter in the Bible that describes the work of Grace.

Truth on the hand puts in our front the reality that God is a Judge and that man, nations, institutions and entities will be required to account to Him for their individual and corporate actions at the fullness of time.

The corruption that came through American Pentecostalism has largely hindered the Church from being effective in Intercession and has made the Intercessory community to be out of tune with heaven and in misalignment with the present counsels of God and the mood of heaven.

We must be cured of this to be effective in intercession. I am directing this message to the Remnant that desires cure.

#### **4 PILLARS OF EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION FOR THE NATIONS:**

Effective Intercession for nations rests on four pillars:

- Understanding the Season.
- Who are the men praying? (Quality of the Intercessors).
- Persistence that pays (You must pray until you prevail).
- What are the men praying? (If you are praying for mercy when the mood in heaven is for judgment you are in the way).

I will address these four pillars in order.

#### **1. UNDERSTANDING THE SEASON:**

*And of the children of Issachar, which were **men that had understanding of the times**, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment (1Chr.12:32).*

Prophetically speaking, Nigeria as a nation is in **Exodus Chapter 14** (Please read Ex.14 and 15). God is preparing the Nation for her Red Sea experience to cause Nigeria to align to her end-time destiny in Christ. We taught along this line during our just concluded Messenger Retreat. (We can share the link to the teaching with those interested. You can request for it by contacting Team Messenger (234 802 222 7349) or through our website [www.messengerlist.org/contact](http://www.messengerlist.org/contact) ).

This is the season when God wants to deal with many people in our land that has become Pharoahs, beyond redemption and raised by hell to stand against God and His eternal counsel for Nigeria. Without dealing with these people who have become gods in their own right, The Lord's agenda will NEVER stand.

The strategy of these wicked men has always been to use money to lure some naïve Pastors to be praying for them for mercy and blessing. The second strategy they adopt is to marry Christian women and seek protection through the Marriage Covenant. In many cases these women end up with a little money in their Accounts and fame but their salvation is compromised.

The Lord said specifically that He has a date to keep with Israel and Nigeria in 2017. See Pages 144 to 146 of our Book, God's Eternal Plan for Nigeria (GEPFN). See also the Epilogue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Book (Pgs.155-159 GEPFN).

In 1986, the Lord said to Pa S.G. Elton, the Briton who was God's Apostle to Nigeria and Africa that Nigeria will pass through two seasons in her national life.

- A season of darkness and corruption: Nigeria will be known for corruption worldwide and her name will stink wherever it is mentioned. This season was fulfilled last year when our President traveled to Uk and the Prime Minister introduced him to the Queen as President of the most fantastically corrupt nation on earth. Officially, as at 2016, Nigeria is regarded as the most corrupt nation on earth. This season of corruption has peaked. There is nothing more to add.

- A season of Righteousness: When Nigeria will be known for righteousness and be the desire of all nations. The Lord started speaking to the Messenger about this new season in 2003. See our Books – The Days of the Black Horse Rider, Messenger's Conversations in Pgs.194-206. See also the Closing Notes in Pgs.207-222 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.(The Electronic Edition of these Books are available through the following platforms:

AMAZON PRINT & KINDLE:

[https://www.amazon.com/Isaac-Ezeh/e/B0078XH514/ref=dp\\_byline\\_cont\\_ebooks\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/Isaac-Ezeh/e/B0078XH514/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1)

KOBO:

<https://www.kobo.com/ww/en/search?query=Isaac%20Ezeh&fcsearchfield=Author>

Please find these books and read. They are relevant and very helpful in this season.

In 2015, the Lord said to the Messenger that 2017 was His divine timing for Nigeria to enter into the Era of Righteousness.

See Pg.145 GEPFN (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Messenger Publications).

We need to know that we are at a Strategic Gate of Time. The major item on the Table in the Court of Heaven as far as Africa is concerned is how to bring Nigeria into this Era of Righteousness.

According to the infallible, inerrant, timeless and dependable word of God:

*With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: **for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness** (Is.26:9).*

Judgment is the strategic gate that will usher in the Era of Righteousness. In this season, the Lord is calling His Priestly sons, to align with the Priesthood of sons in Heaven to carry God's Judgments in their breasts through their timely, strategic intercessions that unleashes His judgments.

*And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:*

*And the seven angels came out of the temple, having **the seven plagues**, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.*

*And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven **golden vials full of the wrath of God**, who liveth for ever and ever (Rev.15:5-7).*

*Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

*Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;*

*To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the **people**;*

*To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;*

*To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints.*

*Praise ye the LORD (Ps.149:5-9)*

This is the major business on the Lord's Table before the Court of Heaven. I dare say that until this business is over and done with, no one may be able to enter the Temple to transact any other business:

*And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled (Rev.15:8).*

## **2. WHO ARE THE MEN PRAYING?**

The Fourteenth Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel brings out the second pillar of Strategic Intercession.

*Though these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job**, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD (Ezk.14:14).*

Just reading this scripture, you will immediately see that heaven recognized the weight of Intercession brought by these men.

**Noah** preserved the purposes of God in his generation.

**Daniel** recognized divine timing and thus stood with God to re-start the prophetic clock.

**Job** stood for God in the midst of a severe personal storm. Do we still have such men today?

These men had character and content and brought something to the table that heaven recognized. Here is my own breakdown of the content they brought to the Table:

They became **Trees of Righteousness**: *Though these three men, **Noah, Daniel and Job** were in it... (Ezk.14:14).* What a weighty statement for Heaven to make about men.

### **1) Character:-**

- **Job** – Job14:14-15.
  - Integrity
  - Repentance
  - Submission
  - Dealing with issues
  - Prayer

- Fear of God
- **Daniel:** Dan.1:8
  - Purposefulness
  - Integrity
  - Loyalty
  - Courage
  - Commitment
  - Prayer
  - Fear of God
- Noah: Gen.6:8-9
  - Uprightness
  - Evangelism
  - Separation
  - Revelation
  - Honour
  - Walk with God. Gen.6:9

One thing they all had in common is *the value of their Intercessory Prayers*. They were all means of saving others:

How did they acquire such content? I can tell you in one word. They all like Abraham walked in **Covenant relationship** with God.

Covenant is a commitment to God that He is bound to honour both in good and bad times. This is what keeps Him committed to us, bearing our failures until He can form a measure of Christ in us that enables Him to use us in any significant way.

Covenant enables God to lay hold on us so that He can turn us from selfish, self-willed independent creatures to overcomers.

Dr. Rebecca Brown puts it this way:

*As God looks into our future, He wants to prepare us for everything that is going to come into our lives. He does this through Covenants. **God's Holy Spirit power flows into our lives as we enter into Covenants with Him.** This power is able to keep us in the face of any catastrophe no matter how difficult. (See **Standing on the Rock**, Rebecca Brown MD. Pgs 1,2).*

We see this principle clearly from **Hag.2:5**:

*According to the word **that I covenanted with you** when ye came out of Egypt, so **my spirit remaineth among you**: fear ye not.*

Put in another way, My spirit remained with you in spite of your many weaknesses because of the word I covenanted with you. What a privilege?

The Lord recently brought this fact home to me in a dramatic way. After the divine revelation of the faulty foundations of our nation that resulted in the publication of our Prophetic Book, **God's Eternal Plan for Nigeria**, I knew we needed to pray in a strategic organized way.

After all, it is written:

*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare** (1Tim.1:18).*

All who read the Book agreed that we needed to pray as the Lord commanded us. Many of them were willing to pray but no matter the effort we made and the push I gave, we were unable to sustain it.

I became personally frustrated until the Lord came to our rescue. During **Team Messenger's December 2017 Retreat**, the Lord came to us in a dramatic way and asked for those who wanted to be part of the Strategic Prayer Force for the Nation to enter into Covenant with Him. He led us into a particular Covenant based on Ps.26, to provide Him a habitation to ride through us and do the job. We suddenly saw the light that through those Covenants, the Lord was going to invest in us what it would take to carry out the assignment.

Since we did that, the complexion of the prayers have changed.

You want to be a kind of man whose prayers will attract the attention of heaven? Then you need God to lead you into Covenants. The basic Covenant we must enter into after salvation is for Jesus to be our Lord apart from being our saviour. Through this Covenant, we become His bond servant. He can put his yoke on us and begin leading us in directions that will guarantee eternal blessings.

The Bible encourages us to look at Abraham as a model believer:

*Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: **look unto the rock whence ye are hewn**, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

*Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him (Is.51:1-2)*

Three things characterize Abraham's life: He was a man of **Covenant, Sacrifice** and **Altar**. So we must be if we are to attract heaven's attention through our intercession. Don't dream to carry the weight of Noah, Job or Daniel in intercession unless you are willing to enter into Covenants with the Lord and with other brethren of like mind.

Even the Lord Jesus in His earthly work had to become a bond servant to do the Master's will and succeed as the great Intercessor.

*Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.*

*Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart (Ps.40:6-8).*

In part 2 of this article, we will deal with the other two pillars of effective Intercession for the nations which are:

- Persistence that pays (You must pray until you prevail).
- What are the men praying? (If you are praying for mercy when the mood in heaven is for judgment you are in the way).

In Christ,

Messenger!

Revival Altar- 23-12-17