

Partners In Courage, October 2014
Pray For Those In Authority
OR ELSE!
Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: There's one scripture in particular that I've had a very hard time obeying over the years. I've tried and given up, over and over. I've been in ministry 41 years full time, and only NOW am I realizing that we MUST obey this verse. I also understand WHY it's of such VAST importance. Failure on our part to obey this scripture can have catastrophic results. Faithful obedience to do what it says can have off the charts kinds of blessings. Here it is:

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

The Bible says that God wants even wicked rulers to be saved. He wants even those who hate the truth and suppress the truth and tell lies continually to come to a knowledge of the truth. Praying for those in authority PLEASES GOD, whether we think the prayers are being answered, or not.

1. WE PRAY FOR THEM *BECAUSE* THEY ARE PROBABLY WICKED.

Herein lies the difficulty I've faced all my adult life. If I pray, "Lord show the authorities what is right and what is true and what is just" but in my heart I believe they hate all those things and prefer injustice, sin and deception—then I am quickly demotivated. I think, "What good will it do to pray that God will show them things they don't want to see? I'll have to wait for a *righteous* person to be elected. *Then* I will pray for those in authority."

What we must realize is, righteous persons in positions of earthly authority are rare, and they are the exception to the rule. Most are corrupt, yet, we pray for them FOR OUR SAKES, not just for their sakes. If we want to live, and live peaceful lives at that, then it will take miracles from God to force these wicked officials to do the right thing. Without prayer, they would be totally controlled by the devil. With prayer, God can legally intervene on our behalf.

**** *When a person gets to the top of the worldly heap, they are usually at the bottom, spiritually.* They claw their way to the top, through compromise, corruption, and even murder. What they don't realize is that they are going downward, spiritually, to the very bottom. Someday, all will be revealed. In that day, what Jesus said will come to pass, **"But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first"** (Matthew 19:30). Notice, Jesus did not say "everyone who is first will be last." He said "many." Many is different than "not any." Not everyone in authority is wicked, that is why the Bible says that thanksgiving can be made for those in authority. It seems to me that we could really only thank God for righteous people who are in government. Bible examples

would be Daniel, a godly close associate to the heathen King of Babylon, Modecai, a godly close associate to the heathen King of Persia, and Joseph, a godly close associate of the heathen Pharaoh of Egypt.

But notice, MOST of those who are first in power and authority in this world are LAST in spiritual power and authority in the Spiritual kingdom and being LAST, they are desperately WEAK and need the prayers of those who are FIRST. Wow! We, who fancy ourselves as spiritual people, often look on those leaders with disdain and contempt—but doesn't that attitude de-motivate us from praying for them? We should see them as captives of Satan, blind guides who are leading the blind, far too weak to resist the temptations, bribes, threats and pressures thrown at them daily.

Look what the angel said to Daniel in regard to King Nebuchadnezzar, **“The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people”** (Daniel 4:17). This king wasn't “lowly” in the sense of being humble, because his judgment came as a result of his pride. He was at the bottom of the heap, spiritually. Is this a pattern? Does God put weak people at the top of earthly kingdoms, people who don't have a chance without the prayers of the righteous?

How might our attitude change if we viewed them as being NEEDY instead of viewing them as STUPID, EVIL, CONTEMPTUOUS, VILLIANS, dastardly liars, etc? We should think, “This governor NEEDS my prayers because he has little strength to stand against the devil on his own.”

Here's some further proof that those in authority in this world are completely opposite those who have spiritual authority in God's Kingdom. The Bible says, **A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”** (Luke 22:24-30).

Notice, the kings of the gentiles lord it over their people instead of serve them, yet they think of themselves and call themselves benefactors—as if they are great givers and servers, meaning, they are self-deceived. I once asked God why most people are so easily deceived and He told me that they were already self-deceived and that it was easy for Satan to add deception to deception. So those in authority, that we are urged to pray for, are not at all like Christ's disciples. They are the opposite of great. This means that they have few defenses against Satanic deception and control. Since they are so poor spiritually, we LEND to them, so to speak, when we pray for them.

**** Imagine a young adult who has no credit applying for a car loan. That young adult will need a co-signer. The loan is given because of the excellent credit and pledge of

the co-signer. The young adult would not get a loan on his or her own. *In the same way, the kings of this world and most of those in authority positions have no spiritual credit line with God. When we pray for them it's as if we are co-signing and answers and help are given to them BECAUSE OF US.*

So if we don't pray, they are not going to get God's wisdom, truth, courage and angelic protection and aid. But all that has to be LOANED to them if we will COSIGN with our prayers, so to speak.

2. WITHOUT OUR PRAYERS THEY ARE LIKELY TO GET US ALL KILLED.

**** Recently I read a book called *THE MAN WHO KILLED JFK, The Case Against Lyndon Johnson* by Roger Stone. This is a 400-page book, and I found it so fascinating I read it within 24 hours. (I spent one whole day flying—so I had time to read.) What a page-turner! This book lays out the truth and the facts that President Kennedy was murdered, not by a lone gunman, but by an alliance of powerful enemies—the mafia, J. Edgar Hoover, Texas oil men, the CIA, and most notably, the Vice President. Kennedy had angered all of these. Without reading the book, you may think it's just one more conspiracy theory. But if you read it, you most likely will be convinced that the acting Vice President conspired with others to kill Kennedy. Then Johnson was our President for six years. When you read about him, you will believe that God truly sets the lowliest of men over earthly kingdoms.

**** This book had an effect on me. I realized that corruption in government has been going on for a very long time—not just a little corruption, but great evil. Then I read a book called *THE NUCLEAR TERRORIST* and realized that huge mistakes in judgment regarding the safety of nuclear power have been going on from President Eisenhower until now—mistakes that could prove especially fatal to millions.

That's when a thought hit me, the way thoughts do when they come from God. I'm not saying God spoke this to me, but the realization was a bolt of truth. Here's the thought: **"I've got to pray for those in authority or they are going to get us all killed."**

A full explanation of how the decisions of our present government could get us all killed is frightening, and I don't want to dwell on it very long. Already, many decisions have been made that could prove fatal to millions. Viewing the list makes me know that I and my family will have to have angelic help, sent from God. *God's ability to care for His own is greater than all the work of Satan through corrupt leaders.* So our eyes need to be upon God. Still, the Bible says that Abraham faced the impossible problem, acknowledged it, and yet believed God over the top of it, and in spite of it! **"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:18-22).**

Keep these verses in mind. We need to FACE THE FACT that we are in great danger from many different sides, and yet not waver in unbelief regarding God's promises to keep, provide for, protect and bless His own people!

1. OUR OPEN SOUTHERN BORDER.

**** Rick Joyner had a prophetic dream recently in which he saw that droves of ISIS terrorists were crossing our southern border and were going to start attacking and killing people in the southwestern states. He saw that some of the terrorist attacks by whoever is crossing the border were going to be so demonic that even Muslim terrorists from ISIS would be shocked! If I understood rightly, this extreme cruelty was coming from Mexican drug gangs. Then, God showed him that there would be a huge amount of anger, nationwide, against the Federal Government. In his dream/vision he saw citizen militias popping up all over as people were desperate to protect themselves and had no faith at all in the Federal government to protect them. In fact, he saw that in some states there would be such anger against the Federal government that all Federal employees would have to flee for their lives. This great anger would be in all 50 states! He said not even one state would want to be under the authority of the Federal government!

He also saw that there was going to be nationwide backlash and anger against Hispanic people. Strangely, he said he saw that there was also going to be a huge amount of anger against the STATE OF TEXAS. I'm not sure if this was the devil's anger against Texas because of all the righteous people in Texas and its conservative stand, or if people across the nation will be angry at Texas for mishandling the first case of Ebola on American soil.

This dream/vision was given several weeks BEFORE the first Ebola case came to the USA, in Dallas, Texas. As I've read news stories, it's clear that the officials in Dallas do not realize just how deadly this virus is. The decision to keep flights coming into our International airports from plague-ridden West Africa is going to result in this plague being introduced in many parts of the country. The CDC has said that for every one person infected with this disease, 1.5 to 2 more people will get it! In other words, it multiplies exponentially! We're told that you must have direct contact with blood, sweat or vomit, but there are cases where people have caught it who were dressed in a full cover of protective gear—and no one knows how they got it. (A nurse who care for a priests in Spain.) Latest news stories have said that this nurse touched her face with a protective glove. One touch of this virus on your skin could infect you with a disease that kills 60% to 90% of those who get it.

We need to pray that God will raise up union leaders of airline workers, the flight assistants, the cleaning crews, the TSA people, and anyone whose life will be at risk from exposure to incoming people who may be carrying the Ebola virus.

**** I heard Rush Limbaugh quoting some general who said that if Ebola gets into poor Latin American countries and Mexico that it would spread fast and millions would flee for their lives. You know which way they would flee, of course—across our southern borders! We think we have too much of that now. If that happened it would be easy to see how anger would be directed at Hispanics because many would bring the plague with them.

**** I had dinner with a pastor and his wife and the pastor's wife's nephew is a border agent. He had told her that they were apprehending people from many Arab countries and also from Iran. He told her that a great many terrorist type people were coming across the border.

**** I believe our #1 prayer should be that God will force our government to close the southern border tightly and STOP flights in and out of West Africa. They could allow only private flights of doctors or military, but not allow the general public of Liberia to board planes for our International airports!

**** HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS!!!! Rick Joyner said that the dream/vision he was given exposed a "scheme of Satan" to have these terrorists cross our southern border and attack us, causing complete social chaos, martial law, and national destabilization. That's GOOD because it's not a plan from God to judge us. It's a "scheme of Satan." That means it can be stopped, or at least lessened by prayer! *Will you give the government a LOAN of your wisdom, sense of right and wrong, ability to tell the truth, and diligence? You can LOAN them these things when you pray for them!*

2. OUR GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-ISRAEL POLICY.

I've counted seven major prophetic voices who have seen visions of God cutting the United States in two pieces right up the New Madrid fault—making the Mississippi River as wide as one of the great lakes and stopping all cross-continental ground traffic! These prophetic people have said this judgment is on hold until and if our government forces Israel to divide Jerusalem. Eleven million people live in close proximity to this fault. It's not a subduction fault where one plate is diving under another. It's the kind of fault that splits continents. Yet everything our government says shows their intention to pressure Israel to divide Jerusalem. Israel WILL go to war against Iran and the United States WILL have to become involved. A peace agreement that traps Israel and forces them to divide Jerusalem would cause catastrophic judgment upon this nation.

3. PROVOKING RUSSIA.

Our government's policy of talking trash about Putin and Russia have resulted in Russia bonding tightly with the Communist Chinese and Iran. Now those nations and others have decided not to buy oil with American dollars. The "petro-dollar" or the use of the dollar as a reserve currency for the world is coming to an end. And the sanctions against Russia are hastening this. The loss of the dollar as the reserve currency of the world, by itself, would reduce our life-styles by 20% or more!

4. LAX SECURITY AT OUR 145 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

I recommend that you read the book NUCLEAR TERRORIST. Our nuclear power plants have no place to store spent fuel rods. They have to be kept on sight in cooling pools. There is very little security at these power plants. In fact, a nun and two other peace-nicks broke into one and spent several hours inside before they were arrested. Instead of being rewarded for demonstrating how little security is at these plants our Justice Department prosecuted them and put them in prison for years.

Cyber security is also lacking. We see our largest banks and department stores (J.P. Morgan Bank, Home Depot and Target) being hacked. Our own CIA cooperating with Israel created a computer virus that devastated Iran's nuclear power plants and has hindered them from making an atomic bomb. Now our enemies realize that they can do

likewise to us. If a computer virus shut down the cooling facilities at one or more of these nuclear power plants, the results could be catastrophic.

Not only could nuclear fuel be stolen to make dirty bombs that could destroy cities, the nuclear plants themselves could be disabled causing Chernobyl types of disasters. One such power plant is in New York and forty million people would have to flee for their lives if it was disabled.

5. SPENDING INTO OBLIVION.

What will happen when the dollar collapses and the government cannot pay the entitlements that half the nation is depending on? Riots, martial law, starvation? How can we defend our nation with a strong military if we can no longer borrow money? It won't just be economic hardship, but it will imperil our very lives because of huge cuts in funding our national defense.

6. FAILURE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL POWER GRID FROM AN EMP EVENT.

EMP stands for electro-magnetic pulse. In 1857 there was a huge EMP released from the Sun that turned skies red and burned up telegraph equipment. The nation wasn't dependent upon electricity then. If such an event happened now it is estimated 9 out of 10 Americans would die! Nothing electrical would work for months. Newt Gingrich has been leading an effort to get our Congress to appropriate two billion dollars to upgrade our national power grid. It is possible to put safeguards in place so that the whole system wouldn't be fried in case of a natural disaster of this type.

Yet, in spite of spending 1,500 billion dollars a year, our government hasn't spent the necessary money to protect our lives. Even countries like North Korea have the capacity to send a rocket that would burst an atomic bomb in the atmosphere, say 20 miles above the earth. That would create a man-made EMP called a HEMP, or High altitude electro-magnetic pulse. Our enemies know this, and we are sitting ducks.

**** The Amish people live without modern electricity. We can buy books that tell us how to live off the power grid, and that's part of the preparations we could make to feel like we're doing something to be prepared and to protect our families. But the greatest thing we could do would be to pray hard and earnestly for those in authority to get with it and protect our power grid.

7. PERHAPS THE GREATEST PROBLEM IS LEADERS LEADING INTO— SIN!

**** King David took a census to number all the troops in Israel. (See 2 Samuel 24.) God regarded this as idolatry because David would have been trusting in numbers of troops instead of trusting in the God who had delivered him over and over. As a result, God struck the nation with a plague and 70,000 people died because of it. David, himself, begged God to strike him and his own family. He said, **“What have these sheep done?”** Not even David understood the ramifications of authority figures bringing guilt on those they govern by promoting sin.

**** No nation or culture in history has ever instituted gay marriage as the law of the land—not even Sodom! When governments legalize and promote sinful things it brings judgment on those under their authority—unless God marks them for deliverance because of their intimate fellowship with Him.

Now this list could go on and on. My point is to show you that without our prayers our government certainly will get millions of American's killed. We must get this: we pray for them FOR OUR OWN SAKES, THAT WE MAY LIVE AND NOT DIE, AND THAT IN LIVING WE MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE PEACEFUL LIVES.

3. WHEN HAS INTERCESSION EVER CHANGED THE MINDS OF LEADERS?

Luke 18:1-8 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

**** You see that this judge did the right thing, but for the wrong reason. He gave the widow justice, but not for the sake of justice or doing right. In the same way, we can pray that God will cause unjust leaders to do the right thing, even if it is for the wrong reason. President Lyndon Johnson signed civil rights laws making sure blacks could vote and be treated with equal rights as whites. But he and his family didn't do that out of love for black people. They did it for political reasons.

Johnson boasted he would get blacks voting democratic tickets for 200 years! So he did the right thing, but for the wrong reason, just as the unjust judge Jesus spoke of. *That gives us hope. If we think our prayers, to be successful, must transform a corrupt politician into a saint, then we have misunderstood our assignment.*

**** Another encouraging story from the Bible is about the King of Assyria. God had raised him up as a battle-ax of judgment upon the surrounding nations and against the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Yet when he went too far, and blasphemed God Himself, God heard the prayers of King Hezekiah and of the prophet Isaiah and promised them that He, God, would put His hook in the nose of the King of Assyria and make him return the way he came. In other words, God made him do something he didn't want to do! **2 Kings 19:28 Because you rage against me and because your insolence has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came.'**

**** A big strong bull can be led around on a string when a ring (or hook) is put in his tender nose. A run-away stallion can be stopped when the bit in his mouth is pulled down hard on his tongue. In other words, God can make a king of this world DO WHAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO DO and God can make a king of this world STOP DOING WHAT HE REALY WANTS TO DO. This evil king came to destroy Jerusalem but instead the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 of his troops and he went back up the road to Assyria in shame and defeat—where he didn't want to go!

**** A study of the Second World War shows that Hitler made some decisions that caused his own defeat. Surely it was the prayers of God's people that caused this to

happen. For instance, his huge air force was bombing the radar installations in Brittan and if he had continued to destroy them, the Royal Air Force would not have known when formations of German bombers were approaching. But he abruptly ordered the German air force to STOP attacking radar installations and to bomb the London civilian population! While this look terrible for the British, it's actually what saved them. The radar installations stayed up and running, giving their brave pilots the knowledge of when the enemy was coming, where they were, and how many there were. As a result, the Battle of Brittan was won; the German air force lost so many planes that the tide of the war was turned.

Hitler, against the advice of his generals, also decided to attack Russia instead of finishing off the British. This resulted in war on two fronts and his eventual defeat and annihilation. It had to be God answering the desperate prayers of His own that caused Hitler to make decisions that doomed him and led to Allied victory.

4. THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYERS TO BE PRAYED.

Look at our text again. 1 Tim. 2:1-4 **“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”**

1. Requests or petitions. *This is where we ask God to cause a leader to do the right thing, whether they want to or not.* God made Pharaoh release the Israelites from Egypt, although he clearly didn't want to. “Lord, make them do what YOU want them to do, for the sake of YOUR people. We ask you to MOVE them, INFLUENCE them, WARN them, CONVICT them, and CAUSE them to do the right thing, even if in their hearts it's for the wrong reason.”

We can request that God will show them right from wrong, convict them of sin, lead them into all truth, or pressure them in some way to do what is right. We make requests like this FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S PEOPLE, so that we can live and not die, and that in living, it would be peaceful and quiet or godly.

We can also request that God will raise up godly associates under them, people like Daniel, Joseph and Mordecai who were not kings, but who bore great responsibility in government and had great influence upon kings.

2. Prayers. My opinion is that the difference here is that we ASK those in authority what they would like us to pray for. No matter who they are, they have problems, fears, difficulties, sick relatives, and needs of various kinds. It's a loving thing to do to ASK them what they'd like us to pray for. There are a few atheistic people who would be offended by someone volunteering to pray for them, but the vast majority would feel honored and loved and cared for. If our prayers are effective, and if their needs get met because of prayer, it promotes tremendous good will towards God's people and may lead to the conversion of the person in authority. The Bible says, **“This pleases God.”**

3. Intercession: This is where we pray for their conversion, for them to be delivered from deceptions of Satan. We pray on their behalf that they'll be delivered from powerful criminal people who threaten them with death unless they vote a certain way or veto a

certain bill or pervert judgment in court. We intercede for them to be delivered from temptation and resulting blackmail. Many in authority are offered all kinds of temptations and when they succumb these incidents are often secretly filmed and documented for the purpose of blackmail. We can intercede that those in authority would be made bold to resist special interest groups at the expense of the majority.

We must remember that Satan wants to control those in authority and will use every tactic of bribery, temptation, coercion, blackmail, and death threats to get his way. Only God knows how many of our judges are threatened or bribed to pervert justice on behalf of some group that has lots of money and lots of hired killers.

**** Intercession can also involve forgiveness. When an official causes us pain and hardship, we can forgive them. This gives God a legal right to use our pain as a justification to reveal Himself to those who aren't seeking Him. I call this putting your pain in the bank of heaven. You can get a marvelous return on your pain when you truly forgive.

4. Thanksgiving. I don't believe we have to thank God for wicked rulers, except to thank Him that He has said **The Lord works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster” (Proverbs 16:4)**. Prayers of this nature would be to say, “Thank you Lord for all the people who are trying to protect us from terrorists. Thank you for all the people in our armed services who are trying to protect us from enemy attack. Thank you for all the righteous people at every level of government. Thank you for our police and firefighters. Thank you for all who govern diligently and honor You.

If a person in authority is a notorious rascal then use requests and intercession. If they are worthy, use prayers and thanksgiving.

5. WHAT IF WE FEEL THAT OUR PRAYERS HAVE GONE UNANSWERED?

Psalm 35:13 (NKJV) **But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.**

Now compare this verse with something Jesus said, **“As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you” (Matthew 10:12-13)**.

In the first reference we see that if the people are unworthy of a good prayer the prayer will return to bless the heart of the one who prayed it, doing good to that intercessor.

In the second reference we see that if we speak a blessing upon an unworthy person our blessing can come back and return to us, blessing us.

**** Rather than be discouraged at blessing unworthy houses, we should be encouraged to bless all the more, since the peace and the blessing can return to us and bless us. It is the same with prayer. A loving prayer, prayed for an unworthy person, can return to us as a blessing.

**** This should not seem so strange. A curse spoken against others can come back to curse us, so why not prayers and blessings? **Psalm 109:17 He loved to pronounce a curse— may it come back on him. He found no pleasure in blessing—may it be far from him.**

The words that come out of our mouths either bless or hurt us first. So why not pray kind and good prayers for those in authority and not stop praying just because we perceive that they are unworthy? Our prayers, blessings and peace can come back to bless us. Perhaps we should be praying that God will protect our leaders from Ebola and terrorists and save their families from financial ruin. Those would be good prayers and blessings to come back to us—meaning, if God can't answer a prayer like that for an unworthy person He can answer that prayer for us.

**** Why would a good God place a wicked person over a nation as their leader? Remember when Israel wanted a king? They rejected God as king and asked for a man to be their king. To the degree that a nation does not want God to rule over them, God will give them a leader that is not like God. This principle can be seen in its extreme in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, **The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**

So if 80% of a nation rejects God and wants a leader that is not like God, God will give them an ungodly leader. But He can still intervene and cause that leader to do the right thing for the sake of those who want God to rule over them—if they will pray for those in authority.

6. OUR PRAYERS FOR WICKED LEADERS CAN HASTEN GOD'S JUSTMENT AGAINST THEM.

There may be cases where believers need to pray that some corrupt leader will be removed, but in my thinking, that is probably not necessary. All we have to do is to pray that God will show them the right thing to do very clearly and give them the courage and wisdom to carry it out. Then, if they reject that, it will hasten God's judgment upon them.

**** A case in point is King Herod, the one who had the Apostle James killed with the sword (Acts 12). He arrested Peter and intended to put him to death, also. The church prayed around the clock for Peter, and many of them probably asked God to show King Herod to release Peter. After all, when Peter was taken out of maximum-security confinement by an angel they were all shocked and surprised, so it's not likely that they had prayed specifically for that to happen! If my theory is correct, and many of them prayed that King Herod would be shown by God the right and just thing to do, then perhaps his refusal to do that hastened his judgment and destruction.

Not long after Peter was released from jail by an angel King Herod gave a speech and the people began to cry out, **"This is the voice of a god, not a man."** Herod didn't give glory to God, and an angel struck him. Worse, the Bible says he was eaten by worms and died. He didn't have a bad case of worms before the angel struck him. These worms were the very worms of hell that never die and they were allowed to come up from hell, consume Herod's body, and welcome him into eternal damnation. So if many prayers are made for a ruler to be shown what is right and he or she still chooses what is wrong it will increase and hasten God's judgments against that leader.

Remember this proverb requited and explained by the Apostle Paul, **On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”** (Romans 12:20) Meet your enemy’s need, and if this doesn’t change him, it will hasten his judgment by God. In the case of those in authority, they **NEED** our prayers for wisdom and courage to do what is right.

7. THIS CALLS FOR US TO REPENT AND MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

I remember reading in one of Kenneth E. Hagin’s books that Jesus told him President Nixon’s failures were in large part due to the failures of God’s people to pray for him. Jesus also said that His own people would be shocked at judgment day when President Nixon’s failings were attributed, in large part, to them for their own sins of omission! I read that then, but never really comprehended it.

I wish I had realized these things years ago. All I can do is ask God to forgive me, and set out now to pray earnestly for all those in authority. I will be praying that God raises up godly marshals and sheriffs and leaders of various kinds. Please join me in repenting for our many failures to understand and obey the Holy Spirit’s instruction through the Apostle Paul. Please join me in making up for lost time by praying earnestly and often for all in authority—that we may live, and live peacefully at that.

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.