



# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Alaska to Hawaii

## HEAL OUR LAND

The command of Scripture to pray “for kings and for all that are in authority” always leaves me feeling inefficient and inept.<sup>1</sup> After I pray, I usually wonder if I could have done a better job. This may be because of my lack of knowledge of government processes, the large dimension of the task, or even the normal leadership of my heart to pray for one small thing at a time. Ordinarily, my heart leads me to pray for an individual, a city, a church, or a business, so to sweep past the entity of government seems to be an impossible assignment.

For many years, Wayne and I prayed for our street and the surrounding east side of our city. We saw marvelous results. A dilapidated house was repaired; an enclosed garage was refurbished; an interim pastor provided efficient leadership; and so much more. God answers prayer.

I frequently share many of these great works with the classes I teach. As a result, one lady began to pray for her street and her community. Over time, she moved to a new community and no longer prayed for the former. It didn’t matter, she said, because there were no visible changes in the old community anyway. But later, she had occasion to visit her former community and was surprised that it had greatly deteriorated. It was then that she realized God had answered her prayers. Her

community had been sustained because she prayed.

I could envy the people who “see the big picture.” Yet that is not usually my place before God. I see details. When I pray for governments, I pray for major cities, specific states, and certain elected officials. I stand beside a well-known river, in a particular high school, or in a county courthouse, and one by one I carry them before God’s throne.

**We don’t wait until a contrite nation bows in prayer and repentance. We pray! We repent!**

Recently, however, as I studied God’s Word on governments and nations, my vision was mightily enlarged. I’ve studied this subject many times, yet this time was different. Oh, I love the revelation of the Holy Spirit. He teaches us, guides us into truth, and tells us about tomorrow.<sup>2</sup> He is a wonderful, necessary friend! Truly, He has increased my understanding and my vision of God’s work in governments and nations.

The Scripture declares that some “despise government and speak evil of dignities.”<sup>3</sup> Does that sound familiar? In the Old Testament, God’s people murmured against Moses and Aaron, God’s chosen leaders.<sup>4</sup> It would be great to report that it only happened one time, but this

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would not be the truth. It became a pattern and God was not pleased.

The first king of Israel, Saul, also displeased God. Because he was disobedient to God's command, God said, "I repent that I made Saul reign as king."<sup>5</sup> Through Saul's rebellion, he was rejected as king.

Now, what are God's instructions when people reject chosen leadership or an appointed king disobeys His commands? Is there any good news? Yes! Yes! Yes! God has said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."<sup>6</sup> What a grand promise! **I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.** In Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary, the Hebrew word "land" is defined as country, earth, field, ground, land, nations, wilderness and world.<sup>7</sup>

Truly, God loves lands, nations and countries. In Psalm 27, the psalmist said he expected the goodness of God in the LAND of the living.<sup>8</sup> He knew the grace and mercy of God would deliver him from his enemies. He anticipated God's blessings in the LAND. In like manner, after the prophet Malachi reminded God's people to tithe, he stated "All nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful LAND." Then in the book of Revelation the apostle John describes the great city Jerusalem that descends out of heaven. The magnitude of that city is beyond description, but there is something beyond the grandeur of the city to be considered. The Word of God declares, "The NATIONS of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it."<sup>9</sup>

Oh, that will be a great day! But before that great day comes, we have a divine assignment. We must PRAY! In the day of Israel's captivity, Daniel sought the Lord by prayer and fasting.<sup>10</sup> First, he confessed Israel's sin. He said, "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly and have rebelled."<sup>11</sup> Here, we must note that this was not Israel's prayer as

a nation, but Daniel's prayer for Israel. Daniel testified, "All this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities."<sup>12</sup> Israel did not pray. Daniel prayed, and as Daniel prayed and confessed his sin and the sin of Israel, the angel Gabriel came.

Doesn't this encourage us? Remember what the Lord said to Solomon. If MY people shall pray and turn from their wicked ways, **I WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.** We don't wait until a contrite nation bows in prayer and repentance. *We* pray! *We* repent! Isn't that what God said?

What is accomplished when we pray? The Word of the Lord to Timothy gives our objective. It is "a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty."<sup>13</sup> A quiet life is a life that is not surrendered to trouble or agitated by trouble. A peaceful life is one free from disturbance. This peace begins in the spirit of man and extends to the circumstances that surround him. It is peace beyond our understanding. It is God at work in us and through us to lands and nations.

Today, we covet God's peace and quietness in our nation. As we petition our God, we echo the words of Daniel. "We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you [God] are so merciful."<sup>14</sup> We follow the example of Moses who prayed asking God to pardon Israel "according to the greatness of [His] mercy."<sup>15</sup>

We pray, asking God for mercy, and as we pray, we are confident because God's "tender mercies are over all his works."<sup>16</sup> We are assured when we as His people repent and turn from our wickedness, He will **HEAL OUR LAND.**

Why? Because He is good and His mercy endures forever.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ti 2:2 <sup>2</sup>Jn 16:13 <sup>3</sup>2Pe 2:10 <sup>4</sup>Ex 16:2; Num 14:2; Num 16:41 <sup>5</sup>1Sam 15:11 LITV <sup>6</sup>2Chr 7:14 <sup>7</sup>H776 <sup>8</sup>Ps 27:13 <sup>9</sup>Rev 21:24 <sup>10</sup>Dan 9:3 <sup>11</sup>Dan 9:5 <sup>12</sup>Dan 9:13 <sup>13</sup>1Ti 2:2 <sup>14</sup>Dan 9:18 NLT <sup>15</sup>Num 14:19 <sup>16</sup>Ps 145:9 <sup>17</sup>Ps 107:1

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