



Pray for the Nation ~ INOI MO TE MOTU

Intercessors for New Zealand

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The LORD said, "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

MARCH 2020

"The authority ... is God's servant for your good." "I urge that prayers ... be made for all who are in high positions [authority], so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and dignity."

See Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Timothy 2:1-3

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Saturday 19 September

Our Prime Minister has announced that our General Election this year will be held on **Saturday 19 September**. In the meantime:

- Parties will select their candidates to stand for election in the various electorates.
- Policy issues will be discussed and decided regarding what positions each Party will take on various important issues.
- Leadership of Parties may also be discussed, and changes may be made.
- Debates and advertising will occur especially closer to the election date.
- At present, the following Parties have seats in Parliament: Labour, National, Greens, NZ First and ACT.

Please pray concerning the above, and also other issues affecting the lead up to the elections, and the final outcome of our new Parliament.

'END-OF-LIFE CHOICE' BILL

Euthanasia

At the same time as the General Elections, there will be a Referendum on whether people should, under certain circumstances, be allowed to choose to die rather than continue to live. The result of the **public vote** on this issue **will be** binding on the Government and, if passed, will allow euthanasia to become legal. The passing of this Bill is literally a matter of life or death, and will obviously have very serious consequences.

Please pray concerning the **public's** vote on this issue; if the majority of the public vote in favour, it will mean that euthanasia can be legally practiced.

'LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS' BILL

There will also be a second Referendum on whether New Zealand should legalise the "recreational use" of cannabis. Cannabis is already used for medicinal purposes; this Bill seeks to allow it to be used by people for personal use (like smoking, vaping, drinking alcohol). This Referendum is **not** binding on the new Government to be elected. Members of Parliament can vote either way, but will know how the general public have voted.

Please pray concerning the public's voting on this issue, and whether or not the Bill is finally passed by Parliament.

ABORTION LAW CHANGE?

An Abortion Bill, which will probably be debated and voted on, in the next month or so (well before our elections in September!) if passed, would do away with the present laws on abortion, and make abortions simply a part of our Health laws. Submissions – written and oral – have already been considered by a Select Committee. A Referendum on this proposed change will **not** be held, while one on the legalisation of cannabis will be held! Are human lives less important than smoking cannabis?

92% of the more than **25,000** written submissions were opposed to this Bill. **95%** of the people who wanted to make oral submissions were refused, because 'too many people wanted to speak to the Select Committee'. So only 120 MPs will decide the future of unborn New Zealanders – life or death, based on the decision of 'Health Practitioners', who don't even have to be Medical Practitioners!

This year, a huge amount of time, effort, money and inconvenience has been caused by the Coronavirus. So far, **1800** people have died because of this virus. But on average, every 8 weeks about **2040** NZ babies have their lives terminated by abortion! A total of 550,000 babies (equal to one third of Auckland's population) have been aborted since January 1974.

For further information about this issue, please see Family First's website:

<https://www.familyfirst.org.nz/category/media/>

- **Please pray** for the protection of the lives of unborn babies, and for their mothers.
- **Pray** for our MPs, that this Bill will NOT be passed.
- **Especially pray** during the next few weeks when the Bill will be debated and voted on.
- **Pray against** this law change with its impacts and undesirable effects on our society and all those people involved in every abortion.

HOPE PROJECT – Easter

Around Easter, this year's 'Hope for All' booklets will be distributed to almost every home in our country. These will be distributed by volunteers from local churches. Nearly the whole country is covered, but pastors in Auckland churches who can help in areas not yet covered, please see www.AllTogether.co.nz/Auckland

Promotional and other materials, etc., for all churches, and how to **donate** to this work can be found at www.AllTogether.co.nz/

Please pray for:

- This very important way of sharing the good news of **Hope for All**, throughout our country.
- Enough volunteers to cover the whole country.
- God will bless and use these booklets, and other personal witness, to bring people to salvation, and restore those Christians who have stopped actively following the Lord.

SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS

Praise God for the welfare system we have in NZ. The Main Benefits include Job Seekers; Student Hardship; Sole Parents; Young Parents; Supported Living; Emergency. About 314,000 working-age people receive these benefits, which is 10.5% of our working-age population. As well, 320,000 people receive Accommodation

Supplements; and in the December 2019 quarter, there were 573,000 Hardship Assistant grants and 383,000 Special Needs grants. So a lot of our people are being helped in these and other ways, through our welfare system. Many people do not realise the extent of the help given.

Source: Ministry of Social Development's *Benefit Fact Sheets* (December 2019 Quarter)

- **Please pray** for people who receive this help and for ways out of their need and dependency.
- Pray too for people with other needs like the homeless, poverty, unemployed, etc.

PRAYER@PARLIAMENT

Thursday 12 March

The first Prayer@Parliament gathering for this year will be held at 7.20 pm on 12 March in the Banquet Hall in the Beehive building (*not* the Grand Hall as usual). Everyone is welcome but **must** register by 5 March. Usually about 30-50 people come from *outside* the Greater Wellington area – so come if you can! Register at www.prayeratparliament.org.nz

Please pray for:

- The Speakers.
- MPs who will attend. Over the last couple of years about 10-12 different MPs have attended.
- Prayer sessions will cover: our coming General Elections; the Cannabis Referendum; Christian participation in this Election.
- Prayerful people who long to see God moving powerfully in our land, saving and transforming many people's lives, destroying strongholds of the enemy and turning us into a more God-seeking, righteous nation, with Godly leaders in all areas of society.

PILLARS OF SOCIETY

During 2018 and 2019, our monthly *Prayer Letters* contained a series of Bible Studies on 12 major pillars of society. These have now been compiled into an online book of the same name, '**Pillars of Society**'. Each chapter has Questions for further thought or discussion, and Prayer Suggestions for private or group prayer times.

The book can be read online, downloaded and printed. It is available on our website at

<https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/resources/pillars.pdf>



REVIVE US AGAIN!

2

Some Biblical Principles of Revival

Any assessment of more recent revivals, which have occurred since the Bible was written, should be examined in the light of Biblical principles, rather than vice versa. That is, we do not interpret the Bible by means of present-day experiences; we interpret experiences in terms of the Bible.

A key verse

2 Chronicles 7:14 is a key verse. God has promised blessing as a result of obedience, punishment for disobedience, and forgiveness where there is repentance. For example, Leviticus 26 shows:

- God's promised blessings on obedience (verses 3-13)
- God's threat of judgement on disobedience and sin (verses 14-39)
- God's promise of forgiveness when there is true repentance (verses 40-45)

This is summed up in 2 Chronicles 7:14 in the words:

"If **My** people, who are called by My Name, will ...

- humble themselves
- pray
- seek My face, and
- turn from their wicked ways

then I will ...

- hear from Heaven
- forgive their sin, and
- heal their land"

Read 2 Chronicles 7:12-22 for the full context of this verse.

God's conditions call on **His people** (not the world as a whole) to humble themselves (and this is often related to fasting as well), to pray, to really seek His face, to repent and turn from their wicked ways. It is always easy to judge others for their sin, but God is calling the **Church** to repentance! (See 1 Peter 4:17).

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, God's tells the churches 8 times to repent!

Then God promises to hear our prayers, forgive our sin and bring healing to our land, physically as well as spiritually.

Key books of the Bible on revival

Some key books which illustrate revival and revival principles are:

Judges

Israel had declined as a result of compromise, idolatry, inter-marriage and immorality. God raised up 12 successive judges to bring them back to Himself. In the book of Judges we see successive cycles of sin, suffering (judgement and usually defeat), repentance, prayer, forgiveness, deliverance and blessing (e.g., Judges 3:7-11). Unfortunately Israel never seemed to learn the lesson, and they went through the cycle again and again!

2 Chronicles

The first seven chapters of 2 Chronicles deal with Solomon's building of the Temple, its dedication, the glory of the Lord descending on it, and God's words to Solomon of both warning and promise of blessing.

After Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Judah went through a succession of kings, some of whom turned their backs on God and led Judah into times of apostasy. Other kings were Godly and led their nation back to God and into times of revival. Five such Godly kings, mentioned in 2 Chronicles, were Asa (ch. 14-16), Jehoshaphat (ch. 17-20), Joash (ch. 24), Hezekiah (ch. 29-32) and Josiah (ch. 34-35).

Some of the principles of revival found in these chapters are as follows. It is interesting to see very similar patterns in each case.

The key features of each of these revivals were:

1. Idols were removed.
2. Although there were attacks from enemy nations, through prayer and seeking God, victory was won.
3. Repentance.
4. Vows to God were renewed.
5. There was a restoration of the Temple, sacrifice (which speaks of cleansing from sin) and a sanctifying of the people.
6. There was a restoration of worship and the Word of God, the Law.
7. Prophets played a prominent part in these periods of revival.
8. Tragically, all of the kings failed in some area, and in some cases their lives ended in defeat rather than in victory.

Ezra and Nehemiah

These two books will be dealt with in a later study.

Joel

Joel's prophecy called the people back to God, in true repentance, so that God would forgive and bless them, and pour out His Spirit upon them.

Jonah

Jonah's preaching caused the city of Nineveh to repent and be forgiven, thus averting God's judgement on it for its wickedness.

Haggai

When the people neglected God and His House (the Temple), and were busy renovating their own houses instead, God called His people to remember Him and to rebuild His Temple.

The Gospels

Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law and to do what the Law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

By writing God's Law on men's hearts, and through the impartation of the Holy Spirit and the new birth (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:25-27), people were restored to a right relationship with God. Thus, through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the experience of being born again, the greatest of all personal revivals began.

Acts

The New Testament Church was born the day Jesus rose from the dead, triumphant over death and hell, and breathed His Holy Spirit into His disciples (John 20:19-22). Forty days of Jesus' appearances and instructions followed, then ten days of prayer in the upper room, before the Day of Pentecost finally came and the greatest of all revivals in Biblical times began. "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me ..." (Acts 1:8). "So being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, they ..." [began to witness in the power of the Spirit] (Acts 13:4). "... the Lord worked with them and confirmed the Word with [miraculous] signs following" (Mark 16:20).

QUESTIONS

1. How do recent revivals compare with the principles of revival outlined in this study?
2. To what sort of situations can 2 Chronicles 7:14 justifiably be applied?
3. Must we forever repeat the mistakes of the past and continue in the cycle of sin, suffering, repentance and blessing; or can we live in "continuous revival"?
4. What message has Haggai for our country today?
5. What were the failures of Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah?
6. What part should prophets play in a present-day revival?

2 Chronicles 7:11-20

Solomon finished the house of the LORD ... Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is **no rain**, or command the **locust** to devour the land, or send **pestilence** among My people, if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ... But if you turn aside and forsake My statutes and My commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will pluck you up from the land that I have given you; and this house, which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples."