

THE GLORY OF ENCOUNTERING GOD - THE CHURCH AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

TRANSMISSION CHURCH

—BRIAN BEESON

Session 2: The Church as a House of Prayer

I. THE CHURCH AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

A. Jesus said that the Church *He is building* (Mt. 16:15–19) is to function as a *House of Prayer* (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46). Before He returns the Church will embrace this calling as it walks as a *mature Bride* in identity (Rev. 19:7; 22:17). The Church is beginning to reflect this reality under the leadership of Jesus.

7 ...For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations [ethnos, Gk].” (Isa. 56:7)

¹³And He [Jesus] said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer.’” (Mt. 21:13)

B. The *House of Prayer* describes what we do in our *function* as a kingdom of priests who eternally minister to God. (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 21:13; Mk. 11:17; Lk. 19:46; Rev. 1:6; 5:10).

¹⁰ “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to [serve, NIV] our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” (Rev. 5:10) [NASB]

C. The priestly ministry of prayer is the *primary way* God releases His governmental power through Jesus and His people, now and forever (1 Pet. 1:5, 9; Heb. 3:1; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:4; 22:5). This is seen in Jesus engaging in intercession *forever* (Ps. 110:4; Isa. 53:12; Lk. 22:32; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:14–28; 1 Jn. 2:1).

²¹“...You [Jesus] are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”... ²⁴But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. (Heb. 7:17–24)

D. Our priestly ministry consists of many roles that we do before God as we “serve Him” (2 Chron. 8:14; 31:2; Isa. 56:6; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). The priestly ministry allows for the Kingdom of God to be established on earth.

1. *Consecration (beautiful, clean garments)*. Prepared for God, living holy, motivated from a burning-heart (Ex. 28–29; Mat. 22:11; Eph. 1:4; 5:27; 1 Pet. 1:15–16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:13; 3:4–5, 18; 19:14; 1:6; 5:10).
2. *Praise and blessing God* - (Deut. 10:8; 1 Chron. 23:13; Neh. 9:5; Ps. 134:1–3; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Rev. 5:12–13; 7:10; 15:3–4; 19:5). This also includes the giving of thanks (1 Cor. 14:16; 1 Tim. 2:1)
3. *Meditation (Communion with God)* - Dialoguing with the Lord about His Word and gazing on His beauty (Deut. 6:6–7; 17:18–19; Josh 1:7–8; Mal. 2:7; Ps. 1:2–3; 27:4; John 15:7–9; 1 Cor. 2:8–10).
4. *Supplications* - Talking with God, requests for needs (1 Chron. 23:13; Ex. 30:8; 2 Chron. 29:11; Mat. 6:9–13; Acts 1:4, 12–14; 1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6; Rev. 5:8; 8:1–3).
5. *Intercession* - Asking for the things on God's heart with faith-filled words of agreement (1 Chron. 23:13; Ex. 30:8; 2 Chron. 29:11; Luke 18:7; 1 Tim. 2:1; Rom. 8:34; Rev. 5:8; 8:1–3).
6. *Blessing and teaching the people* (Mal. 2:7; Nu.6:22–27; Lev. 9:23; Mat. 28:18–20; Mk. 16:15–18)

II. THE CENTRALITY OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER IN HUMAN HISTORY

A. Adam and Eve primary ministry was prayer as they walked and talked with God (Gen. 2:15; 3:8)

⁸ And they [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day [expecting to meet with Adam and Eve]... (Gen. 3:8)

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- B. When God birthed Israel as a nation, they had a great prayer meeting at Mt. Sinai where God set the mountain on fire when He called them as a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6–20; cf. 8:1). God gave the Law in order for them to maintain a holy lifestyle (Ex. 20) and He instructed them to build a sanctuary to encounter Him (Ex. 25).

⁵ Now therefore, if you [nation of Israel] will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’... (Ex. 19:5–6)

- C. God’s purpose for His people to be a “house of prayer” can be seen clearly in the reign of David. David established worship in the house of God, led by singers and musicians (1 Chr. 15–16) who “were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night” (1 Chr. 9:33). David financed more than four thousand full-time, paid musicians and singers (1 Chr. 23:5, 7; 25:7).

¹ David... prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it... ¹⁶ David spoke to the... Levites to appoint... singers accompanied by instruments of music... (1 Chr. 15:1, 16)

⁵ 4,000 were gatekeepers, and 4,000 praised the Lord with musical instruments... The number...instructed in the songs of the Lord...who were skillful, was 288. (1 Chr. 23:5, 7)

- D. David commanded the kings of Israel in the generations after him to maintain worship in the house of the Lord in the way that God had revealed to him. Each time the Davidic order of worship was reestablished in Israel, a spiritual breakthrough with a military victory soon followed: *Solomon* (2 Chr. 8:14); *Jehoshaphat* (2 Chr. 20:21f.); *Jehoida/Jehoash* (2 Chr. 23:18); *Hezekiah* (2 Chr. 29:25-27); *Josiah* (2 Chr. 35:3-15); *Zerubbabel* (Ezra 3:10); *Ezra and Nehemiah* (Neh. 12:47).

²⁵He [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals...according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the LORD. (2 Chr. 29:25)

- E. Jesus began his public ministry in the wilderness in a prayer meeting (Mark 1:12–15; Luke 4:1–2, 14–15). When He came out of the wilderness, His ministry shook all of Galilee. During his earthly ministry He spent long hours in prayer (Mk. 1:35; 6:46; Lk. 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 28–29; 11:1). Jesus ended his public ministry in Gethsemane while praying (Mat. 26:36, 39, 41–44).

- F. The early Church was born in a prayer meeting. After Jesus’ ascension into heaven, the apostles continued in prayer until the Lord sent the Spirit upon all 120 followers on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4, 12–15). God comes in a prayer movement, not in a vacuum.

¹⁴These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. (Acts 1:14)

- G. Prayer was priority for the apostles in the New Testament Church (Acts 2:42; 3:1; 4:23–31; 6:4; 12:14; 16:16). Prayer was one of their primary duties. There are over 30 prayers in the Bible the apostles used to pray for the Church (Acts 4:24–31; Rom. 10:1; 15:5–7; 13; 16:25–27; 1 Cor. 1:4–8; 3:9–13; Eph. 1:17–19; 3:16–19; Phil 1:9–11; Col. 1:9–12; 4:2–4; 1 Thes. 1:11–12; 3:9–13; 5:23–24; 2 Thes. 3:1–5; 2 Peter 1:2–3; 3:18; Rev. 22:17, 20).

⁴²They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship...and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

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H. The apostles were very committed to their prayer lives (Acts 6:4). Paul embraced night-and-day prayer in various seasons and called widows to this ministry (1 Thes. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:5; 2 Tim. 1:3).

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4)

I. In Revelation 4–5 we see human beings at the height of government whose primary occupation is worship and prayer (Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5–6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16–18; 14:3; 19:4). These twenty-four elders hold harps (music) and bowls (filled with prayers) as they minister to the Lord on His throne (Rev. 5:8). This is their delight and their primary way of exercising influence—agreeing with what the Father shows them with faith-filled words of agreement. God tells us that what is in heaven we should bring to earth (Mat. 6:10).

⁸ Now when He [Jesus] had taken the scroll...the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 5:8)

J. Unlike any other time in human history—there are 20,000 places of prayer that have sprung up. They may only be hosting corporate prayer a few hours a week, but 10–20 years ago they did not exist.

III. RESTORING THE DAVIDIC ORDER IN THE CHURCH BEFORE THE LORD RETURNS

A. Before the Lord returns, He said He would rebuild “the tabernacle of David,” which is a spirit of prayer in the Church accompanied by beauty-driven encounter and worship. He linked its resurgence to a strategy in how to reach Muslim peoples (ancient Edom) as well as the a great harvest of souls before His return. (Acts 15:15–17)

¹¹ On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹²That they may possess the remnant of Edom [Modern Jordan], and all the Gentiles who are called by My name... (Amos 9:11–12)

B. In 1983, after twenty-one days of corporate fasting and prayer, the Lord spoke to Mike Bickle through a prophetic man that “***I will establish 24-hour prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David.***” In 1999, IHOPKC launched unceasing prayer meetings combined with music that has not ceased since.

C. The Holy Spirit is birthing corporate prayer services world-wide these past few decades (Mal. 1:11). Since serving at the International House of Prayer missions base (IHOPKC), we have met numerous church leaders stirred to build prayer services and places to encounter God with worship and prayer. Story of Rwandan pastor.

¹¹ For from the rising of the sun [east], even to its going down [west], My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense [prayers] shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering... (Mal. 1:11)

D. Amos linked the *restoration* of the Davidic order and the *acceleration* of the great harvest (vs. 11-12) to the generation of the *replanting* of the nation of Israel to her land forever (vs. 14–15; cf. Zech. 13:8–9; 14:1–4). We are alive in this generation—this is one of the things the Lord is doing in this generation!

¹⁴ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel [1948]... ¹⁵ I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land... (Am. 9:14–15)