

**AN INVITATION TO THE CIRCLE OF UNBROKEN PRAYER:
IN CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST DAY OF LENT/VALENTINE'S DAY**

By Beth Coppedge

In Scripture there are many references to the idea of God's marvelous willingness to rebuild and restore all that has been devastated by sin and willful disobedience to Him. One of these passages is in Isaiah 61:4. This is the passage Jesus used when He preached His first sermon in His hometown of Nazareth! When the message was finished Jesus told the people, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:1). Jesus was telling the people that He alone has the power to cleanse and purify from sin and transform people and circumstances! In fact, He wants to REBUILD, RAISE UP, and REPAIR the desolation of the generations!! (Isaiah 61:4).

These verses about rebuilding, raising up, and restoring the desolation of many generations brought to my mind the five people God used after the Babylonian captivity to rebuild, raise up, and repair the city of Jerusalem! Their stories are recorded in the Bible in the books that bear their names: Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi!

Scripture records that the burden of the Lord came on these men and they experienced heartbreak over the devastation of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple of God. Their grief became so deep and so profound it drove them to prayer and radical obedience. Some of these prayers and admonitions are among the most beautiful and moving in all the Bible (Ezra 9; Nehemiah 1: 3-11; Nehemiah 9; Haggai 1:3-14; Zechariah 1:1-4; Malachi 3:6-18).

The secret to these men being used by God to rebuild and restore Jerusalem was that they had "clean hands and pure hearts" (Psalm 24:3). When God finds people like this He is able to use them to bring redemption and restoration to whole cities and people groups (Jeremiah 5:1). As God's people intercede, God is able to put His redemptive purposes in place to rebuild and restore!

The fascinating thing is that Nehemiah records that the 5 men influenced 42 family groups who actually rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem in 52 days after it had lain in ruins for 16 years! Then the 42 families became 42,360 people who were willing to not only rebuild the wall, but restore the ark, rebuild the temple, and repopulate the city (Ezra 2; Ezra 3; Nehemiah 3; Nehemiah 11). It is God's law of augmenting returns! (Ephesians 3:20).

Does Jesus want to do a similar thing in our day? We need God to restore the desolation in our families, our churches, our cities, and our nation! This is why Jesus came! Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call unto me and I will answer and show you great and mighty things you do not know." As we seek God's face:

- Do we have clean hands and pure hearts?
- Have we been filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Is Jesus stirring our hearts to intercede for revival in our country?

- Do we really believe “the law of increasing returns” where Jesus can take 1; 1 can become 5; 5 can become 42 families; 42 families can become 42,360 people of God!

We would like to invite you to join with us in prayer for Jesus to come and restore our generation!

Would you be willing to pray every day at noon for revival to come to our nation and world?

This would include:

1. Praying by name, for three people who need Jesus to be born again!
2. Praying for your church
3. Praying for your city
4. Praying for your nation
5. Praying for a country of the world that Jesus lays on your heart

Would you also be willing to join with us and make the THIRD THURSDAY of every month, as much as possible, a DAY of PRAYER with some form of self-denial so that the purposes of God might be accomplished in our families, churches, cities, nation, and world!

If you are willing to make these commitments and would like to join together with us in prayer, we would love to hear from you and send you a bracelet as a reminder! Looking forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,

Beth Coppedge

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Isaiah 64:4