The 7 Mountains Of Influence—RELIGION
Philadelphia House of Prayer – Pastora Claudia Londono

Presently, the religious spirit dominates the Religion Mountain. I believe 2 Chronicles 20:6-12 is an anthem of prayer for those called to invade the mountain of religion with intercession.

Jehoshaphat’s entire prayer is remarkable and inspiring, yet verse 9 is worthy of highlighting in this context: “Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us” (emphasis added).

The “house” Jehoshaphat referred to then was a physical temple, and we know through Christ we have become the living temple of God. Yet when we pray for the Religion Mountain, we are praying for the specific community that assembles to worship—essentially the gathering at the temple. The religion Mountain is more than the temple or building; it is any gathering of people who worship God, Allah, Buddha, Satan, or Shiva. The war is the heavens has always been over who will be worshiped. Almost three thousand years after the king of Judah lived, we stand in a similar place as he did when he uttered those words: on the brink of war with a fast-approaching enemy, declaring with assurance the faithfulness of God. With that stance in mind, here are the specific points we can pray:

- **Pray believers upon the Religion Mountain will reflect Christ.**
  
  *Philippians 4:8-9*
  
  “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

Christians are not the only ones on this mountain; there is an assortment of religions and spiritual views represented. This wide spectrum includes everything from Wiccan convene to Satanists, Pantheist, or those who practice the occult. We can pray in a spirit of love for all.

- **Pray those upon the mountain -believers and non-believers - will worship the one true God in spirit and truth, and with passion.**
  
  *Isaiah 2:2*
  
  “In the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s house will be the highest of all the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.”

Many upon the mountain of religion know from an intellectual standpoint how to go through the motions of worship, but they are devoid of passion. Their worship is full of routine and ritual, and they have completely divorced themselves from a heartfelt, genuine expression of adoration toward God. Just as the scriptures tell us that Ezequiel prophetically declared life over dry bones, here we have the opportunity to declare the same life over those worshipers on the mountain. We can call forth a renewed passion for God in these believers. Author Graham Cooke describes this passion as “the most intimidating thing to the enemy.” Indeed, it isn’t our intercessory war cries that he fears most, but instead our intimate love relationship with Jesus. Because of this, we should pray fervently for the following points.

- **Pray believers on the mountain will pray out of an intimate, living relationship with Jesus.**
  
  *Jeremiah 9:23-24*
  
  “This is what the Lord says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

As Cooke also says, it is time “to stop praying like a widow and start to pray like a bride.” We must stop acting like our husband has left us alone to die a long, painful death. We can toss aside our black garments of mourning and instead embrace the reality that Jesus awaits a vibrant, beautiful bride—his church. Just as Ruth went from being a helpless widow to the adored bride of Boaz, we have been chosen by our Kinsman Redeemer. Yes, we are still in the preparation stage for when our Groom comes, but we are still His bride. Let’s start talking to Him like we are!

- **Declare those upon the mountain will rise up in prayer and overcome the religious spirit.**
  
  *Romans 12:1-2*
  
  “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you.
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Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

A religious spirit is one of Satan’s most powerful tactics for keeping believers form ascending the cultural mountains. The religious spirit rules this mountain with tremendous power, an it will take a unified, praying people to overcome the strongholds already established by the enemy. These spiritual fortresses exist not only in general cultural but also within the church, providing just how deeply the religious spirit has infiltrated the armies of God. By praying as one voice, we can expose this spirit with the truth and demolish the work of the enemy.

Pray God will eliminate religious rituals.

Mark 11:15-19
“When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.” When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching. That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.”

In Mark 11, Jesus cleansed the temple of God, driving out the moneymakers and moneychangers who were cheapening God’s holy house. I believe intercessors must pursue a similar cleansing within the church -God’s living temple - through their prayers. Only this time, the ones devaluing the house aren’t businesspeople but those who insist on keeping a religious spirit alive through lifeless rituals. Most rituals started with good intentions and pure hearts. Within Christendom, we have wonderful rituals that were created for powerful worship but have become stale icons. While we pray against the overriding religious spirit, let us also pray that God cleanses His temple once again of those idols that have replaced Him.

• Pray the Holy Spirit will stir up a passion for the Word within every person on the mountain.

Ephesians 3:14-19
“When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

Herrnhut, Germany is known as the center of the worldwide Moravian Church founded by Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. For more than a hundred years , the Moravian community at Herrnhut prayed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and established a culture unlike any seen on earth since. The “Moraravian Pentecost” as this longstanding renewal is often called, fostered a sense that God’s Word was integrated into every facet of life.

When nonstop prayer, steeped in Scripture, is offered for more than a century from a single area of the world, I doubt there is much the enemy can do to suppress the spiritual harvest produced generation after generation from such fertile soil. Regardless of how much control Satan has over the Religion Mountain at this point, we can create rich soil in the land and. through intercession, plant seeds that cry out for a passion for God’s Word in both this generation and those to come.

• Pray believers on the Religion Mountain will have a strong presence upon the other six mountains.

Exodus 33:15
“Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place.”

Those who rule the Religion Mountain have profound influence within the other cultural spheres. Pray that the key leaders upon these other mountains would be forced to give attention to the rising tide of empowered, Spirit-led believers.