1. **Introduction**

Our nation is in a season of turmoil. It’s a crisis of identity. It’s a crisis vision. It’s a crisis fueled by people’s response to one very controversial figure. No, not the president. Not the Speaker of the House. Not the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

This national crisis centers on man’s response (or lack thereof) to a Jewish Man from Nazareth, born of a virgin, buried and raised from the grave, and ascended to the right hand of power – Jesus Christ.

The nation is not divided primarily along political lines or socio-economic lines. What truly divides us in this nation is the answer to this question: To what degree do you recognize and embrace Jesus’ leadership in your life, in your family, and in your city.

What we are experiencing right now, and what we’ve been through for almost a year, is a great acceleration. We’ve just been jolted out of our business-as-usual mentality. I believe that there is no going back.

I believe that we are about to see struggles, trials, tribulations, increase not only in severity, but in frequency. I also believe that we are going to see glorious moves of the Spirit increase in intensity and frequency.

The darkness is about to get darker and the light is about to get brighter. The good news is that none of this is taking God by surprise.

So what does the Bible say about how we should respond in such an hour? In what ways can we walk in unity and partnership with Jesus is this most dynamic time?

**The Great Physician has written a prescription for national crisis – wholehearted, unified, corporate worship, prayer, and fasting with humble and repentant hearts.**

1. **The Crisis, The Response, The Results**

**We are in a Psalm 2 CRISIS, which requires a Joel 2 RESPONSE, and will RESULT in an Acts 2 outpouring.**

**The Crisis – Psalm 2**

In Psalm 2, David prophesies that before the return of Jesus, nations would rise up in opposition to Jesus. These world leaders would seek to remove the influence of the Word of God from society through passing unrighteous laws.

The Word of God will be seen as “bonds” and “chords” that constrict and hinder human freedoms and potential.

**(Ps. 2:1-3)***, “***1** *Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?* **2** *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their chords from us.’”*

Right now we are in a Psalm 2 crisis!I believe that there is no greater example of Scripture coming to life right in front of our eyes than Psalm 2:1-3.

The raging anger in society against Biblical truth and against those who faithfully embrace that truth is beginning to boil.

It is not inconceivable to imagine a day in the near future when speaking clearly in the public arena about basic Christian doctrines could be considered intolerant hate-speech and result in some sort of civil discipline, fines, or even imprisonment.

The Bible tells us of a day when Christ-followers will no longer be able to participate in marketplace exchange because they hold true to the teachings of Jesus, and refuse to assimilate into the world’s system. Are we beginning to see the forerunner of that reality now? So what do we do in the face of such a situation?

Beloved, **now is not a time to panic, it’s a time to pray!**

Right now too many of our churches are filled with believers who would rather gripe on a message board than groan in the secret place – those who would rather whine to a friend than weep before God – those who would rather point a finger than pray and fast. We’re seeing way too much infighting and not enough intercession.

Right now in the Church we cannot afford to be bickering, slandering, and fighting with our brothers and sisters!

The Biblical response to a Psalm 2 crisis isn’t primarily about calling your senator or representative, but rather about calling on the Great Judge, Wise Lawgiver, and King of all Kings.

**(Is. 33:22)***, “(For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.”*

There are two “gatherings” occurring in this hour. When t**he rulers of the earth are gathering to plot, the church must gather to pray.** The unified, praying church is much more powerful than the plotting rulers of the earth.

**The Response – Joel 2**

When faced with a Psalm 2 crisis, the praying church needs a Joel 2 response.

**(Joel 2:12-28)***, “***12***...Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with* weeping*, and with mourning. So rend your heart…return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.* **14** *who knows if He will turn and relent and leave a blessing behind?...***15** *Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;* **16** *Gather the people…assemble the elders…***28** *afterward I will pour out My spirit…”*

The Holy Spirit is calling His church to respond in this hour. This response includes turning to God with all of our hearts, fasting, and praying for a great outpouring of the Spirit.

**When the nation begins to cast away Biblical restraints and rid itself from the leadership of Jesus, the Lord calls to church to wholeheartedness in prayer and fasting**. It’s not time to shrink back in defeat. It’s time to gather. It’s time to pray.

**One might find it challenging to find a mighty outpouring of God’s power in a nation that was not preceded and fueled by a sustained corporate prayer**. Throughout Israel’s history in the Old Testament, when the nation would go astray, God would raise up reformers with a vision for worship and prayer and fasting

1. Jehoshaphat (about 870BC) – II Chron. 20
2. Jehoiada and Joash (about 835BC) – II Chron. 23
3. Hezekiah’s revival (about 725BC) – II Chron. 29
4. Josiah’s revival (about 629BC) – II Chron. 35
5. Zerubbabel’s revival (about 536BC) – Ezra 3
6. Ezra and Nehemiah’s revival (about 445) – Neh. 12

One of the key components of prayer for a nation in crisis is actually praying for those in positions of influence in the government.

Paul states in I Timothy that one of the primary things that we should pray for, intercede for, is our government officials.

**(I Tim. 2:1-4),** *“***1** *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men,*

**2** *for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.* **3** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,* **4** *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Paul gives us five reasons for praying for our government and governmental officials.

1. That Christians may lead quiet and peaceable lives
2. That Christians may live godly, righteous lives, full of holy fear
3. It is right, good, and acceptable in the sight of God
4. That people may saved
5. That people may come to a knowledge of truth

Intercession for our government and its officials is not just an option, but it is one of the key ingredients if revival is going to sweep this nation. **When the church shifts into governmental intercession we will begin to shift the government and change a nation.**

**The Result – Acts 2**

In a time of national crisis, when the church is faithful to turn to God wholeheartedly in the place of corporate prayer and fasting, the Lord promises that He hears and will respond. And when God responds, things happen.

**(Acts 2:1-4)***, “***1** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* **2** *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.* **3** *Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.* **4** *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Shortly after, Peter stands before the people gathered outside and begins to quote Joel 2.

**(Acts 2:17-21)***, “***17** *And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.* **18** *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.* **19** *I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.* **20** *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.* **21** *And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

**God hears, God cares, and God answers.**

The Lord promises release of justice in response to a praying people. Justice = revival.

When we talk about revival, we’re not just talking about holding evangelistic meetings for 4 nights in a row in the summer. We’re not even just talking about a group of believers being convicted of their sins. We’re not simply talking about a bunch of people start speaking in tongues or getting healed.

We’re talking about thousands and even millions of non-believers coming under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, being convinced by the power of God that eternal judgment is just around the corner. We’re talking about multitudes in a region having their hearts set ablaze with passion for Jesus. We’re talking about signs and wonders breaking out, not just in the churches, but in the streets, the bars, buses, and public events – blind eyes opening, limbs growing out, terminal diseases vanishing, dead being raised. That’s the kind of revival we’re believing for.

**We are longing and praying for the kind of revival that touches every sphere of society – Arts and Entertainment, Business, Education, Family, Government, Media, and Religion.**

Here at Calvary we are committed to contending for a great awakening in this city and nation. We gather consistently to cry out for an outpouring of the Spirit in Houston and America because we are convinced by the leading of the Holy Spirit, Scripture, and history that revival will come!

Beloved, now is not a time to pull back, hunker down, and ride it out. It’s a time to fast, pray, stay engaged, keep our love on, and believe that the Lord is good.

1. **Prayers For Our Nation**

**II Chron. 7:14,** *“… 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 will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

**Psalm 2:10-12**, “**10** *“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.* **11** *Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.* **12** *Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”*

**Psalm 72:1-2**, “**1** *Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s son****.* 2** [That] *he will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.”*

**Joel 2:28,** “…*I* [the Lord] *will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”*

**Col. 1:9-11**, “**9** …*that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;* **10** *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;* **11** *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;”*

**Phi. 1:27***, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”*