

Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome as we study the Bible together. Today we will briefly learn the importance of praying for the country we live in, the workplaces we are in, the homes we live in, and the neighborhoods we stay in—no matter how much trouble or suffering they may bring us. As long as we live there, we must pray for them.

We learn from the children of Israel when they angered God greatly by their sins. God punished them by removing them from their land and taking them into captivity in Babylon. Shortly after they arrived in Babylon, still in chains on their hands and feet, God told the prophet Jeremiah—who remained in Israel—to write a letter to the Israelites in captivity, telling them to seek the welfare of the land they had reached.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their

fruit.

Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.”

Do you see that? It was a city of suffering, a city of oppression, a foreign land. It was a city of pagans and idol worshippers—a city that had destroyed their own city and killed their relatives. Yet the Lord told them to pray for the peace of that city, not to curse it.

Why?

Because if that city had peace, they would also have peace. But if the city fell into chaos, they too would suffer. This is a powerful lesson for our present situation: there is great importance in praying for the place where we live. Even if it is not your homeland, as long as you live in that country, you must pray for it. When disaster comes, no matter how much you fear God, you will still be affected.

Imagine war suddenly breaking out in the country where you live—bombs exploding everywhere, roads destroyed, water and electricity infrastructure damaged so that there is no water or power. Do you think such things would not affect you because you fear God? They would affect you in one way or another. You need roads to drive, electricity to work, water for your daily needs and livestock. Your children need to go to school, but now they cannot because the city is in chaos.

Therefore, it is important to pray for the place where we live.

Likewise, you may live in a house that is not yours—you may be a guest, a tenant, or not even a family member. Still, it is your responsibility to pray for that home even if you do not receive the same benefits as the family members. If that house has peace, you will benefit from that peace. But if trouble comes and you have not prayed for it, you will suffer twice as much.

EVERY PLACE WHERE YOU ARE

The same applies to your workplace. You have a responsibility to pray for it even if you are the lowest-paid employee. If it prospers, you will prosper too. But if it collapses, you will also be affected. That is why God told the Israelites:

“Pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.”

The same applies at school or university. Pray for your school because if it prospers, you will prosper within it. If you neglect to pray, problems will still affect you—whether teachers are difficult, infrastructure is poor, or fellow students cause trouble. No matter how righteous you are, you cannot escape these hardships if the environment suffers.

Everything we are part of must be covered in prayer. We must pray for the place where we live. I believe you have learned something today.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU

If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ, the door is open—but it will not remain open forever. While the world celebrates pleasures, the return of Christ draws closer every second. His coming is nearer than we think. The people of the world will mourn when they realize they wasted their time chasing worldly pleasures. May the Lord help us not to be among

them.

Therefore, repent if you have not repented. Seek baptism if you have not been baptized. Receive the Holy Spirit. Through these three steps, you will complete your salvation.

Maranatha!

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