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We want to pick up in Luke 18, where we left off in the December 2020 newsletter. It begins: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

Have you witnessed lately how so many politicians are constantly quoting the Bible? Yet, these people are possessed by the spirit of murder, regarding abortion; the spirit of sodomy, which is absolutely unnatural; and same sex marriage, when marriage is ordained by Elohim between one man and one woman.

Regrettably, most branches of government have become our adversaries. As Christians, we witness them breaking the law while destroying the Republic and the Constitution. This evil and sinister spirit has made its way down to state and local levels. Therefore, we are witnessing unfathomable perversion along with the destruction of our nation.

Satan, our adversary, is constantly breaking the law. Satan is the accuser of the brethren and master lawbreaker concerning the Word of God; thus, we need an advocate – one who pleads another's case. As believers, we need to bring a lawsuit into the courts of Heaven where Christ is our advocate and helper. If Christ can advocate and help us find redemption from our sin, then certainly he can advocate and overturn the lawlessness of Satan.

We read, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). This passage describes Jesus

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Christ as our advocate; the one who pleads with God the Father on our behalf so the Father might be glorified in the Son.

The great thing about Christ Jesus is He is not only our advocate, but is also a just and righteous Judge. Thus the profound words of Abraham, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). Not only is Christ the Judge of all the earth but He is a righteous Judge concerning justice.

Notice the words of the apostle Paul and his confidence in the righteousness and judgments of Christ, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Looking at our main Scripture text, in **Luke 18:4**, we witness a period of time when the unjust judge would not quickly avenge the widow. This represents time in a chronological manner, meaning: the succession of time. *Chronos* is the passing of time without any impact or accomplishments. Perhaps we are presently in a period of chronos. Regardless, it will ultimately give way to *kairos*, a time *when fore-ordained events must come to pass*.

Jesus declared the unjust judge had a change of heart within himself. Though he did not fear God nor regard man, something happened in his core, causing him to make a decision in favor of the widow.

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Because of God's Word, my faith never waivers, "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will..." (Revelation 17:17). Judges may believe what they have done was by their own decision-making process, their will, but God, in His sovereignty, influenced them to adjudicate His will.

As believers, we must keep coming to the throne of grace and appealing to God to avenge us of our national injustices (**Luke 18:5**). If an unjust judge will punish an adversary, what will Christ as a just and righteous Judge do if we keep coming to His throne pleading for righteous justice?

In verse 6, notice how Christ declared this judge wasn't a just judge, meaning: he did not conform to "justice" but rather was a judge filled with "injustice". But, because of the widow's continual coming, this judge avenged her; though he did not regard God.

Righteous logic prevails in verse 7: Shall not the Judge of all the earth avenge or adjudicate His people, the body of Christ, especially when they "bear long" in prayer? Let me emphasize: Jesus said he would avenge those who "bear long", who cry day and night unto him. The psalmist declared, "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry" (Psalm 34:15).

Let us look closely at **Psalm** 55:22, "Cast thy burden (or human reasoning or thoughts) upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee (to hold his people up): he shall never suffer (or allow) the righteous to be moved". As believers, we are directed to constantly seek the Lord

and never faint or lose heart. We read in **Jeremiah 33:3**, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty (too high for human reasoning apart from divine revelation) things, which thou knowest not".

Scripture says carnally minded Christians can never discern the deep things of God: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Natural or carnal-minded men can never see past the problem to behold the majesty and deity of Christ our Lord concerning earthly matters.

Don't ever think God is cornered and cannot move with sovereignty. It is our faithfulness in prayer that moves the heart of God to keep advocating on our behalf. If the Church does not pray earnestly there will be a lack of incense for the altar of incense in Heaven. God gave me this revelation months ago concerning prayer and incense: "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours (or incense), which are the prayers of saints" (Revelation 5:8). If we don't pray, then in Heaven there will be a lack of incense for the altar of incense!

In verse 8, Jesus declares He will avenge us "speedily". For Daniel, it took 21 days of fervent prayer, but Daniel never quit praying. Gabriel declared that, on day one, Daniel's prayer was heard but the prince or demon of Persia withstood him. Had Daniel quit praying, the battle would have been lost, but because he continued to petition Jehovah his prayer was answered in a mighty way. This is why, as believers, we cannot give up and we must prevail in our prayers.

The Greek word *tachos* means: "a brief space of time; that is, something done in haste: quickly, shortly, or speedily". It may appear to us during the pain and sorrow of our trials that Christ is "bearing long", taking His time to answer us. We must remember the words of the apostle Paul, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder (or rewards faithfulness) of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). To "bear long" means there is delay, but delay does not mean denial.

Christ posed this question to the believer: "Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Without a doubt, due to the voluminous, relentless onslaught of Satan, many believers will become beleaguered and discouraged.

In the days ahead, child of God, you must not waiver when uncertain, unexpected, sudden events take place over the entire world. Those who are not rooted and firmly grounded in Christ and his most Holy Word will be tossed to and fro like a small raft upon a raging sea.

One of the great prophetic verses men fail to fully grasp is found in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away". This passage will be fulfilled by Christ, even after all things as we know them have changed, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" (Revelation 21:1).

No matter where we find ourselves or the state of our Union, we must remain immovable, continuing to abound in the work of Christ. Do not quit praying, no matter what happens in the natural. Joshua had to believe the walls of Jericho would come down only by prayer, praise, and worship, and so it was.

This is the greatest spiritual battle I have ever witnessed. Satan would love to grind the Church, the body of Christ, into powder and destroy our faith in God. We've all heard the term *intervention*, well now we need a divine intervention.

I said I would finish this newsletter and I did. No matter the outcome, Jehovah remains the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is a divine reason God has chosen this course for His Church, the body of Christ. Undoubtedly, it was very arduous and difficult for Joseph to get to the throne of Pharaoh. However, after Joseph got there, Elohim made Pharaoh house, cloth, and feed a nation on his dime.

I would be derelict if I said I understood everything Jehovah was doing; but I don't. This is when we learn to not question God but rather trust Him. Thus the words of the psalmist, King David, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3). It is now up to us to trust God in spite of what we see and hear

Please help me pray about having several conferences this year. If the state governors demand a mask mandate, we cannot have them. I'm trusting for a move of God, in spite of all of the great and grave opposition.

Know we are earnestly praying for you and we also take every prayer request you send sincerely. We are exceedingly humbled by your faithful support for **The Voice of Evangelism**.

May I remind you, I am like the turtle on a fence post – I did not get here by my own efforts. It was Jehovah who called and put us into the ministry.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W.

Lankford