

The House of Prayer: Our Eternal Identity (Isa. 56:7)

I. IDENTITY OF THE REDEEMED: TO BE GOD’S HOUSE THAT OPERATES BY PRAYER

⁷ For My House shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations. (Isa. 56:7)

- A. In Scripture, a person’s “house” spoke of their family, resources and future inheritance. The highest identity of the redeemed throughout eternity is to be “**God’s House**” or His Family that releases His resources into the natural realm by functioning as a “**House of Prayer**”.
- B. We were created to interact deeply with God’s heart. God speaks and moves our heart. Then we speak and move His heart. The result is that God’s resources are released into the earthly realm. His resources include wisdom (creative ideas), unity, money, impact, zeal for righteousness, etc.
- C. Our identity as sons of God and the Bride of Christ come together in being His Family or House. The Father has ordained that His family rule with Jesus through “intimacy based intercession”.
- D. God opens doors of blessing and closes doors of oppression in response to our prayers. There are blessings that God has chosen to give, but only as His people rise up in the partnership of prayer.
¹⁸ The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you...¹⁹ He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (Isa. 30:18-19)
- E. God jealously protects His relationship with us by NOT releasing His resources until we speak to Him in prayer. We must offer specific prayers, not just think about our need with fear, frustration and desperation. He requires that we ask because it causes us to interact with His heart.
² You do not have because you do not ask. (Jas 4:2)
- F. The Father’s resources are strategically withheld to “starve us out of prayerlessness”. When the pain of lacking His resources is greater than our busyness then we pray. God knows that our greatness, satisfaction and security are only found in our interaction with His heart in prayer.
- G. God requires us to cooperate with Him in the grace of God. This is an expression of His desire for intimate partnership with us. God will not do our part and we cannot do His part. If we do not do our part then God withholds some of the help and blessing He would have given us. God has given us a dynamic role in determining some of the measure of the “quality of life”.
- H. Prayer tells God what He tells us to tell Him. Many consider this to be too simple and weak to do since everyone can do it. God releases His power in a way that we cannot boast (1 Cor. 1:31).
- I. Intercession causes us to internalize God’s Word by saying it back to Him many times. Each time we say what God says, it marks our spirit and changes us. Like a computer program may be changed by rewriting each line of code, our inner man is renewed by multitudes of prayers. Intercession draws us in intimacy with His heart while it unifies and transforms us.

II. JESUS GOVERNS THE UNIVERSE THROUGH HIS HOUSE OF PRAYER

- A. The governmental center of the universe is the “Prayer Room” which includes all the prayers in heaven and on earth that converge in unity before the Throne. Corporate intercessory worship is the primary means God uses to release His power. It is the most powerful weapon that exists.
- B. The *House of Prayer of Kansas City* is the whole Church in this area (consisting of over 1,000 congregations). The IHOP Missions Base is **NOT** the House of Prayer of KC. It functions with others as a “gas station that squirts gasoline” on the prayer furnace of the Church of Kansas City. Ministries with a heightened focus on prayer are only catalysts not the whole House of Prayer.
- C. The eternal identity of the whole Body of Christ is the House of Prayer. This is not just true of ministries that focus on 24/7 prayer. When an IHOP-KC staff member is sent to another ministry (not focused on 24/7 prayer) they must continue to see their eternal “House of Prayer identity”.
- D. The Father governs the universe in intimate partnership with His people. This is the ultimate expression of His desire for partnership. When we see our destiny as the House of Prayer it gives us resolve with confidence that God will empower us to walk in the grace of prayer. It also shows us the significant loss we incur if we neglect prayer.
- E. We are called or named the House of Prayer by God, angels, demons and the saints. When God names a person or nation it indicates their character and how they function in the Holy Spirit. Our greatest place of authority, honor, dignity and security is found in this reality.
- F. The Church in the nations does not yet see her identity as being an eternal House of Prayer. As the Lord wrestled with Jacob and changed his name, so He is wrestling with the Body of Christ to change our name (identity) and thus, the way we see ourselves before Him.
- ²⁴ A Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day...²⁸ He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; you struggled with God and...prevailed." (Gen. 32:24-28)*
- G. Jacob’s name means “supplanter” (or manipulator or deceiver). Israel means to “prevail as a prince with God”. Our natural mindset without the aid of the Holy Spirit is to think like Jacob.
- H. Jesus will not come back until the Church knows who she is and functions in light of it.
- ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)*
- I. Jesus comes back at the Second Coming in answer to global concerts of prayer. The End-Time prayer movement in partnership with Jesus’ heavenly intercession will release the Great Harvest, the Great Tribulation and even drive Satan “the usurper” off this planet (Rev. 20).
- ¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea...you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice...¹³ The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man (Second Coming); He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war...He shall prevail against His enemies. (Is 42:10-13)*

III. JESUS CREATED AND CONTINUES TO RULE BY INTERCESSION

- A. The Father oversaw creation by releasing His power as Jesus spoke out His plans before Him. This is the foundational principle of intercession: the Father's thoughts (plans) are spoken by Jesus (intercession) then the Holy Spirit releases power (Gen 1:3, 9, 11, 15, 24, 30).
² The earth was without form, and void...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God (Jesus) said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Gen 1:2-3)
- B. Jesus expressed Himself as an “intercessory oracle” as creator. He manifests His power in the earthly realm by living before the Father with intercessory authority as the “The Word”.
⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. (Ps. 33:6)
- C. The majesty of intercession is seen in the fact that Jesus will continue to govern with it.
²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)
- D. Jesus creates then upholds or holds together (Col. 1:17) the created order by speaking the Word to the Father in the present tense. This is one form of intercession that Jesus engages in forever.
³ (Jesus)...upholding all things by the Word of His power... (Heb. 1:3)
¹⁷ He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together: NIV). (Col. 1:17)
- E. David received revelation of Jesus as the Messianic King using intercession in taking possession of each area of each nation including political, economic, spiritual, educational, military, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, environment, social institutions, etc. (Ps. 2:7-9).
⁷ The LORD (Father) has said to Me (Jesus)...⁸ “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.” (Ps. 2:7-8)
- F. Jesus rules the nations through intercession now and in the age-to-come. Prayer will not become obsolete in the age-to-come but it will be far more central in our lives. Jesus will rule as a king in context to His high priestly ministry of intercession. One aspect of the order of Melchizedek is to rule through intercession (Gen. 14:18; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1-28).
⁴ You (Jesus) are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 110:4)
- G. Solomon prophesied that prayer would be made continually for Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom. The fullness of God dwells in Jesus, so He does not personally need our prayers (Col. 2:9). However, we will pray continually for strength for those in Jesus’ governmental administration. The principle of praying for those in authority continues in the age-to-come.
¹⁵ And He (Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom) shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised. (Ps. 72:15)
¹ I exhort that...intercessions...be made 2 for kings and all who in authority... (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

IV. THE CENTRALITY OF INTERCESSION IN GOD'S PLAN

- A. Human history began with daily prayer meetings in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:8).
- B. Israel began as a nation at a prayer meeting after leaving Egypt (Ex. 19:6-20). At this time, God revealed their "House of Prayer identity" in calling them to rule as priests (prayer/worship, etc).
⁶ You (Israel) shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Ex. 19:6)
¹⁰ Have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)
- C. Israel's first building project was to build a Worship Sanctuary or House of Prayer (Ex. 25:2).
- D. One of the first things David did after becoming king over Jerusalem was to establish 24/7 worship there (1 Chr. 15-16). David financed 4,000 paid musicians, 288 singers and 4,000 gatekeepers (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:7). Thus, about 10,000 full-time staff facilitated worship. It would cost \$200 million a year to provide \$3,000 a month for 5,000 full-time people (with buildings).
- E. David commanded God's people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God's command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
- F. Israel was restored by Daniel's intercession that moved angels and demons (Dan. 10:12). Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David (Ezra 3:10-11; Neh. 12:47). Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded (Neh. 12:24, 45).
- G. Jesus began His public ministry in a prayer meeting in the wilderness (Mt. 4) and ended it in a prayer meeting in the garden of Gethsemane (Mt. 26).
- H. The Church began in a prayer meeting (Acts 1-2) and will end natural history in context to a global prayer movement (Rev. 22:17; 5:8; 8:4; Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 25:1-13; Isa. 62:6-7; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Jer. 31:7; Amos 9:11-12; Mic. 5:3-4; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; Zech. 12:10, etc.).
- I. The conflict at the end-of-the-age will be between two Houses of Prayer (two global worship movements). The Holy Spirit is raising up the most powerful worship movement in history to defeat the Antichrist's End-Time worldwide false worship movement.
⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Antichrist), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)
- J. Rev. 4-5 describes the worship order around God's Throne. Those nearest God's Throne agree with Him in 24/7 worship and intercession as the most exalted occupation in the New Jerusalem.
⁸ The 4 living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy..." (Rev. 4:8)

V. OUR ULTIMATE PRIVILEGE IN GOD'S GRACE: BEING A HOUSE OF PRAYER

³ Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD speak, saying, "The LORD has utterly separated me (making me second class citizen in the Kingdom) from His people"; nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree (I have no future honor because I have no children)."

⁴ For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who...choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, ⁵ Even to them I will give in My House and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters (the honor given by the heritage of children); I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD... to love the name of the Lord...⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My House of Prayer...For My House (God's eternal family including His resources) shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations." ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others (Gentiles) besides those who are gathered to him (Israel)." (Isa. 56:3-8)

- A. Isaiah explains the greatness of our calling by emphasizing that even the most unlikely outcasts (foreigners and eunuchs) will receive the highest place of honor (Isa. 56:1-8). He had no stronger way to make his point than revealing that the redeemed are forever called the House of Prayer. The foreigner is so transformed and exalted in God's grace that this is their destiny and identity.
- B. **Foreigners:** were idolatrous and immoral people who were often demonized
- C. **I will bring them:** the Lord will supernaturally help foreigners to develop a prayer life
- D. **Eunuchs:** could not have children thus they had no physical heritage to continue their family name. In the ancient world, after a military defeat men were sometimes made eunuchs with the intention that as slaves they would serve in a king's courts, etc.
- E. **I will give a place and a name better than:** eunuchs who obey God will be given a place of significance and a name of honor that is better than the significant place and honor that their children could bring them.
- F. **Everlasting name:** the faithful will have an everlasting name of honor in the Kingdom
- G. **I will make them joyful:** our joy in the Millennial Kingdom will be partially found in functioning in God's family as the House of Prayer that releases God's resource into the nations of the earth. This describes the measure of transformation that will happen to the foreigners.
- H. We must shake off the spirit of passivity. We must remove all that hinders God's Word from moving our heart and thus all that keeps us from speaking God's word back to Him.

¹ Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem...² Shake yourself from the dust, arise...O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion! (Isa. 52:1-2)

What is the International House of Prayer Missions Base? On September 19, 1999, a ministry of worship with intercession was launched which had continued non-stop 24 hours a day. Our staff views themselves as “intercessory missionaries’ because they do the work of missions and outreach from a place of night and day prayer. Our staff raises their own financial support as missionaries. Currently, 500 people are on our ministry staff along with another 1,000 students or interns who also serve full-time investing 50 hours/week between the Prayer Room, class room and outreach.