

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS O YOU GATES

The end of the year 2011 brought pleasant surprises to all who have been praying diligently for the UK. One can imagine our joy when we heard PM David Cameron publicly acknowledge Britain as a Christian nation! Texts messages and emails began to fly, as we shared the joy of answered prayer. Then, with her Christmas Day speech, our beloved Queen put the icing on cake!

As much as the PM and Queen's speeches brought joy and thanksgiving to our hearts, we merely consider them as minor victories, and thus, are cautious not to lose sight of the battles that still need to be fought for the soul of this nation of nations.

Over the past year, and especially the past few weeks, the Lord has been speaking to me from several key scriptures about His intentions for the UK. Hence, our QUIVER prayer focus for 2012 comes from one of those scriptures, Psalm 24.

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory." Psalm 24:7-10

This scripture refers to the solemn occasion when the Ark of God was brought into the tabernacle David had erected for it. David's desire for God's Presence to dwell in the midst of His people was fulfilled on that occasion, as 'ancient gates' that had stood in resistance and opposition or merely as barriers to the presence and ways of God, were commanded to open up and let the King of glory in.

Gates were of great significance in biblical times, not only as places of entry and exit, but also, of authority, administration, military defence and where the judiciary sat to administer justice (*Ruth 4:1-2,11; Pro 31:23, 31*). To possess the gates was to possess the city and to triumph over your enemy (*Gen 22:17, 24:60; Matt 16:18*).

Accordingly, in modern times, we have 'gates' that not only determine what comes in or goes out, but also, influence the physical and spiritual realms of peoples, cities and nations. Generally speaking, on one level, we have the 'spiritual gates,' which include principalities, demonic powers and rulers and spiritual hosts of wickedness, who have a stronghold over people's lives and influence what happens to them (*Eph 6:12; Dan 10:12-13, 20*). On another level, we have the 'cultural gates' which consist of language and communication (including media), marriage and family, politics and government (including law and order), religion, socio-economy, education and the arts (inc music, arts, attire and dance). All these influence our lives and impact the spiritual and physical atmospheres of our nation.

There is much contention going on in this nation at each of the 'gates' mentioned above. Spiritually, the church appears to be weak, overcome and unable to fulfil her role and mandate. The culture of this nation is rapidly and drastically changing and without the influence of the Church, we seem to be losing that which made this nation great. Communication and media are out of control, marriage/family and law and order are breaking down, government is perplexed about how to lead and what to do, education is crumbling, the arts have gone 'wild and often weird,' and as for religion and the socio-economic... Yes, there is much confusion and contention at the gates and something needs to be done very urgently!

It is time for the Church to rise up, empowered by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, to confront the gates with the reality of Jesus Christ. It is time to command the gates of this nation to lift up, open up and give entrance and access, once again, to Jesus Christ. It is time for His influence to be felt in every one of the 'gates' and in our families, communities, cities and nation!

However, one may ask, who is Jesus Christ and what gives Him the right to entry and access? Jesus Christ is the King of glory! He is the LORD strong and mighty in battle! He possesses all authority and power. He is the Conqueror and Triumphant King, and the Eternal Light and Hope of all humanity. Above all, He is the Son of God, to whom this nation and the nations of the world have been promised (*Psalms 2*). He is the King of righteousness, justice and peace, and we need Him in our nation, now, more than ever.

No ancient gates can resist or remain shut against Him. The gates know and recognise Him because His Name was the password engraved in their memory from the beginning of time. Thus to no other name will the gates voluntarily submit to than "The King of Glory."

Our heartfelt cry, this year must be "*lift up your heads o you gates and let the King come in!*" We must pray and invite Jesus Christ, the God of love, mercy, kindness, justice, righteousness and joy into our lives, homes, communities, villages, towns, cities and the nation. Indeed, even now, we declare that all ancient gates that have exercised authority against God's ways, plans and purposes in this nation shall open, in recognition, acknowledgement and obeisance to our Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! Amen!

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