**GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION ASSISTS EVANGELISM**

NOTE: The present negative Russian government and leader has drastic results on evangelism there.

It might be well to note the crucial role Governments can have on Evangelism.

**1a. Government Inspired, Endorsed, and Funded Evangelism**

Jehoshaphat - In the third year of his reign king Jehoshaphat sent out 5 government officials to teach in the cities. They were accompanied by 2 pastors and 9 deacons. They took the Bible and went through all the towns, teaching it to the people. 2Ch 17:7

The morals and spirituality of the citizens was at an all-time low level.

**1b. Lord God, how precious you are and gracious.**

We see that at an all-time low in the nation of Judah you raised up an evangelistic team.

Glory to your name.

Lord, we are thrilled to learn that you gave this evangelistic team a police escort.

Your hand Almighty Father is never shortened. Do it again we pray!

And do it in Ukraine in our nation.

Choose such government officials, Lord, and prepare us to participate.

**1c.** **Presidential Participation**

*2Ch 19:4  Even though ((*president*)) Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, he traveled regularly among the people, from Beersheba in the south to the edge of the hill country of Ephraim in the north, in order to call the people back to the LORD, the God of their ancestors.*

Lord, it is even more amazing to read that the president himself participated in evangelism.

Give us such faith for our Ukraine today.

We are in desperate need; hundreds of souls are awaiting your action of salvation.

We read in 2 Chron.19: 4+11 to act with courage.

Yes, YES, yes, a thousand times ‘YES’ Lord; provide such courage for us your people, your very own present day Jehoshaphat’s descendants here in Ukraine.

This evangelistic outreach had fantastic results. *Perfect Peace*  Isa 26:3

**1d. The LORD made all the surrounding kingdoms afraid**

The LORD made all the surrounding kingdoms afraid to go to war against King Jehoshaphat. 2Ch 17:10

Oh Holy Spirit grant us understanding about our neighbors. Oh Holy Spirit, the European Union is Godless and it is eating our people up with materialism. Oh Holy Spirit, Russia is devouring thousands and thousands of our people. Oh Holy Spirit, our people are slaughtered as animals on a daily basis. Oh Holy Spirit, we pray for a spirit of repentance to cover Crimea.

Oh Holy Spirit, you provided ‘Perfect Peace’.

*So that we may be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with us.* *2Co 13:11*

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**2a. A Government leader desires to build a House for God.**

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus president of Persia in his first year, so that he made a proclamation in writing throughout all his kingdom.

*“The LORD God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has charged me to build him a house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.*

*Cyrus the ((*president*)) also brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD and gave them to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. Then Cyrus wrote; ‘Let others help with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, besides freewill offerings.’ Ezra 1.*

This immediately launched a whole nation of believers.

What if Pharaoh had done this? Perhaps 40 years of wilderness might have been avoided.

Let the Bible admonish us that governmental interest, influence and assistance can be tremendously beneficial in planting new churches.

**2b. Yes Lord, our mustard seed of faith is growing.**

We need you to superintend our evangelism.

Lord, we admit that we need government participation to evoke a nation-wide revival.

Come, come Lord Jesus. Show yourself in a new way to our brothers.

Come Lord Jesus, show yourself in a new way to our unbelieving neighborhoods.

Come Lord Jesus, show yourself to our skeptical government.

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**3a. A Bible Scholar makes friends with the Government**

Ezra was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, *((he became acquainted with Artaxerxes king of Persia))* and the king granted him all his requests, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. Then Ezra went up from Babylon and he came to Jerusalem according to the good hand of his God upon him.

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

*Ezr 7:11  Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, ‘Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest of the God of heaven, perfect peace. I make a decree, that all the people of Israel which are minded of their own freewill may go with you.*

*Ezr 7:14  For you are sent by the king, and by his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of your God. And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered to the God of Israel. And all the silver and gold that you can find with the freewill offering of the people. That you may quickly buy whatsoever shall seem good to you, and to do with the rest of the silver and the gold after the will of your God. And whatever more shall be needful for the house of your God, take it out of the king's treasure house. And also I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers in that area, that whatever Ezra the priest of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily. Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? Also we certify you, that touching any of the spiritual workers of this house of God, it shall be unlawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.*

*Ezr 7:25  And you, Ezra, after the wisdom of your God, set magistrates and judges such as know the laws of your God, which may judge all the people in that area; and you must teach those that do not know these laws . And whoever will not do the law of your God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him.*

*Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD. And has extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me. And 8:36  Ezra delivered the king's commission unto the king's ambassadors, and to the governors in this area: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.*

We know little, but what a friendship! The extra ordinary results clearly show the depth of Ezra’s relationship with not only the king, but with his ministers and Verkhovna Rada also.

This represents one of the most in-depth relationships of a Bible Scholar in all of Scripture, perhaps in all of history.

**3b. Omnipotent Ruler in Heaven, we are astounded to see your example in Holy Scripture.**

As we count the results Lord, we see that your hand produced –

1) all his requests granted;

2) encouragement to freewill workers to participate;

3) not only permission but actual total governmental instruction;

4) government subsidies;

5) permission to solicit other funds;

6) encouragement to do things diligently and speedily;

7) personal tax exemption for all spiritual workers;

8) installation of Christian Judges and court officials;

9) training of such officials in the Bible ways of honesty (perhaps there was corruption);

10) punishment of those officials who would ignore the Bible principles.

You ,Jesus, produced 10 incredible results for the people of God.

With awe we note the nationwide influence Ezra’s love and commitment to God had.

Oh God, as denominational leaders we cry out and ask: would such preparation of heart by our pastors to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Ukraine our Lord’s statutes and judgments bring the same evangelistic results?

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**3c. NOTE: The following is NOT a “God help us prayer” as we are used to!**

*Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the (*president’s*) heart, to beautify the house of the LORD. And has extended mercy unto me before the (*president*), and his counsellors, and before all the (*president’s*)mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me. And 8:36  Ezra delivered the (*president’s*)commission unto the (*president’s*)ambassadors, and to the governors in this area: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.*

With awe we note the nationwide influence Ezra’s friendship with the president had.

Oh God, as denominational leaders we cry out and ask: would such friendship with government officials by our pastors bring the same evangelistic results?

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**4a. Nehemiah & Ezra**

*Ezr 7:10  Ezra had devoted his life to studying the Law of the LORD, to practicing it, and to teaching all its laws and regulations to the people of Israel.*

*Neh 8:1  By the seventh month the people of Israel were all settled in their towns. On the first day of that month they all assembled in Jerusalem, in the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra, the priest and scholar of the Law which the LORD had given Israel through Moses, to get the book of the Law.*

*Neh 8:2  So Ezra brought it to the place where the people had gathered—men, women, and the children who were old enough to understand.*

*Neh 8:3  There in the square by the gate he read the Law to them from dawn until noon, and they all listened attentively.*

*Neh 8:4  Ezra was standing on a wooden platform that had been built for the occasion. The following men stood at his right: Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and the following stood at his left: Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.*

*Neh 8:5  As Ezra stood there on the platform high above the people, they all kept their eyes fixed on him. As soon as he opened the book, they all stood up.*

*Neh 8:6  Ezra said, "Praise the LORD, the great God!" All the people raised their arms in the air and answered, "Amen! Amen!" They knelt in worship, with their faces to the ground.*

*Neh 8:7  Then they rose and stood in their places, and the following Levites explained the Law to them: Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah.*

*Neh 8:8  They gave an oral translation of God's Law and explained it so that the people could understand it.*

*Neh 8:9  When the people heard what the Law required, they were so moved that they began to cry. So Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra, the priest and scholar of the Law, and the Levites who were explaining the Law told all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God, so you are not to mourn or cry.*

*Neh 8:10  Now go home and have a feast. Share your food and wine with those who don't have enough. Today is holy to our Lord, so don't be sad. The joy that the LORD gives you will make you strong."*

**4b. Lord, would you like us to celebrate the winning of souls with feasting or fasting?**

Lord God, would you like us to celebrate the winning of souls with feasting instead of fasting?

Oh Lord our Savior, we have fasted much; have we feasted enough?

Have we celebrated you publicly enough?

Have we been exuberant enough?

Have we shared food and other parts of our celebration publicly with our officials?

Lord show us we pray where we have come short manifesting your Glorious Goodness to our towns.

Lord, would you dispense faith to us so we can prepare and celebrate spiritual events together with our government officials?

Lord, open our eyes to our government leaders – they have eternal souls.

Their children Lord are created in your image.

Their wives are suffering under the pressures of being on public exhibition.

Jesus, you wanted to put Jerusalem under your wings and wept.

Give us wings to cover the souls of our towns.

Would you like to share some comments in this regard?

**5a Mordecai – Personal involvement**

*Est 10:2  And all the acts of(Mordecai’s) his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the (president) advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the (presidents) of Media and Persia?*

*Est 10:3  For Mordecai the Jew was next unto (president) Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.*

**5b. Almighty Father how many people do you need?**

Almighty Father how many people do you need to bring deliverance to our Ukrainian souls?

You chose one Moses, you picked one Samuel, you lifted up one Mordecai.

Almighty Father we plead for one Mordecai, only one Lord.

Find and raise up such a MAN of integrity we pray here in our Ukraine.

Raise him up Lord NOW / today, in our generation.

We pray for a MAN whom you can trust with power to rise to the highest government levels to bless us believers and raise up a multitude of God-seeking souls here in our Ukraine.

DO WE HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR DISCUSSION?