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ANGEL MINISTRIES

One God. One Word. One You.

PREPRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

…With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying… **Ephesians 6:18**

[This prayer has been adapted from Anne's original prayer that was released January 1, 2016]

As I look ahead into the new year and beyond, I wonder…is this the year of His return? In the next ten years, will the world experience the rapture of the church? The seven years of tribulation? The glorious return of Jesus? And the beginning of His millennial kingdom on earth? Everything seems to point to the reality of this possibility.

While we may not know what the new year holds, we are confident of Who holds it. So today, it seems very fitting to be pre-prayered for the future.

Join me as we pray together…

Lord of eternity,

You are the great I Am…the same yesterday, today, and forever.

As we approach the new year, our apprehension is overcome by our expectation. Could it be that we are truly approaching the end of human history as we have known it? In the next ten years will we experience the beginning of Your Kingdom on earth? Are we soon to hear the trumpet blow, and the loud voice of the archangel calling us Home? The intense yearning in our hearts cries, "Yes. Please. Let it be so."

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You rule over the nations. You are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. While no one can understand Your ways, we are confident that You have a plan and are working it out for our good and Your glory.[1]

Yet we honestly confess: when Christ-followers are persecuted to the death; when gunmen open fire in churches; when religious leaders are not safe in their own homes; when floods, tornadoes, and storms ravage our land; when derogatory expletives and vicious name calling replace respectful debate and disagreement; when our political leaders put their own interests before the people's; when our business leaders lie; when our spiritual leaders contradict Your Word; when our social leaders divide; when our allies become our enemies and our enemies become our allies…what's going on? *Where are You?*

We are tempted to think You are…
Distracted…disengaged…disinterested,
Inattentive…inactive…impotent,
Out-maneuvered…out-moded…out-classed,
Unable…unaffected…or even unaware…
of our fear… our helplessness…our confusion…our outrage. Why do You seem so small while our problems, disasters, and enemies seem so large? Help us to regain our focus.

God of our fathers. Lord of the nations. You are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. No one can understand Your ways. We turn to You. We return to You. Now. "Are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You."[2]

Did You not establish us as one nation under God? Have we not pledged, "In God We Trust"? But now we find ourselves constantly bombarded with the shrill voices of those who demand we distance ourselves from You; that You are just one of many gods, if you are a god at all; that we cannot risk offending each other by calling on Your name. We hear the enemy insinuating that You are "not fixing this" because You *can't fix this*. Our faith is being assaulted.

Our spirits rise up within us and seek to throw off the smothering cloak of spiritual oppression and political correctness. We shout Your Name. You are Yahweh. Jehovah–the personal God. The great I AM–the eternal God. The All-mighty–the Powerful God. You are Jesus. Savior. Immanuel. God with us, never to leave or forsake us. Your power has not been diluted or depleted over the ages. You are just as powerful…just as much in authority…as You were in Creation; in the deliverance of Your people from Egypt and in the parting of the Red Sea. You are the One who sends down the fire.[3] Who fells the giants.[4] Who makes wars to cease.[5] *Who raises the dead!*[6]

As we look ahead into the New Year and even further ahead, we choose to place our trust in You. If "…the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord,"[7] we trust in You. If "…the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging,"[8] we trust in You. Though …"nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall…,"[9] we in trust You. When …"the wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright…,[10]" we trust in You. We trust You. *We trust You!*

We are told that we can worship You in our own churches, but we cannot bring You into the marketplace or the workplace; into the State House or the school house; onto the battlefield or the football field; into the courtroom or the back room or the bedroom. As though the God of gods can be contained, boxed in, restricted, bound, hidden. We laugh at such foolishness and exalt You as the Most High God who strides the winds of the earth. The clouds are the dust of Your feet.[11] The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain You.[12] How much less any local church building. We invite You to have Your way in our lives. In our city. In our state. In our nation. In our world.

Now arise, O Lord God. Look on us, Your people who are called by Your name. Listen to us, as we cry out to You on behalf of our nation. Do not reject us. Have pity on us.

We feel the encroaching evil. "See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples…"[13] Darkness and gloom are descending. Those who hate us are infiltrating us. Those who are dedicated to destroying us are all around us. Are You at the head of this army? Is this the beginning of the Day of the Lord? Have we tried Your patience and crossed the line into Your judgment? Are You holding us accountable for our sin and rebellion and defiance, for our profanity and blasphemy and idolatry? "You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before You when You are angry?"[14] *Are You?* Light of the world. "Arise, shine" Your light into the darkness of our own hearts.[15] Most Holy God. You are righteous. You always do the right thing. We have done wrong. Your light reveals we are covered with shame because we know better. We have had generations of blessing and prosperity, yet we have refused to thank You, and instead give ourselves credit for what has come from Your hand. We have agreed with those who contradict Your Word. We have turned away from Your truth and believed lies. We have treated life casually. We have destroyed our environment selfishly. We have passed by the needy uncaringly. We have demanded entitlements defiantly. We have not listened to those who have warned us of the consequences of drifting from You. Because we don't know You, we don't know ourselves, and wallow in the uncertain twilight of gender non-binary confusion.

And now, as we look into the new year, we come face to face with a mess. What can be done to save us from ourselves? Even as the question reverberates in our minds, the answer is given: the solution to our spiritual and moral meltdown—to the restoration of the crumbling foundation of our nation—is not politics, nor the economy, nor health care, nor welfare or immigration reforms, nor free higher education, nor the court system, nor corporate or Wall Street regulation. You are the Answer. You are the Solution. Yet instead of turning to You, we seem to be turning farther and farther away from You. *But not now.* Now we turn back. We turn around. We re-turn to You. We run to You. We cling to You. We plead with You…

Turn to us! Draw near to us![16] If You do not help us, we will be defenseless. If You do not protect us, we will be exposed to danger. If You do not deliver us from evil, we will be overcome by it. If You do not have plans to give us hope and a future, we will slide into the past tense as a nation.[17] Into oblivion.

Father of all mercies. You have said that our land is a land that You, the Lord our God, cares for; that Your eyes are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.[18] As You look on our nation from this day forward, from January 1st to December 31st, we ask for what we know we don't deserve. We ask for Your blessing. *Please…*

* Bless our national and local primaries and elections. Raise up men and women who will lead us back to You. Raise up another Asa, who was fully committed to the Lord all his life.[19] Raise up another Jehoshaphat who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.[20] Raise up another Josiah who renewed the covenant of his people with You—"to follow the Lord and keep His commands. As long as he lived, he did not fail to follow the Lord."[21] Raise up leaders of moral and spiritual integrity who have a strong faith and a healthy reverence for You and therefore the wisdom to make right decisions. Put Your choice in the Oval Office.

* Bless our homeland security teams. Give them eyes to see the bad guys, ears to hear the evil chatter, minds to understand the tweets and codes, and the will to act before the enemy does. Protect us from evil.

* Bless our policemen and firemen, our armed forces and border patrol—all those who risk their lives to keep us safe. Restore to them the respect they deserve. Protect their lives and their families. Bring to the light of justice any corruption and abuse so that we can trust those in uniform. Guard those who guard us.

* Bless our judges and prosecutors. Cause them to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly, remembering that they are accountable to You.[22] Punish those who do wrong. Encourage those who do right.

You are the Fountainhead from whom all blessings flow. The list of our needs and our requests is endless. *Please*. Bless our doctors. Our lawyers. Our bankers. Our teachers. Our commissioners. Our farmers.

* Bless our preachers and seminary professors. Like Ezra of old, stir their hearts to be devoted to You first, then to the study and the preaching of Your Word.[23] When they preach or teach, compel them to preach the Word, not books about the Word. Motivate them with holy fear of standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for the way they have impacted others by their words and by their deeds. Remove those whose lives are out of sync with their lips. Raise up a generation of spiritual leaders that You approve of as workmen who do not need to be ashamed because they correctly handle the word of truth.[24] Fill them to overflowing with Your Spirit.

* And Father God. Please. Bless our families. The unloving spirits of infidelity, dishonesty, treachery, hypocrisy, immorality, pornography, and adultery are sweeping through our homes. The enemy seems to be attacking us on every level, on every front. A vast army of evil seems to have been unleashed against the home. Especially the homes and families of Christ-followers. "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."*25* We plead for Your divine protection. We plead for Your divine wisdom to counter the attacks so that our families are strengthened in their relationship with You. Be the center of our homes.

* Lord of love, we pray for You to bless our enemies. Yes, we do. Open their ears to the Truth. Open their minds to understand the Gospel. Open their hearts to long for Your love. Draw them to Yourself as moths are drawn to a flame. Your Light is stronger than their darkness. Bring them into the Light. Save them for all eternity. BUT if they reject You, we ask that You turn them on each other. Distract them. Destroy them. Prevent them from continuing to attack and persecute the righteous.

* Lastly, O God our Father, bless us. Bless me. Make me into a vessel of honor, an instrument "…for noble purposes, made holy, useful to our Master and prepared to do any good work."[26] I know the night is coming when work for You will cease.[27] Give me the strength and health to redeem the time. Use me now for Your Kingdom and Your glory. Open my lips to boldly and fearlessly make known the Gospel:[28] the Good News of redemption for the past…hope for the future… joy for the present regardless of circumstances… love that is unconditional, boundless, and eternal[29]…found at the Cross. Open my lips to

just give Jesus to a world that is increasingly desperate. Use me as an ambassador of peace on earth by first leading people into a right relationship with You, then with each other. When the world around me unravels, help me to stand strong on my faith in You. And when people see me standing strong, help them to see You.

And now, God of grace, as we pre-prayer for the New Year, we ask bottom-line that You send down Your Holy Spirit in fullness. Ignite the fire of revival in our own hearts. Protect us. Defend us. Comfort us. Empower us. Equip us as we put on the full armor of God so that we can stand against the devil's schemes…so that when the day of evil comes, we may be able to stand our ground…taking up the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God…and pray. With this in mind, we remain self-controlled and alert while we keep on praying until we prevail in prayer.[30] And we keep on watching expectantly. Is this the decade of Your return? We fervently hope so! *Even so, come Lord Jesus…*[31].

For the glory of Your great name…Jesus,

Amen

1 *Romans 8:28*
2 *2 Chronicles 20:6*
3 *2 Chronicles 7:1*
4 1 Samuel 17:1-5
5 *Psalm 46:9*
6 *2 Kings 4:1-37; Luke 7:11-16; 8:40-42, 49-56; Ephesians 1:17-21*
7 *Psalm 2:2*
8 *Psalm 46:2-3*
9 *Psalm 46:6*
10 *Psalm 37:14*
11 *Nahum 1:3*
12 *2 Chronicles 6:18*
13 *Isaiah 60:2*
14 *Psalm 76:7*
15 *Isaiah 60:1*
16 *James 4:8*
17 *Jeremiah 29:11-13*
18 *Deuteronomy 11:11*
19 *2 Chronicles 15:1-17*
20 *2 Chronicles 19:4-20:32*
21 *2 Chronicles 34:1-33*
22 *2 Chronicles 19:8-11*
23 *Ezra 7:10*
24 *2 Timothy 2:15; 4:1-2*
25 *2 Chronicles 20:12*

26 *2 Timothy 2:21*
27 *John 9:4*
28 *Ephesians 6:19*
29 *Ephesians 3:14-19*
30 *Ephesians 6;10-18; 1 Peter 4:7*
31 *Revelation 22:20*

**This prayer has been adapted from one released January 1, 2016.