

Pioneer Prayer Pack 6

July 28-August 3, 2019

Directions: One day this week, in the sanctuary, outside under some trees, in a comfortable room that offers privacy and no distractions, or on a conference call, the leader will distribute prayer packets, welcome participants, and open with a short prayer. Group members take turns reading the “Testimony Handout” (pg. 2). After reading, the group leader will assign prayer topics below to participants in a clockwise fashion. Each should pray silently for a minute about their prayer request. The group leader may open the prayer by thanking God for every person in the room and asking that each heart will be blessed. Before someone prays for their assigned topic, they should try and agree with the previous prayer. The prayer topics below are taken from the “Testimony Handout.” Please keep individual prayers short, or less than two minutes each.

1. Pray that we endure if we suffer for our faith in obedience to God, as Jeremiah did.
2. Pray that we repent and are forgiven for all sin against God.
3. Thank God for His mercy towards His sinning people.
4. Pray that God would delay judgment upon the world, that all may see their sin and repent.
5. Thank our Heavenly Father for His pitying care towards His wandering people.
6. Pray that our hearts would not harden under the straight testimony of Scripture and the *Testimonies*.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings first verse of Hymn #315 (pg. 4) to end open prayer time]

7. Pray that our leaders would not reject God’s messages to us in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.
8. Pray for greater blessings for God’s church by a closer connection with heaven.
9. Pray that we sense our great need for God more deeply.
10. Pray that our hearts would be broken, and our spirits be contrite before God.
11. Thank God that His words can never be destroyed.
12. Pray that the usefulness of God’s servants will increase, notwithstanding persecutions.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time; Song leader sings second verse of Hymn #315 (pg. 4) to end open prayer time]

13. Pray that the *Testimonies for the Church* may be introduced to every member of our church.
14. Pray for God’s Spirit to bless all churches, conferences, unions, divisions, and General Conference officers.
15. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the planning of Annual Council 2019
16. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the planning of General Conference Session 2020.
17. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the delegates of General Conference Session 2020.
18. Pray for God’s Spirit to bless GC Session 2020 visitors, logistics, worship sessions, and business sessions.

[3-5 min. Open Prayer Time – Thanksgiving and Praise; Finish Hymn #315 (pg. 4); Leader Closes Prayer]

Testimony Handout 6 for Pioneer Prayer

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 174-179

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Jeremiah was already deprived of his liberty because he would obey God and give to the king and others occupying responsible positions in Israel the words of warning which he had received from the mouth of God. The Israelites would not accept these reproofs nor allow their course to be questioned. They had manifested great anger and contempt at the words of rebuke and at the judgments which were predicted to come upon them if they continued in rebellion against the Lord. Although Israel would not hear the word of divine counsel, it did not make that word of less effect, neither did God cease to reprove and to threaten with His displeasure and His judgments those who refused to obey His requirements.

The Lord directed Jeremiah, saying: "Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

Here is shown the Lord's reluctance to give up His sinning people. And lest Israel had so far neglected His reproofs and warnings as to let them pass from their memory, He delays His judgments upon them and gives them a full rehearsal of their disobedience and aggravating sins from the days of Josiah down to their own time, and of the judgments He had pronounced in consequence of their transgressions. Thus they had another opportunity to see their iniquity and repent. In this we see that God does not delight in afflicting His people; but with a care that surpasses that of a pitying father for a wayward child, He entreats His wandering people to return to their own allegiance.

The prophet Jeremiah, in obedience to the commands of God, dictated the words that the Lord gave him to Baruch, his scribe, who wrote them upon a roll. See Jeremiah 36:4. This message was a reproof of the many sins of Israel and a warning of the consequences that would follow a continuance of their evil course. It was an earnest appeal for them to renounce their sins. After it was written, Jeremiah, who was a prisoner, sent his scribe to read the roll to all the people who had assembled "in the Lord's house upon the fasting day." Said the prophet: "It may be they will present their supplication before the Lord, and will return everyone from his evil way; for great is the anger and the fury that the Lord hath pronounced against this people."

The scribe obeyed the prophet, and the roll was read before all the people of Judah. But this was not all; he was summoned to read it before the princes. They listened with great interest, and fear was stamped upon their faces as they questioned Baruch concerning the mysterious writing. They promised to tell the king all they had heard in regard to him and his people, but counseled the scribe to hide himself, as they feared that the king would reject the testimony God had given through Jeremiah, and seek to slay not only the prophet, but his scribe.

When the king was told by the princes of what Baruch had read, he immediately ordered the roll brought and read to him. But instead of heeding its warnings and trembling at the danger that hung over himself and his people, in a frenzy of rage he flung it into the fire, notwithstanding certain ones who were high in his confidence had begged him not to burn it. When the wrath of this wicked monarch rose against Jeremiah and his scribe, and he forthwith sent for them to be taken; but the Lord hid them." After the king had burned the sacred roll, the word of God came to Jeremiah, saying: "Take

thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the Lord; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?"

A merciful God had graciously warned the people for their good. "It may be," said the compassionate Creator, "that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them, that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." God pities the blindness and perversity of man; He sends light to their darkened understanding in reproofs and threatenings which are designed to make the most exalted feel their ignorance and deplore their errors. He would cause the self-complacent to feel dissatisfied with their attainments and seek greater blessings by closer connection with heaven.

God's plan is not to send messengers who will please and flatter sinners; He delivers no messages of peace to lull the unsanctified into carnal security. But He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces his soul with sharp arrows of conviction. The ministering angels present to him the fearful judgments of God, to deepen the sense of his great need and prompt the agonizing cry: "What shall I do to be saved?" The very hand that humbles to the dust, rebukes sin, puts pride and ambition to shame, lifts up the penitent, stricken one, and inquires with deepest sympathy: "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?"

When man has sinned against a holy and merciful God, he can pursue no course so noble as to sincerely repent and confess his errors in tears and bitterness of soul. This God requires of him; He will accept of nothing less than a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

But the king and his lords, in their arrogance and pride, refused the invitation of God to return; they would not heed this warning and repent. This gracious opportunity was their last. God had declared that if they refused to hear His voice, He would inflict upon them fearful retribution. They did refuse to hear, and He pronounced His judgments upon Israel; He visited with special wrath the man who had proudly lifted himself up against the Almighty.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost. And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not."

The burning of the roll was not the end of the matter. The written words were more easily disposed of than the reproof and warning which they contained and the swift-coming punishment which God had pronounced against rebellious Israel. But even the written roll was reproduced at the command of the Lord. The words of the Infinite were not to be destroyed. "Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words."

God does not send judgments upon His people without first warning them to repent. He uses every means to bring them back to obedience and does not visit their iniquity with judgments until He has given them ample opportunity to repent. The wrath of man sought to prevent the labors of the prophet of God by depriving him of his liberty; but God can speak to men through prison walls, and even increase the usefulness of His servants through the very means by which their persecutors seek to limit their influence.

O for a Closer Walk! – Hymn #315

1

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

2

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn
And drove Thee from my breast.

3

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill.

4

The dearest idol I have known,
What-e'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee.