

Russia - Ukraine Crisis

The following post was written by the J. John in the UK. Portions of the article are helpful as we pray for this crisis. In light of all that is going on in the Ukraine, I think we should spend our day of prayer on our knees for the war that is occurring there, and our role in praying. He suggests four duties for those of us who are Christians, as follows:

First, in many ways this is a wake up call for the Church. We have followed too closely the naive philosophy of the world that there is nothing so seriously wrong with human beings that science and prosperity will not cure. This appalling invasion of the Ukraine demonstrates the sad biblical truth that human beings are inclined to evil and that only the grace of God in Christ can truly bring peace. We have been inclined to consider evil to belong to fantasy realms such as Narnia and Middle Earth. The sad reality is that evil, whether subtle or blatant, is present in our world.

Second, we have the duty of prayer. We believe in a God who answers prayer and who reigns over the world. Let us bring the situation to Him. Let us pray for those who are at this moment frightened and fearful. Let us pray against those powers who wish for evil to be done. We must realize that these are dangerous times, and we must pray.

Third, we have the duty of care. We need to lift up all those who are involved in the conflict. But we must be prepared to do more than simply pray. Although much of the suffering will be beyond our immediate aid, there will in days ahead be opportunities for practical giving and caring. There may be a temptation for people to avoid the news and try and forget what is happening. . We who are Christians do not have this option. We need to be involved.

Finally we have a duty to share. We are reminded that this world is not a playground but a battlefield. We may have conversations with those who are scared and troubled about the state of the world. In this darkness comes an opportunity to share the light of Christ and the only lasting hope of peace in the world.

J. John

1. Praise (3 min)

Read Psalm 9:7-12 and in light of all that is going on in the Ukraine, praise Him for these characteristics of His that stand firm forever, and give us hope.

**“ The Lord reigns forever;
He has established His throne for judgement .
He will judge the world in righteousness;
He will govern the peoples with justice.
The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
A stronghold in times of trouble.
Those who know your name will trust in you,**

For you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”

2. Prayer Points

1. Ukraine

1. For the people in Ukraine

- For safety, protection and comfort
- That God's peace would overcome the fear they feel
- For those who have already lost loved ones and are grieving
- Pray for safety for refugees in neighbouring countries
- Pray that God would bring salvation to many

2. For Christians in Ukraine

- Pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian.
- Pray that God would give them courage in this crisis.
- Pray that they may proclaim the good news of the Kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn.
- Pray that they would demonstrate the love of Christ in word and action.
- Isaiah 26:3 - “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” May this be a reality.

3. For the Leaders in Ukraine

- Pray for wisdom as leaders make crucial decisions
- Pray that God would move in their hearts and guide their steps and plans.
- Pray for unity among them.

2. Russia

1. For the People

- Pray that they would have compassion on the Ukrainian People.
- Pray they would see the truth and stand up to their government.
- Pray that many would turn to Jesus.

2. For the Army

- Pray that they would be stopped in their tracks and have a change of heart.

- Pray that they would have courage to put their weapons down.
- Pray that their weapons would malfunction
- Pray that they would encounter Jesus.

3. For President Putin

- Pray that he would have a change of heart and repent.
- Pray that he will lay aside pride and a desire for control and power and humble himself before God.
- Pray he will listen to world leaders who are crying out to stop this invasion.

3. World Leaders

- Pray for wisdom as world leaders plan and strategize the next steps.
- Pray for unity among leaders.
- Pray for courage to do the right thing.
- Pray for world leaders wisdom as they impose sanctions, looking for diplomatic and economic ways to end this aggression.

4. Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done

- Pray that believers throughout the world would persevere in prayer
- Pray that God would accomplish His purposes in the midst of this crisis.
- Pray that global Christians, would repent of our own selfishness and hatred
- Pray that Christians would demonstrate a kingdom of peace
- Pray for global humanitarian efforts
- Pray for deep repentance of hatred, envy and malice in this world
- Pray to God that He would write another story in our time; that He would tear down evil schemes and give wisdom from heaven so those caught up in violence would choose a less violent way.