

# Num 17:41-50 Call to Intercession (Covid-19)



## A. Background

1. Public Worship in Australia as of Sun 22 Mar 2020 due to Covid-19
  - a. Australia's Rule
    - Max 100 people indoor service is ok, allowing for social distance of 2m between people.
    - All other indoor service must close.
    - This rule can become more restrictive any time.
  - b. School Hall availability for Sunday Church gathering
    - Classrooms are suddenly unavailable for children's ministry and prayer room due to new regulations.
    - School shutdown or Hall closure is a possibility at a moment's notice.
    - We can relocate our Sunday service to Epping at a different service time, where we have our office and hold all our midweek gatherings.
2. We are the Lampstand in 'Ryde & Epping' Area
  - a. Church's prayer, worship and proclamation is the weapon against this plague.  
If we stop, who has the authority and power to deal with this pestilence?  
Are we located in the epicentre of Australian covid-19 outbreak - by chance or by God's providence?
  - b. If you feel unwell, or have compromised immune system, or feel uneasy for any reason, please feel completely free to stay home and connect through internet on 'Zoom' and 'Youtube'.
  - c. We will suspend Wednesday night Bible teaching during this time to make more room for prayer.
    - We will make supplication, prayers, intercession, giving of thanks for all men, for kings and all who are in authority (1 Tim 2:1-4).  
PM Scott Morrison, Department of health, Doctors, Nurses, Healthcare workers, people of Australia
    - Especially for the city of Sydney – Epping/Ryde – which is the epicenter of Corona outbreak!  
Epicenter of Australia → NSW → Sydney → Ryde / Epping  
Chance? Or Providence?

## B. Call to Intercession

1. The Latin root meaning of the word 'intercession' is 'to come in between' or 'to intersect'. Between whom? Righteous God and sinful man. Intercessor stands between death and life, and cry out to God for His mercy!
  - The essence of intercession is summed up in one word: 'mercy'. We are saying, '*God, we deserve your judgments, but you have to smite me first to get to the people.*'
  - Effective intercessors must have a clear understanding of the justice of God, the holiness of God, and the mercy of God. '*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*' (Gen 18:15).
  - How much understanding of the 'holiness of God' is in the church today? (Rev 4:8).
2. Jesus is the ultimate intercessor. (Is 52:12 c.f. Luke 23:34 – 'Father forgive them.' Heb 7:24-25)
  - Moses and Paul had the heart of intercessor! (Ex 32:32; Rom 9:3). It doesn't take a large number to change the course of history. God was willing to spare Sodom of population of ~10,000 for 10 righteous men.
  - Can you imagine a mother holding her baby, and willing to give up her own life for her child?
  - Why can we say this? If I die, I go to heaven to be with the Lord, but if those who don't know the Lord die, where will they go? They need to hear the gospel and have opportunity to repent and turn to Jesus Christ.

## C. Moses' Intercession

### 1. Moses on Mt. Sinai (Ex 32:7-14)

- God says to Moses, 'Let me alone' (v10). I.e. 'Step back so I can unleash my full judgment.' But Moses wouldn't step back. He didn't care about being the head of the nation. He cared about God's people and His glory.

God relented.

### 2. Moses and Aaron at the Camp (Num 17:41-50)

- The same pattern is here too. Now both Moses and Aaron are intercessors. It is the power of two in agreement.

God tells them, "Get away from this congregation that I may consume them in a moment." (v45) And Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the Lord instead of stepping away. (v45)

- 'Aaron took it [the censer] and ran into the midst of assembly, and already the plague had begun among the people.' (v.47)

*Australia will be in a critical point in the next 2-3 weeks. Covid-19 infection number broke through 1,000 and increasing by the factor of 10 every 15 days. This number is projected to grow to 10,000s by mid-April.*

- What is the burning incense? It is the prayers of the saints rising from burning hearts. (v.47 C.f. Rev 8:3)

*'...and he stood between the dead and the living so the plague was stopped.'* (v.48)

***Will GI stand between the dead and the living at this time? Is this why God put us here at such a time as this?***

## D. Church's Authority

### 1. Matthew 16:17-19 (c.f. Luke 9:18-20) tells us the Authority of Heaven is vested in the Church.

### 2. I believe this :

- God is telling to GI to use this divine authority - the key of heaven to break the rising covid-19 curve.
- If God's people will intercede with the heart of God, He will step in to save lives in our region and in our city.
- Let the enemy know there is the Lampstand of the LORD in Ryde / Epping, who knows how to exercise the authority of heaven!

