

Beyond the Ballot shows how God also calls women to ignite a Biblical transformation of their nation! Pam Russell is a living example of women bringing transformation to capitols, and she has carefully studied godly women throughout the Bible and how they made a difference through strategic prayer and influence upon leaders. She points out the winsome way God strategically used women in the Bible to influence kings and kingdoms for His glory. This book is a must-read for women wanting to follow a Biblical model of influence through prayer and God-ordained action.

—**David Andersen**
state minister for Virginia
Capitol Commission

As women's roles seem to be ever changing and increasingly demanding, it is comforting to know that God gives us many female role models in His Word, women who made a difference in their communities, women who impacted their world and influenced change. Pam Russell's study, *Beyond the Ballot*, shows us the impact we as women can have on our world and our leaders. Sometimes God called one specific woman to be the change maker. Many times, He called women to prayer. Pam's study shows us that we, as women, can make a significant impact quietly, on our knees. Right now, in this present time, God is calling us as women to pray. As you delve into Pam's study, I pray that you, too, will hear God's Capitol Call to you.

—**Karen Pence**
First Lady of Indiana

Beyond the Ballot is a culmination of Pam Russell's years of immersing herself in God's Word, as well as her experiences serving as a chaplain for the elected officials and staff in the Indiana State Capitol. I appreciate how Pam skillfully uses

Scripture to teach about Biblical female leaders and to guide the reader into an understanding of how she, too, can be a woman of spiritual influence. Even in my first reading of *Beyond the Ballot*, Pam's writing and God's Word challenged, encouraged, and convicted me.

—**Peggy Welch**
former Indiana state legislator

Beyond the Ballot

PAMELA RUSSELL



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my beloved Mrs. Nettie Miller, the most influential woman in my life. The Lord used her to teach and mentor not only me but countless other women. She was a working example of a missionary and a godly woman. I also dedicate this book to my daughter and granddaughters, who by extension have been influenced by Mrs. Miller.

Beyond the Ballot: A Call to Pray for Your Nation

© 2016 Regular Baptist Press • Arlington Heights, Illinois

www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

Printed in U.S.A. All rights reserved.

RBP5159 • ISBN 978-1-62940-305-2

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without prior written permission of the publisher.

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	5
<i>Introduction</i>	9
<i>Lesson 1</i> Eve: The Mother of All Living	11
<i>Lesson 2</i> Sarah: The Mother of Kings	19
<i>Lesson 3</i> Shiphrah and Puah: Courageous Midwives	25
<i>Lesson 4</i> Jochebed: Woman of Courage and Faith	31
<i>Lesson 5</i> Miriam: Disabled by Jealousy	37
<i>Lesson 6</i> Deborah and Jael: Ready for Battle	45
<i>Lesson 7</i> Hannah: Woman of Prayer	53
<i>Lesson 8</i> Abigail: Wise Counselor	59
<i>Lesson 9</i> Esther: Influential First Lady	67
<i>Lesson 10</i> Mary: Woman of Prayer from First to Last	73
<i>Lesson 11</i> Anna: Witness to the Messiah's Arrival	79
<i>Lesson 12</i> Lydia: Woman of Firsts	85
<i>Lesson 13</i> Priscilla: Influential Businesswoman	91
<i>Leader's Guide</i>	97

Preface

WE LIVE IN A HISTORIC TIME. There are more women in the political arena than ever before, more women working in government agencies, more women being elected to public office, and more women holding executive office than at any other time in history. So the role of women in politics begs to be studied Scripturally.

From my recent studies of the Scriptures prompted by God, I have become convinced that it is possible to stem the tide of evil, to push back the line of battle from our homes, schools, churches, and, yes, even our neighborhoods and towns until Christ returns. How, you may ask, can we be that effective? I am glad you asked.

The prophet Samuel is recorded as saying to King Saul and the people assembled, “God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you” (1 Samuel 12:23), reminding us that it is incumbent upon us to pray for our nation and political leaders.

Christ commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). He commissioned Paul to do the same (Acts 9:15). Paul’s strategy was to target capital cities to establish churches, and the capitol buildings to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ to the rulers.

Does God have the same call for women? I wondered. I thought about the prominent women of the Bible and immediately began to see a pattern. So I set to work to study. I was thrilled to find that God uses the same strategy with women. Or rather, He definitely uses women along with men in His strategy to reach world rulers. I was thrilled to see in Scripture, as for the first time, women effecting significant changes in capitols and nations, often being major players in the battle of turning the tide away from evil and back to righteousness.

How many of us have actually thought of the government as a viable mission field rather than a necessary evil that we simply tolerate and complain about? My studies revealed that often it is one woman who effects change, sometimes two or more, but God clearly, purposefully chooses and qualifies women to effect change on a national scale.

I think many Christian women are as I was—pessimistic, not so full of hope for change in our nation. But God has spoken; He has a message. He is in control of the political and economic events of the day (Daniel 4:34, 35), and He uses adversity to get our attention (Psalm 119:67, 71, 75), to warn, to chastise, and to bring about repentance.

In Jeremiah 9:17–24, God specifically told the prophet to “call for the mourning women” to pray, mourn, and lament for the kingdom of Judah and its capital, Jerusalem, because the rampant apostasy and violence there were precipitating God’s wrath. So God specifically calls women to pray for their nation’s capital and capitol, and, as the text says, to teach their daughters and neighbors to pray. The wailing, or mourning, women were professional mourners hired to publicly weep and wail in anguish to call attention to a great loss or calamity that had occurred. God wanted the women to weep and mourn to call attention to the great loss that would occur if nothing changed in Israel. The description of Jerusalem in that passage reminds us of many capitals today, with gross injustice and violence taking the lives of the young. God especially calls us women to pray, and I would say, in anguish, for our state, nation, and capitals and for those who govern there. To pray not about political issues, but about the demise of righteousness. Not to bring about moral change, but for the leadership to come to know Christ.

In 1 Timothy 2:1–4 Paul calls the church to pray first for government leaders so they will be saved and so that believers “may lead a quiet and peaceable life” in the community, being salt and light, able to share the gospel freely. Paul wrote this letter from prison in Rome at the time of Nero and the great

persecution against Christians. In the Old Testament we have the example of Daniel, who made a priority of praying for the kings he served. The results of those prayers are seen in the effects on the kings and their response toward God. These are the verses that started me thinking that it is possible to see God turn back the tide of evil from our homes, churches, communities, and nations.

This is our weapon and strategy, ladies: prayer—not marching around government buildings waving placards in protest, for which we find no such example in Scripture, but prayer. This is the high calling from God to touch our nation for Him.

From beginning to end, the Bible records God as specifically choosing women to impact government leaders and legislation. What women have done has not been auxiliary to His plan. Before the foundation of the world, God chose specific women to have a vital part in His plan of reaching world leaders and thus nations. And His selection of women runs the gamut from the very young to the very old, from pure and chaste to immoral, from married to widowed to single, from fertile to barren, from slave to free, from those with loving husbands to those in difficult marriages, from royalty to working women to paupers, and from citizens to immigrants and foreigners. He used a combat veteran, a babysitter, a judge, a queen, a prostitute, a businesswoman, and a skilled trades woman, to name a few.

Does He omit any social or economic group? No. We all have a part. So let's study these women, and by them be inspired to consider how we, with our meager time and strength, can petition God to push back the tide of evil and see righteousness established in our communities, states, nation, and even the world. Let's turn from being pessimists to being women of faith, praying and watching expectantly for God to move. This study will show that the current conditions in the world are not so different from those in past ages and that God has always

faithfully steered His people through them in response to their cries.

Introduction

How hopeful are you for your country? Do you think it's too late for revival? God is blasphemed at every turn; and murder, violence, gross immorality, corruption, and injustice are everywhere. In our communities all the previously "safe" places are no longer so: school shootings have become almost common, drugs are rampant, young people are leaving the church in droves, and evil seems to have won the battle over good. In truth, evil has targeted our homes as it seeks entrance not only through doors and windows, but through all the electronic devices we now own.

The purpose of this study is to glean from the women in Scripture how to pray for our nation, state, government leaders, and those of other nations, and what to pray for. We are going to study God's strategy of using women, as well as men, in His plan to reach kings and capitols for Himself.

For our study of these influential women, we first need to understand that when they stood in faith, it was God's promises recorded in Genesis on which they stood; it was the theology of the book of Genesis that they were well acquainted with. Faith is not a leap in the dark. It is always grounded in something sure; it is always grounded in theology, which is defined as "what is true about God" or "the study of God." We will find that the women in our study knew their theology. That is a good challenge for us too.

This study is based on three key verses concerning prayer for our nation and government leaders. It would be good to memorize them: First Samuel 12:23 tells us that it is a sin not to pray for our government leaders and nation. Jeremiah 9:17–24 calls women specifically to pray urgently for their nation and its capital. And 1 Timothy 2:1–4 tells us that prayer for our government leaders and all in authority is to be a priority, that

government leadership will be saved, and that the church can exist peacefully, free to share the gospel.

The answer for our violent communities is to pray for God to raise up godly leaders who, led by the Holy Spirit, will govern with wisdom and discernment given them by God, and will work to rout evil and establish righteousness and truth. God will work through them with His power to that end. We have such examples throughout the sacred pages of Scripture. Therefore, from the encouragement of these Scriptures, I believe we can, through prayer, see God push back the tide of evil from our homes, our churches, and our communities. We won't stop the day of God's wrath from coming on the earth, but we can keep evil at bay until then. Let's learn to move beyond the ballot to sincere, effectual prayer for our society.

Eve: The Mother of All Living

“I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

THE FIRST WOMAN we meet in the Bible is Eve, the very first woman created, formed from Adam’s rib. We must spend a little time becoming acquainted with her if we are to understand God’s plan and strategy to target kings, kingdoms, and capitals for Himself, because it was through Eve that the fall of man¹ occurred.

Unfolding the Word

In Genesis we find that the primary means by which God used women to be influential for Him was childbirth. Only women can give birth, as per God’s design. In our society, the fact that we women are the ones so gifted is often scorned, and this gifting is seen as a hindrance that holds women back from reaching their full potential. But the opposite is true. This gifting is a high honor from God. God shows us as much in Genesis as He uses women and the means of childbirth to inaugurate His plans.

Read Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:1, 7-9, 15-25; 3:1-24.

1. According to Genesis 1:26 and 27, for what purposes did God create Adam and Eve?

Adam and Eve were commissioned by God not only to be His image bearers, but also to have dominion (rule) over the earth and its creatures and to be fruitful, multiplying and filling the earth. They were in essence the prince and princess of earth under God's kingship. When the serpent (Satan; Revelation 12:9) tempted them to fall, he sought to usurp their authority and, ultimately, to usurp the kingship of God.

2. Read Isaiah 14:12–14 and list the enemy's goals.

In Genesis 3 we are told that the enemy came to Eve in a beautiful disguise, using her as the means to bring about the fall of mankind. He lied to her, subtly causing her to doubt God's word and goodness. He implied that God was denying her true fulfillment, that she needed more. Satan told her he knew how she could experience that "more." Eve went for the experience, convincing Adam to do the same. As a result, the whole world was plunged into sin and separation from God.

3. According to Genesis 3:21, instead of Adam and Eve dying that day, what did God do for and to them?

God killed one or more animals, shedding their blood; thus an innocent substitute died in Adam and Eve's place. God used the animal skins to "cover" the pair's sinfulness. However, the two did in a sense die that day: they died spiritually, and physically they began the aging process toward death.

4. Read Ephesians 2:1–3. What is man’s condition when he is born into this world?

Mercy and Curses

But even in this catastrophic event, God pointed the way to the Messiah—the Sin Solution, the Serpent Bruiser, the Lord Jesus Christ to come. On that fateful day in Eden, besides providing the means by which Adam and Eve could escape the death sentence, God pronounced three curses, the consequences for disobedience that they would not escape.

Pronouncement to the Serpent

5. What was God’s pronouncement on the serpent (Genesis 3:14, 15)?

The serpent, Satan’s tool, would become the most loathed reptile and lowest of all creatures. There would also be spiritual warfare between Satan’s offspring and the offspring of Eve. Genesis 3:15 promises that through Eve’s descendants would come the One Who would crush the serpent’s power and authority. The Promised One would come through the means of childbirth.

Pronouncement to Eve

6. What was God’s pronouncement on the woman (Genesis 3:16)?

With death now in the world, the population would soon be erased if there were no means of ample replenishment, so God gave to Eve and her descendants the blessing of being “fruitful” and multiplying. However, the birth process would be fraught with pain and suffering. Additionally, marriage would not be without conflict.

Pronouncement to Adam

7. What was God’s pronouncement on the man (Genesis 3:17–19)?

To Adam God said that the earth would be cursed, hard to cultivate. Providing food for the table would become very hard work. Adam was now mortal; after a life of hard work, his body would return to the soil from which he had been created.

8. Using your “sanctified imagination,” what do you imagine went through Eve’s mind on hearing God’s pronouncements?

New Birth

God uses women to reach kings and capitals primarily through giving birth. Because all women are descendants of Eve, we don’t deserve the honor and trust of bringing new life into the world. But by God’s love and mercy, childbirth answers the problem of depopulation through death. Similarly, by God’s grace, spiritual rebirth is possible; it is the means of obtaining eternal life in Jesus Christ, thus answering the problem of spiritual death. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “You must be born again.” Birth. It’s the new beginning.

9. Go through the following verses and write down what God says about death and the solution He has provided for death:
John 3:3, 16

Romans 5:12, 18

Romans 5:12, 18

Romans 10:9–13; John 1:12

1 Corinthians 15:21

Ephesians 2:1–9

10. Have you been born again? If so, when?

If not, will you now consider your need of the Savior, your need to be born again of the Holy Spirit? Will you now in prayer confess to Christ that you are a sinner, spiritually dead, and ask Him to give you new life in Him?

Eve's Hope

Read Genesis 4:1.

We women are by nature fixers. Eve gave birth to her first son, Cain. Her statement implies she was hoping he would be the one to crush the serpent.

Summary

The promise of Genesis 3:15 concerning the Messiah is critical to understanding the women that we shall continue to meet. It is also important to remember that Satan has continued working to acquire dominion of the earth for himself.

11. Read John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. What title does our Lord use for Satan?

The enemy has been working through wicked people to accomplish his goal. God has also been busy, proclaiming to the leaders of the earth, first, that He is God—Creator, Possessor, and Judge of all the earth—and, second, that everyone will stand before Him.

God, in His love and mercy, also gives people opportunity to submit willingly to His kingship during their time on earth, or be forced to bow the knee when He returns to earth.

12. What does Philippians 2:9–11 tell us in regard to this?

No nation will be able to say, “It’s not fair. I did not know.” Each will have had its chance so that every one of them will be without excuse (Romans 2:1).

Prayer Points

- The episode between Adam and Eve and the enemy makes it clear that it is imperative to pray for rulers, or government leaders, for they are ever Satan’s targets as he relentlessly seeks to control kingdoms and nations through them.
- This episode makes it clear that the enemy will use women as pawns in his strategy.
- First Timothy 2:1–4 commissions us to pray for our leaders and capitals, and tells us what to pray for.
- Find the names of your state and national leaders and begin praying for them. Websites are useful resources, and the Public Servants’ Prayer website (publicservantsprayer.org) has great listings. You can sign up to receive the names of public servants on a daily or weekly basis.

Taking Action in Prayer

Take time now, as you close in prayer, to pray for your public servants. Pray that God will give wisdom and discernment to those who know Christ as their Savior and that He will protect them from evil. Pray that those who do not know Christ will come to the knowledge of the truth.

Endnote

1. "Man" is used in this study to refer to individuals and to the human race. See merriam-webster.com for a full definition of "man."