

## Mary Craig

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**From:** Mary Craig  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 31, 2010 4:20 PM  
**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries August 2010 email



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

August 2010

It was time to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Nehemiah had prayed—weeping, fasting, beseeching the God of heaven to hear his prayer for the children of Israel. He confessed sins. He had concerns that the Lord's name was not being esteemed as it should. Jerusalem was in ruins. Nehemiah wanted civil authority reestablished in Jerusalem. He wanted it to be a strategic center of refuge for the remnant Israelites. He had a plan. He had been given provisions. He had God's help.

At one point the people gathered together. Ezra opened the book of the Law to read it to the people.

*And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,  
 And all the people answered, Amen, Amen,  
 With lifting up their hands: and they  
 Bowed their heads, and worshiped the LORD with their  
 Faces to the ground.  
 Nehemiah 8.6*

**Ezra blessed God.** He thanked Him. He praised Him. He acknowledged God's greatness. He acknowledged Him as the Covenant Lord. The people responded in agreement. They raised their hands. They bowed low, bowing their heads, bowing down. They had their faces to the ground. They worshiped.

We need to do this right now, today, in our history. Much around us is in ruins. We need divine intervention.

Another time the people assembled with fasting and with sackclothes. They separated themselves and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. They read in the book of the Law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshiped the LORD. (Nehemiah 9.3) The Levites cried unto the Lord. Then they said,

*Stand up and bless the LORD your God forever and ever:  
 and blessed be our glorious name  
 which is exalted above all blessing and praise. (Neh. 9.5)*

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Read Nehemiah 9 and you will see this remarkable prayer. It is a pattern prayer for a nation suffering hardship.

*Now therefore, O our God, the great, mighty and awesome God,  
who keeps His covenant of love,  
do not let all this hardship seem trifling in Your eyes—the  
hardship that has come upon us, upon our kings and leaders,  
upon our priests and prophets, upon our fathers and all Your people,  
from the days of the kings of Assyria until today. (Neh. 9.32)*



The East Gate, Jerusalem

We need to bless God. It's not that God is helped or strengthened or going to change in any way by our blessing Him. God changes not. He's not better off for it; but we are. God is blessed forever. He is the Most Blessed One. He is the Source of all life and blessing. We're really agreeing that God is blessed. We magnify Him, putting Him under the microscope, as it were, and seeing just how glorious He is. We exalt His Name. We're agreeing as to just how magnificent God is and just how exalted is His status.

*And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord  
your God for the good land He has given you. (Deut. 8.10)*

Blessing God is recognizing God's worth, His gracious bounty, His glorious attributes, His impeccable character, His great richness. We recognize God as the giver of blessing when we bless Him. For example, Ephesians 1.3-14 is really about blessing God first and foremost.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings  
In heavenly places in Christ...Ephesians 1.3*

Psalm 100.4 tells us to enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name! How many names of God do you know? There are well over a hundred. They run all through Scripture. God reveals Himself through His Names. Discover them and you grow in your discovery of the true God.

We bless the Lord and are to remember all His benefits. (Psalm 103) He forgives our sins. He heals our diseases. He redeems our lives from the pit. He pardons transgressions. Think about the benefits. Think about the marvelous works of God as Creator and Redeemer and bless Him for them. (Ps 145.10)

If you look through the psalms, you will find many that begin with “Bless the Lord.” Look for them. Pray them. Use them as models to write your own psalms to God.

Sing to the Lord. Tell of His salvation. Declare His glory among the nations. Talk about God. (Psalm 96.2, 3) Be His representative, His ambassador, His cheerleader. What marvelous thing is God doing in your life right now? What has He done in the past? It helps to recount these things. It’s encouraging. It strengthens faith.

As you become the local president of God’s fan club you will find something happening. There is a change in the atmosphere. God comes near. God begins to fill the space with His presence so that you become aware of His nearness. And sometimes, in that God-focused time, miracles happen.

Psalm 34.1 tells us that God’s praise should continually be in our mouths. We are to extol God as our personal God and King and bless His name every day into the ages. (Ps 145.1-2, 21)

David blessed the Lord before everyone. Read his prayer and appeal to God in 1 Chronicles 29.10ff. He acknowledged God as exalted head above all. He acknowledged that riches and honor come from God and that it is in God’s hand to make great. David was king; yet he acknowledged he was under the position and sovereignty of God, as was his kingdom. All that anyone has comes from God’s hand and is all God’s own. David knew what brought God pleasure.

Find out what pleases the Lord. Bless Him. Turn to God and not to government or to mother church or to something or someone else. Instead of griping, give God the glory due Him. **Bless Him.**



Sea of Galilee, March 2010 MCM mission

If you’re in our area, you are invited to visit Craighouse® and join us for the exalted worship of Christ our Lord. And if you haven’t, check out our newest section of [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org) ---Faith of Our Fathers. You can also go directly to this part of our web site by going to [www.faithofourfathers.us](http://www.faithofourfathers.us). Our newest Bible study begins August 6<sup>th</sup>, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. “Of Kings and Kingdoms: The Battle of the Kings.” Prophetic words are posted on [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org) in the prophetic section.

Rejoicing in His bounty,

Mary Craig, DPM

