

OPERATION PRAYER STORM

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Operation Desert Storm has etched its uniqueness into history as the war with the least amount of casualties inflicted on one side. Yet, military technology has never been more potentially deadly. No explanation could suffice, except that it was a miracle.

And behind the miracle was the God who heard the prayers of His children all over the world. Even non-believers admitted, as one person did on a news-interview, "Just in case God's really there, I'm praying for a quick end to the war." President Bush had no doubt that "God's really there", and throughout the war, implored the nation to pray. Television pastor Robert Schuller crystallized the prayer fever into an organized "Operation Desert Prayer", in which 24 hours a day, groups of people were pouring into heaven requests for the protection and safety of our troops.

Imagine how "noisy" heaven must have been the first few months of 1991! How God's heart must have thrilled to hear His telephones ringing off the hook! As forcefully as the Allies stormed into Kuwait and Iraq did prayers storm into heaven. Yet God may have felt a twinge of sorrow, too, because only something as big as a world-wide crisis would get people interested in

seeking Him. I wonder how quickly after the war ended did heaven become rather silent again.

Why didn't President Bush ask us to pray for the Kurdish situation? Or for Secretary of State James Baker's diplomatic efforts? Or for the revolutionary events in the Soviet Union? Most likely, he personally sought divine guidance in such issues, but his reservation to encourage the nation to pray, except for the war itself, betrays an attitude which may be lurking in too many of our minds, that God's assistance is needed only in matters we can't handle.

I wonder would we avoid future crises by praying for issues we "can" handle as earnestly as we do for those we can't? Speculating whether Operation Desert Storm could have been avoided had we initiated Operation Desert Prayer before fighting began would be futile, because that could never be answered. But the lesson which glows brightly from the Gulf War, and every other event in which people sought divine aid, is that God truly hears and answers prayer. May we not forget, lest another deathly crisis shakes us to our knees.

Prayer can certainly move a mountain. But it can also lead us along more gentle paths which would avoid the mountain

altogether. Let us commence Operation Prayer Storm and not relent until heavenly armies fulfil the hope of the ages.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Col. 4:2. 