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In praying for a country, it is good to have knowledge of its history. To pray regarding Masonic involvement in Mexico, not only should you know something about Masonry, but also about Masonry in Mexico.

Freemasonry (or Masonry) is a secret society, formally organized in England in 1717. Masons were heavily involved in independence movements in the new world. They desired to see separation of church and state and supported religious freedom. Although they believe in God, it is not the God of the Bible. They believe in the perfectibility of man and do not accept man's sinfulness. They believe they have taken the best of all religions and united them. Although they support freedom of religion, there is the hope that there will one day be a new age, and a one world religion, with its roots in Masonry. Masons ascend through various degrees to the "grand lodge on high." Although they profess not to be involved in politics or religion, they are involved in both. They have chaplains, funeral services, altars, etc. Within Masonry there is much of the occult and ancient mystery religions as well as humanism.

Masonry came to Mexico through various channels. Spain, France, England, Cuba and the United States were all involved. The first U.S. ambassador, Joel Poinsett, was instrumental in introducing the York Rite. The first two political parties in Mexico were based on the York and Scottish Rite. These two parties caused such uproar in 1828 that Masonry was outlawed. However, it continued especially under the National Mexican Rite and the influence of Benito Juárez. I have been told by a Mason that recent Mexican governments have been ruled by the Scottish Rite.

## Guidelines for prayer

- 1. Pray that the church will be cleansed of Masonry, that Christians who are members of a lodge will "choose this day whom they will serve." Pray for good teaching and leadership regarding this issue.
- 2. Thank God for constitutional religious freedom and the role Masons played to introduce this. However, pray that Masonic control over the government will be broken and that leaders will have the opportunity to follow the one true God, Jesus Christ.