

Is there any hope for England? Prophet Jim Smith

SHORT VERSION.

The prophetic word for England “Is there any hope for England?” is long and complex. I wrote at such length and complexity to show that prophecy is not the shallow emotional experience that it often appears to be in our churches, but a deep experience, undergirded by good theology and good practice.

But it takes a lot of time to get hold of, and many people have asked me to produce a simplified version. So I have re-written the original material in a form which I hope is easy to understand, and my hope is that those who get hold of this material will want to study the full text, which is available at www.serving-africa.org.

Does God speak to Nations?

I have made an assumption here – that those reading this material accept that God does speak today. (I have dealt with this issue elsewhere. Anyone who is interested might like to download “Exploring the prophetic” available for free download.) But most of us are only used to God speaking into our personal situations, or into our churches. Does he really speak to Nations?

1. Why shouldn't he?

If God is God, and if he is Lord of his creation, then I cannot see any reason why he wouldn't want to address the nations of the world. We live in a global village, where one leader can speak in the depths of an African jungle, and we can see and hear him in our own living rooms. If men can do this, then why can't God do it?

2. The Bible tells us that he does.

Here are two examples. In the first, God speaks to Moses about the future of the people of Israel, and in the second, Jesus speaks about the future of Jerusalem, and the Israelites.

Exodus 3: 1-10 “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight— why the bush does not burn up. When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about

their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:1-10)

Mark 13: 1-2 “As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

God clearly has a vital interest in the destiny of Nations. He sent his followers to make converts in all of them,(Acts 1:8) to take his message of global reconciliation, (Col 1:19-20) and as he never changes, we can believe that he still has that same passionate interest today.

How does he speak?

God speaks prophetically in a number of ways:

- * **Through the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16)**
- * **Through prayer and worship. (Luke 2:37)**
- * **Through preaching and teaching. (Acts 2:42)**
- * **Through everyday life experience. (Jeremiah 18:1-6)**
- * **Through dreams and visions. (Acts 10:1-8)**

It is the responsibility of God’s people to test all that they hear. The Bible tells us not to take everything at face value, but to test all that we hear. (1 John 4: 1)

God will speak to Nations through his people, using the methods described above. There is no secret code, and no heavenly telephone. He uses the hearts and lives of his people. Often he makes his purposes known to those who exercise some prophetic ministry. This is a verse to reflect on as we consider this possibility:-

Numbers 12: 5-6 “Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, he said, “Listen to my words: “When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.”

The way he speaks

God’s prophetic word has a clear purpose. It can:-

- Explain past events. “This event happened because my people sinned...”
- Explain present events. “This is happening because...”
- Indicate future events. “This is going to happen...”

We have to keep our spiritual eyes open to these various forms of speaking, and not get trapped in any one of them. Many people, especially in the developing world, are caught up on what is going to happen, and sometimes they cannot hear God, when he speaks of past events, or present events. We need to be open to all that God is wanting to say to us.

God's word has a common pattern, which we can discern from the lives and ministries of biblical prophets. Most prophetic words begin with an encouragement, and then lead to the issue that God wants to speak about. Then comes the challenge – "you need to change this.." This is usually followed by a promise, "If you do this, I will..." and very often concludes with a blessing.

This method of prophecy is a reflection of the heart of God. He loves us, and longs to bless us. He only speaks to us in order to bring us closer to him. He addresses issues, only so that we can put them right, and live again in a close relationship with him. Prophecy without encouragement and blessing cannot flow from the heart of God. It is very important to get hold of this principle, Some prophetic words I have heard are too hard and too judgmental, lacking any love, any longing for restoration, and any hope of new beginnings. These words cannot flow from the heart of a loving God.

Is he speaking to England?

The only reason why God would not speak to England is because he has stopped loving us, and that is biblically impossible. Look at what he says about Israel, (Hosea 11:8) and about the whole world. (John 1:29)

A loving God will never stop speaking. He has shown great love and compassion to us in the past, and he never changes.

So what is he saying?

He is probably saying many things. He is calling us to prayer and evangelism. (The Hope 08 project is underlining this activity.) He is calling us to deeper worship. (There is such a variety of good modern worship music, and many festivals and Conventions where we can enjoy it.) He is calling us to stand against the secularising trends in our society, and he is calling us to love Muslims, but be aware of the great danger of Islam to our Christian heritage and freedom.

But as a prophet, and just one voice among many, I have been trying to share a specific word and some clear visions which I believe he has spoken to me. It is this experience which has produced the material "Is there any hope for England."

Here is the word I have been sharing, for over twenty years now:-

Prophecy for England

**See I am going to do a great thing.
All power is mine. Heaven and earth are mine.**

I control all things. Nothing is outside my power, for I am the Lord.

As the rain falls from heaven and waters the earth, giving life, refreshing and cleansing – so I am going to pour out my cleansing power on you my people, so that you may be prepared vessels to show my glory.

For indeed you need cleansing.

You have so disappointed me.

I placed you as a light to the nations. I longed that you might shine like the stars, a sign of my glory.

Yet you have compromised yourselves.

You have been willing to lie down with the snake, saying “we will be safe in the den of the serpent.”

And so you have been robbed of your power.

The serpent has stolen your power. You have become tarnished, as blind as those you were meant to save.

You do not see the poor.

You do not hear the cry of the unloved.

You do not stand with the oppressed.

You do not speak out against injustice.

You side with the powerful, saying “these will protect us.”

Now my people, I demand that you turn from your ways of compromise. Open your eyes, lift up your heads, see what you have become and open your hearts to me afresh.

Be sorrowful, fast and pray, seek me with all your heart and I will purify you.

For you are my bride, my beloved.

I cannot abandon you.

I will cleanse you. It will be painful for you – great pain – but this will be a blessing, and I will revive you and bless your land.

Here are the visions which have come along with this word:-

1. The desert

I saw a huge desert as I was praying. Then the Lord spoke to me, and I wrote this down.

“From the desert comes evil to crush and destroy my people.
A hard evil, unyielding and unloving, that even claims to speak in my name. Yet it does not bring freedom but bondage.

Many, even among my people, will yield to this evil, because they are deceived or they are afraid.

Slowly the evil will invade and enslave.

Who will warn against it?

Who will stand against it?

Who among my people will love me enough to lay down their life for me and for my people?

2. Dream of the market place

I had a dream, and in it I saw a long line of people queuing up in front of a market stall. One by one they were going up to this stall, giving lots of money, and coming away with something which was making them very excited. When they showed me what was in their hands, I saw only cold ashes.

I realised that all the people in the queue were God’s people. They were giving up all that they had, and were receiving ashes back in return. They were so excited about this transaction. I knew that what they were doing was wrong, and I went up to speak to them, but then I woke up! I was very frustrated, and I asked the Lord, “What was I going to say?” He replied “you were going to say:-

“The earth is being shaken.

The people do not care.

They are selling the treasures of the Kingdom, and buying dross.”

3. The storm

I was sitting in my house on a very stormy day. Then the Lord spoke to me and said “Go into the garden.” I went and stood among the weeds, which were being buffeted by the wind and rain. Then this conversation took place:-

“Go down to the wasteland prophet. What do you see?”

I replied,

“I see your people withered by the storm.”

The Lord spoke again.

“Go down to the wasteland prophet. What do you see?”

I replied,

“I see your people withered by the storm.”

The Lord spoke a third time.

“Go down to the wasteland prophet. What do you see?”

I replied,

“I see death.”

4. The corpses

In a vision I saw a church, and it was full of people. But when I looked closely, they were all dead people – corpses, sitting up and filling the seats. They were listening, talking and singing, but they were all dead. The Pastor was in the pulpit, and he also was dead, even though he was preaching. Then the Lord spoke to me:-

“The land has become a desolation, a place of death.

My church has become a mortuary, where dead corpses sit and hear death from the shepherds.

Men come for bread, but they receive nothing but stones.

My people have become a sepulchre, and have spread death into the land.”

“My people will become the poor of the land.

Denied power, denied access, denied recourse.

They will live like paupers, even though they have me as a father!

They will come down to the dust, yet still they will not see.

How can they see?

Their eyes have been blinded by pride, by the love of position, by unbelief, by a confidence in the things of this world in which they have put their trust.

They should have trusted me.

Where has the power gone? It has gone to the false gods, who are robbing my people of their place in the land.”

Yet still my people do not see, because they are blind and blinded.

Blind to what is happening, and blinded by the things of this world.

They have forced me to act, to protect my holy name.

How my heart grieves for my people.

What are supposed to do with this word?

I have extensively expanded and taught on this word in the full edition of “Is there any hope for England?” and as this is a very brief version, I don’t want to repeat all I have said there. Readers can look at that for themselves.

But there are just a few things to suggest here:

1. This word must be tested.

All words have to be tested, by God’s leaders and people. Questions have to be asked of this word:- Is it biblically accurate? Does it address a situation which we believe to be true? Is the speaker part of the body, and under the cover of the body? Does the word challenge us to move on? These questions, and others like them are essential before we look at the content.

2. What are we being asked to do?

Prophecy is meant to be a practical vehicle for encouraging action. It looks at situations with a wider view, and suggests lines of action which we might consider, and will have to apply personally, locally and nationally.

3. How are we going to act?

All spiritual activity begins in the hearts of individuals, and especially in the heart of the leader. From there, it can filter out into the body, and then into the wider body. We must not give in and say “the problem is too large!” Sodom could have been changed, and so can England. God is able. Are we?

Downloads and copyright

This material is copyright Jim Smith. November 2006.

It can be downloaded free, and circulated, photo copied or used electronically.

It is not to be changed without the author's permission, and under no circumstances is it to be sold.

If quoting, please acknowledge source and where it can be found using these words. "This material is copyright Jim Smith and is used with permission. The full text can be found as www.serving-africa.org."