

# **Africa in the heavenly places. 1**

## **Prophet Jim Smith**

### **Chapter 1. The first vision**

It's late one night in 1995, and I was trying to get comfortable in a Sabena Airbus, flying me home from Senegal. The night was passing very slowly, and because I am quite big, I just could not find anywhere to put my feet! So, with nothing else to do, I began to pray. After a while, the Lord spoke quite clearly to me: "Well, you've been to Senegal. Now I want you to visit all the countries of West Africa. I will give you the word to speak." I was stunned! How could I do such a thing? But before I could say a thing, the Lord began to speak. I reached for my notebook and began to write. Sierra Leone, Togo, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Benin, Nigeria, Mali, Burkino Fasa, and many more just poured out from the heart of God. I wrote as fast as I could. After nearly an hour, the Lord fell silent, and I collapsed back into my seat, and fell fast asleep.

In the weeks that followed, I wondered what I was supposed to do. I didn't rush to do anything, mainly because I didn't know what to do. Then I got into contact with some people in Togo, and they invited me to speak at a conference. I thought "This is it! Now the Lord will show me what to do." But he didn't! While I was at the Conference, I met a man from Benin. I had a word for that country, but I never release what God has said to me until I have had the chance to speak to leaders in the country, so I thought no more about it. But during the night, the Lord said to me "Tell that man about Benin." So the next day, I shared the word with him, and then I returned to England. I felt that I was no further forward in fulfilling God's commission.

Some months later, I received an invitation to go to Benin. The man I had met in Togo had taken the word for Benin back to Cotonou, the main city of Benin, and some leaders there wanted me to go and share what God had been saying to me. So I went, and had a very powerful time there. But still I could not see how I could move forward in West Africa. While I was in Benin, I heard of an International Conference, which was to be held that year, and I was invited to attend. But I didn't feel that I wanted to, and so I refused the invitation. Back home in England, I began to wonder if I had done the right thing. One day I was working in my office, when the fax machine began to operate. Without turning round to look at it, I said to Mary, my wife "That is a fax from Benin. They are asking me again to come to the conference. This time, I will say 'Yes!'" My wife looked at me in amazement. "How do you know?" she asked. "The Lord has just spoken to me, and He said that I was to go when asked." Mary went over to the fax machine, and in amazement read it to me. It was from Benin. It was an invitation to speak at the Conference. Naturally, I went!

On the second night of the Conference I stood up to speak, and I asked all the prophets there to stand. The place was packed, but only one or two stood. I asked my interpreter (the Conference was in French) to ask again. I saw only a very few people standing. "Ask

again” I said to my interpreter. “But I have asked,” he said. “Perhaps this is all there are.” As I looked over the audience, the Lord spoke to me. “I’ve got a problem here” he said. “I don’t have many prophets, and I need someone to come to Africa and raise them up.” “Well don’t look at me” I replied. “I don’t want to come here and do that.” A long silence followed, and then the Lord said “Sorry son.” “Sorry what?” I asked. “I need someone to do this - I need you to do it.”

I was very angry at first. I had much work in England and Europe, and I was happy doing it. But after some weeks, I came to accept that if the Lord wanted this, I must do it. It took me nearly two years to adjust my work to being mainly in Africa. Slowly I came to understand Africa and its people. God began to teach me African ways, African thoughts, African theology. The more I visited, the more I liked it. I began to write extensively on prophecy in Africa. I had a word for the Continent, a word for Northern Africa, and lately “Africa my suffering servant” - an understanding of the history of Africa from a prophetic point of view. I began to run prophetic schools, prophetic missions and prophetic teaching seminars, and speak at many Conferences. I tried again and again to speak about God’s perspective on individual Nations, although I found that few African Christians had ever taken their National responsibilities seriously.

Then, in January 2000, things took a much deeper turn. I was speaking in Benin, when, as part of the mission, it was decided to have a meeting in which I would speak about Benin and Togo. I planned to speak about these two countries from a heavenly point of view. What was God saying to each separately, and how did they affect each other? This was, for me, a very interesting experience, and the meeting went well, although it was poorly attended. When will Africa learn that these meetings, although they are not full of action, are vital to an understanding of God’s purposes for the Continent of Africa? However, despite the relatively poor attendance, this meeting was to have a profound effect on me.

## **The vision in the heavenly places.**

When I had returned home, I began to meditate on this meeting. I began to realise that no Nation is an island. That there are no borders in the heavenly places, and that what goes on in one part will affect the other. I felt this very much over Benin and Togo. In the heavenly places, these two nations have a profound effect on each other. Could this be true of other Nations? As my thoughts and meditations moved forward, one day I found myself in the Spirit, and I saw in front of me a massive hedge, full of thorns. My heart fainted within me. I knew that however hard I tried, it would take me all of my life to make a way through this hedge. I cried out to the Lord, and he said “Yes. It would take you too long. I will remove it.” Immediately the hedge disappeared, and spread out in front of me was the whole of Africa. But not the earthly Africa. This was Africa in the heavenly places. It stretched as far as I could see, and I could see the shape of the Nations. I was greatly disturbed, and didn’t know what to do. “Come” said the Lord. “I will teach you how it is with Africa in the heavenly places.” I hesitated. I wasn’t sure

what to do. I wasn't sure that I could cope with this, either emotionally or spiritually. Was this really happening?

I think the Lord must have felt my uncertainty, and immediately before me I saw a man. He had a hammer in his hand, and he was smashing something up on an anvil. He was using great force, and the thing he was attacking was being smashed to pieces. "This" said the Lord, "is Mozambique. Now think on these things." The vision faded, and I was left with my thoughts. The very next day a mighty hurricane struck Mozambique, again and again. The Nation, beginning to rise up after decades of war, was smashed to pieces. Again and again the storms and the waters came, until the Nation was reduced to being a beggar, crying out to the rich nations for help. Help was given, but the storms just kept coming, until there was little left to destroy.

This upset me in a very deep and profound way. Not only was I deeply grieving for this Nation, but I was deeply troubled about what I had seen in my vision. What God had shown me had been the truth. If this was true, what else would he show me? I began to realise that I was facing a vision of deep and powerful significance, which had already proved itself, to me at least. I must be honest and say that I viewed the return of this vision with great fear and uncertainty. I didn't doubt the Lord, nor the vision. But how could I live with these things? They were too deep for me, or for any man. And yet, over the years, God had shown me more and more about Africa - both the Nations and the Continent. I should not be surprised that he would show me more. But I know myself. I am a weak man, easily misled, and often low in my own spirit and confidence. Could the Lord of heaven and earth really trust me with such things?

Over the next three weeks, the vision returned again and again. Each time the Lord would allow me to look at a different Nation, and in each case, a word or vision would come to me. Here are the visions God gave me for each Nation. I am writing them here just as I saw them.

### **Nigeria.**

I saw a volcano. It was covered in smoke at the top, and threatening to explode. The Lord said to me "Nigeria could be a great Nation, but it is a dangerous one. It threatens to explode, and if it does, it will damage many of the Nations around it."

### **Benin**

In the heavenly places, I saw a most beautiful diamond - the finest I had ever seen, and very large. But as I looked, men began to attack the diamond, to destroy it. The Lord said "I have made Benin a beautiful Nation, and I love this land. But it is always in great danger. Men want to break the diamond. They want to steal it and take it away. This Nation has always been in danger, but the people do not realise it. That is the greatest danger of all."

### **Togo**

Over Togo, I saw a dark cloud - small, but increasing in size. This cloud was planning great evil against this Nation. Not for the first time, Togo was facing a time of hardship

and testing. But who was watching out for this Nation? I looked, but I saw no one. “Yes” said the Lord, “the watchtowers are empty.” I did not understand how this could be the case? And yet, all over Africa, God’s people run around doing irrelevant things, and in the process miss the important ones. Could this be happening in Togo?

## **Ghana**

Everywhere I looked in the heavenly places over Ghana, I saw joy. It was like a great party, to which everyone in Ghana had come. I was surprised at this, because I had never seen such a vision before. I asked the Lord about this, and he said “Ghana is a Nation I have blessed. It brings joy to me, and hope to Africa.” But I also saw, in the darkness, forces which would destroy this party, and close the skies above Ghana. I saw that a struggle was coming in the heavenly places over Ghana.

## **Cote D’Ivoire**

Over Cote D’Ivoire I saw a great cloud of blessing, waiting to descend. But it did not fall. For some reason it was held back. I wondered why God would hold back his blessing from a Nation, but He gave me no answer.

## **Liberia**

In the heavenly places, as I looked over Liberia I saw many trees, and I thought “how beautiful.” But when I looked more closely, I saw that many of them were dead, while others had very few leaves. Even as I pondered this, I saw people with axes attacking even the healthy trees. “Lord” I said “if this continues there will be no trees at all. Why don’t the people look after the trees, instead of trying to destroy them?” The Lord didn’t answer me, but his face was filled with sadness. He was grieving for Liberia. What sorrow was he seeing? He did not tell me.

## **Sierra Leone**

As I looked on Sierra Leone, I saw children running everywhere, with no one to control them. Before I could consider this, the Lord said to me “This Nation is a rebellious child. It is uncontrolled, and doesn’t want to be controlled. It thinks that in its rebellion it is free, but it is not free. Until the rebellious children learn to accept my discipline, they will never be free.”

## **Burkina Faso**

I saw a dry and thirsty land. There was little water, and the people were feeling desperate and afraid. The Lord said to me “This land is at great risk. It will easily be swallowed up by the desert, and become a wilderness of spiritual things.” “Lord” I asked “Do your people know this? Are they aware of the danger?” The Lord turned away from me, and looked towards the desert places. I looked also, and saw that the desert places were growing stronger. When I looked again at Burkina, I saw no one who was standing up to warn.

## **Guinea**

God longed to bless Guinea. He put many wells in the land - spiritual wells where the people could draw spiritual water. But the wells have been poisoned. The people still go to the wells, and draw water, because they do not realise what has happened. "Why has this happened Lord?" I asked. "Because those who should have guarded the land have fallen asleep. They have not maintained their watch, and so the enemy has been able to poison the spiritual water." "How long will this last Lord?" "Until those who should guard my people fall down in repentance before me."

## **Guinea Bissau**

In the heavenly places, when I looked at Guinea Bissau, all I saw was broken glass. Everywhere there was broken glass, and when I looked more closely, I saw that once this glass had been beautiful. "Do not fear" said the Lord. "This land will be beautiful again. I will mend the glass, and no one will be able to see that it was broken."

## **The Gambia.**

As I looked over Gambia, I noticed that the people were not looking up, not looking for a future, not looking for a hope. They looked down, feeling small and hopeless. "This land has known nothing but despair in the heavenly places" said the Lord. "And what of the future?" I asked. "How can they have a future, when they do not look to me? They look only to the things of the earth. There is no future in this. They must look afresh to me." "And will they Lord?" I asked. The Lord turned away from Gambia, and he gave me no reply. I feared for the future of this land.

## **Senegal**

Over Senegal, I saw hundreds of doves. This was a beautiful sight. But as I looked, I could not make out whether they were coming to the land or leaving it. Was the blessing coming or going? The Lord said "This is a very lonely land, surrounded by so much that is not good."

## **Mali**

As I looked at Mali, I saw an empty table. I could not understand this, so the Lord spoke to me: "Mali brings me no offering. Whenever I come, I only find an empty table. I know they are in great danger from the spiritual desert, just like Burkina. But I still long to be blessed by them. Why do they bring me no offering?"

## **Niger**

In the heavenly places, when I turned to Niger, I saw a very old man. He was weary and heavy laden. He had struggled for so long, and now he was reaching the point where he couldn't struggle anymore. "Niger is also at risk from the spiritual desert" said the Lord. "Niger has struggled, but is losing the battle. The danger from the desert is great, and Niger has little energy left to resist." "But Lord" I said "You can make all things new. You can revive this land." "I can" replied the Lord, "if I can find people after my own heart." "And can you?" I asked. The Lord made no reply, and I was afraid for Niger.

## **Chad**

When I looked at Chad, a great sorrow filled my heart. When I looked to the Lord, I saw that he was crying. His tears fell on Chad, and where every tear fell, a tiny flower began to grow. "Why are you crying Lord" I asked. "For the sadness of Chad - the sadness which was, which is and which is still to come. But my tears are tears which bring hope. The flowers will bloom, and Chad will be a blessing to me and to those places at risk from the desert. But it will be a hard road."

## **Sudan**

Over Sudan I saw a fire burning, completely out of control. Nowhere was there any peace or any rest. Someone had lit this fire, and Sudan has become a spiritual wilderness, a spiritual desert. While it burns, nothing good can last.

## **Egypt**

The Lord showed me that in the heavenly places, Egypt was the very heart of Africa. In this place, the baby Jesus was protected from the spite of the enemy. And now, this land has become a prison place, surrounded by wire. Those inside can come out, but whenever they return the prison closes on them again. Egypt has become a place in the heavenly places where the human spirit is broken, a place where people want to leave, but cannot. This is a very sad and lonely vision. A Nation so chosen by God to be the safe dwelling of Jesus has become a desolate place, a prison place. The enemy could not pour out his spite on the infant Jesus, so he seeks to destroy that Nation which protected Him. "Lord" I asked "is there no hope?" "I can break open every prison" the Lord replied, and then turned away from me. I saw that he was grieving over Egypt.

## **Libya**

The Lord himself spoke to me about Libya, as I meditated on the great desert places of Africa. "I made a staff to lean on, and I fashioned it to be beautiful. But it broke, and was no longer of any use to me. I threw it away, and it lay in the sun, rotting and broken. No one can mend it." I wanted to ask what this meant, but I saw the pain in the heart of God, and I remained silent.

## **Tunisia**

As I meditated on Tunisia, I was overcome with a very deep sorrow. I could hardly hold up my head - so great was the grief I felt. "What is this Lord?" I asked. The Lord said "Sorrow has settled on this land - sorrow as deep as any ocean. I feel such grief." As the Lord spoke these words, I saw the land laid out before me. In every place I saw people crying, grieving. In every place I saw sorrow, and as I looked, I saw yet more sorrow rising like a cloud, to cover the people. I too began to cry. "Yes" said the Lord, "as people grieve for this lost child, so hope is born."

## **Morocco**

I looked over Morocco, but I found it hard to see, because there was so little light. Clouds had drifted across the sun, blocking out most of the light. I did not know where this cloud had come from. Because the light was so small, people were making their own light, and

they gathered round their light. But I could see that this light which they were making was not light at all, but just darkness.

There was no joy in the heavenly places around Morocco. The joy of the Lord could not penetrate the cloud. In the darkness, I saw the enemy walking freely. He was claiming in a loud voice “Morocco belongs to me.” He was arrogant, proud and very confident. I know that there is always hope in the heavenly places, but I could see none for this land. I was deeply troubled.

## **Algeria**

As I looked over Algeria, I saw a mighty rock fall from heaven and crush the land. It lay on the people, and they could not rise upwards. So the people had to live under the rock, crushed and heavy laden, with no freedom. They had become slaves to the powers which had crushed them. But as I looked, I felt that the Lord had a compassion for this land. But he did not say anything to me - he did not need to.

## **Western Sahara**

In the heavenly places, I saw that this land was a deep and desperate desert. There was no water for the people. There was nowhere for them to drink and be refreshed. I asked the Lord “Why has this happened? Why do the people have no spiritual water. What has happened?” The Lord replied “The water has been stolen by the desert.” “But why did the people allow this to happen?” I asked. “The people did not guard what they had, and the enemy came and stole their most precious recourse. Now the land is spiritually dry. If anyone searches for water, they will find none.” “How long must this go on Lord?” I asked. He gave me no answer, and I was afraid for this land.

## **Mauritania**

When I looked at Mauritania, the land looked like a fortress, with borders of iron, to keep the people in. Inside these borders, I saw a furnace burning, to inflict pain, to harm and to destroy. This was a terrifying thing to see. The smoke rising from the furnace made the sky dark, and blocked out the sun. “This land” said the Lord, is a place of bondage.” “But Lord, surely you can set the people free?” The Lord made no reply to my question. I wondered what hope there was for this land.

## **Ethiopia**

When the Lord turned towards Ethiopia, I saw again tears in his eyes. It grieved me that so much of Africa seemed to bring sorrow to Jesus. This Continent should be blessing to him. That was his original plan.

I asked “Lord, why are you sad again?” He replied “The sound of grief rises up to me from this land. The joy has been taken away, hope is dead, and all that lives are the tears, the mourning, the sorrow. I feel this pain every hour, every minute, every second of every day. I grieve for this.” “Lord” I asked “why do you allow this? Why don't you just step in and stop it?” But I knew the answer. This is not his way. Until his people grieve as he

does, there is little he is able or willing to do. I do not understand this, but I know that it is his way.

### **Eritrea**

In the heavenly places I saw a strange sight. I saw a baby, struggling to live. It lay on the ground, crying for its life. I knew that without help, this baby would not live, but would die. It was screaming for help, but none seemed to be coming. Life hung in the balance. I asked "Lord, what is this I am seeing?" With a deep sigh, the Lord uttered just one word. "Eritrea." "Lord "I asked, "will this child live?" The Lord gave me no answer.

### **Somalia**

As soon as the vision of the baby had passed, I saw another strange thing. A man was standing, and in his hand was something made of glass. I couldn't see what it was, but it was very beautiful. While I watched, I saw his face fill with anger, and he lifted the glass above his head and hurled it onto the ground, where it broke beyond repair.

I was shocked by this - something very beautiful had been destroyed, and it would never be beautiful again. But as I thought of this, I saw that the man was still angry. He went away, looking for more opportunities to destroy, to smash and to harm. To my surprise, no one stood in his way, or tried to control him. He seemed to be able to go anywhere within the borders, and do anything.

As I thought of these things, the Lord said to me "That is Somalia. Do not stand here thinking about it. It is too dangerous for you. Come. We must look at other places."

### **Central African Republic**

I saw the Lord moving through this land. In his hand he was carrying a blazing torch of fire. "I made this land, and I love it" he said. "I want this land to be a light. I want to set it on fire." But as I looked I saw that the land was set in the middle of a great darkness, which pressed in on it. The people needed to be set on fire, to protect them from the darkness, to drive it back, and to be a light to other places in Africa.

But as I looked, I saw that few of them wanted to be set on fire. They were afraid that if they were set on fire, the light would not only show up the darkness around them, but it would also show up the darkness in them.

The Lord was sad that a land which he loved would treat him this way, and he moved away. A few people called out "Lord, come back. We want to be light for you!" But it was only a few.

### **Cameroon**

As I looked over Cameroon, I saw much land. It was rough land - no one had dug or planted it. There were many weeds. Then I saw the Lord, working on the land. He was clearing the ground, and planting seed. At first no one would work with him. The people were so full of hopelessness, that they did not believe that anything good could come. But

as the seeds began to grow, so some people began to hope. Then the Lord looked up from his work, and called “Come and work with me. Then you can share the fruits.” One by one, people began to take tools and work on the land. More and more seeds were planted, and the fruits came. The Lord picked the fruit, and gave them to the people. “Here” he said “come and take the blessings. I love this land, and I am going to bless more and more, and you will see and share this blessing. But it is going to take a long time, and there is much to do.”

## **Equatorial Guinea**

I saw many doves, flying over the sea. They were very beautiful. They did not want to stay over the sea, but wanted to come to land. Wherever they decided to land, that place would be greatly blessed by the Lord. For they are a sign of the presence and the blessing of the lord.

Then I saw the Lord, standing on the sea shore, and he called to the doves “Come to this land, for I want to heal this land with my blessing.”

Immediately the doves turned towards the land, and flew to the place where the Lord was standing. One or two of them began to settle but they could not land, because a great and evil wind began to blow. The doves were forced out to sea again, and began to look for somewhere else to land. “What is this Lord?” I asked. “Why could the doves not land at your command? What was this wind? Where did it come from and why did you allow it to blow the doves away?”

The Lord turned to me and said “My blessing can only come where it is wanted. I do not force my blessing on the land.” He would say no more, and I was filled with concern and worry for this land.

## **Gabon**

I saw the doves again. They were still flying over the sea, and still looking for somewhere to land. As I looked over Gabon, I heard the sound of crying. At first I thought it was a cry of distress, but as I listened, I recognised the sound of deep prayer of intercession, rising up from the earth into the heavenly places. This was the prayer of the people of God, rising up like incense before the Lord.

For a while, I stood and listened, and then I too began to pray, even though I didn’t know this country. The doves continued in their flight, but I could see that they longed to turn towards this country, in answer to this crying. But in the heavenly places, no one can act before the Lord has made his decision. As I looked, I saw that he was waiting - waiting for something which I did not understand. The doves did not continue on, but flew round in circles. They were waiting too - waiting for the Lord to speak over this place.

## **Congo**

As I turned towards the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola, I felt a great pain in my heart, and I saw much disturbance and much darkness. This touched all three countries.

As I looked at the Congo in the heavenly places, I was surprised to see a place covered with very thick thorn bushes. In the middle of the thorn bushes were little clusters of people. They wanted to get on with their lives, but they could not ignore the thorns. They had to spend so much time cutting them down, that they had little time left for their daily lives. But if they stopped cutting down the thorns, then the thorns grew, cutting off their space, and cutting out the light.

The people had a very hard existence. This was not what God created them for. He loved them and wanted them to be free. “How has this happened?” I asked. The Lord replied “The enemy has done this, while the people were sleeping. Now they find it so hard to stay alive.” “Can you not act?” I asked, but I knew the answer to my question. Unless the people of God intercede and fight, the Lord will not act. I felt the sorrow in his heart for this place, and I saw over it the dark cloud, which touched all these three countries.