

God's word for Europe. Prophet Jim Smith

Europe - the beginning

Some years ago, the Lord began to speak to me about Western Europe. At the beginning, I found this hard to grasp - I suppose I have only ever seen Europe as separate Countries. But slowly, I began to get a feel for the whole area, greatly helped by my visiting many of them. I do believe that God has a plan and pattern for the block of nations we would describe as Western Europe. Somehow, we have got to learn to work together - we are facing the same problems, and have the same opportunities.

I have written here the words for Europe - all nine of them! That's a lot of prophecy, and requires a lot of thought and prayer. I've also included a brief commentary on them, to help with the testing process. This material came to me while I was praying. As I began to pray I saw light streaming down from heaven and surrounding me. As always, I treated this experience with caution. I try not to get swept away, but to keep my mind clear and critical. But I became aware of the Lord speaking to me about Europe.

FIRST WORD

Light the fires in the hearts of my people, fires to light my way.

Light the fire of repentance, that will burn away the dross, the weakness, the laziness, the sleep of my people. Then my people will be able to turn back from the way of desolation into which so many have strayed.

Light the fires of fervent expectation and longing for my return, absent from the lives of so many of my people.

Light the fire of urgent evangelism, the desire to gather the harvest while there is still time, before the summer passes and all is lost.

Light the fire of praise that a joyful sound may be rising to the Father's throne, a sound of rejoicing as the bridegroom prepares to come for the bride.

Bible background

Malachi 3:2: 1 Kings 19:38: 2 Chronicles 7:1
Acts 2: 1-13

Comment

This first word has a very simple message - the passion has gone from the people of God in Europe. Many Churches will disagree, and point to their experience of God,

their ministries and their growth. But this only emphasises the limited vision of so many of those Churches. God does not look only at individual churches, but at the whole body of Christ in Europe. As he looks across the whole spectrum, he sees that the love of many has grown cold. Passion has gone, repentance is missing, expectation is low, evangelism is sluggish, and the sound of joy and praise is muted.

This leaves Europe, with its millions of people as an open target for Satan. The only hope for this Continent is a new fire in the heart of the people of God in Europe, a fire which encompasses much more than just the walls of our own Church, our own town or our own Nation. God is calling - his voice is echoing far and wide throughout this Continent. The message is simple - wake up, before it is too late.

There is always a resistance to any call by the Spirit of God, because it is such a disturbing call, shaking our structures, our securities, our limited visions, our comfort and complacency. We need not respond to the call, and we will not, if we cannot lift up our eyes, and see the wider vision of God. When God spoke to Abraham, after the departure of Lot, he said "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look North and South, East and West. All the land you see I will give you." (Genesis 13:14 and 15) God challenges his people in Europe - "Lift up your eyes."

SECOND WORD

**Long and hard is the path you must tread my servant, and lonely too. Many are the strongholds of the enemy that you must break down, and few are the hearts which will respond to your call.
But do not be afraid. For I am with you.**

Bible background

Isaiah 53: Matthew 28.

Comment

This is a word to the man who speaks the message, and it's strange to find it included in the overall word. Yet it's vital that those who receive this word understand the cost to the messenger, for it will become their cost also. To act in accordance with God's will is always costly.

What are the strongholds which need to be broken down ? This is one of the keys to this word. Identifying the works of the enemy is the first step in destroying his strong places. We tend to look outwards - to atheism, Islam, occultism, secularism, materialism, selfishness, national interest - but we must not be tricked. The beginning is to find those strong places which he has dared to build within the household of faith, and tear these down first. If we do not do this, then we will not be able to destroy the other strongholds. Few will thank us for this, but that doesn't matter. What matters is the great promise "I am with you."

THIRD WORD

Call out in the streets. Proclaim in the market place.

“The Lord is looking for his own, for hearts broken by the shame and guilt of the land, hearts grieving for the spoiling, for the destruction of the good things I gave, hearts breaking in repentance, hearts longing for my return.

These hearts, shining like lamps in dark places, are the ones who will prepare the way for my return.

But where are they ?

I call for them, but I hear no reply.

I am searching but I cannot find them. The sorrow in my heart is so great it almost crushes me.”

Bible background

Proverbs 1:20: Nehemiah 1:4.

Comment

Now the messenger begins his work. After his initial challenge to the Church, and the explanation of his call, he begins to call. What is he calling for? He is calling for the intercessors.

They are to be the ones who do not look initially to the external situation, but to the internal one. They feel the pain and sorrow in the heart of God for the failure of His people to live and be the people of God. They feel the shame of this, and they long to see and feel the spirit of repentance beginning to flow in the church in Europe.

Some hard truths are contained here. Firstly, we have to recognise that the serious and dangerous spiritual situation is the result of our carelessness and our prayerlessness. If the enemy has gained any ground, it is because we have not beaten him back. This has always been our responsibility. We are the watchmen- those who guard God’s church in Europe. We have failed in our European task. The Church has become small, isolated and irrelevant. The people of God have become closed to their National and International responsibilities. The Church has become caught up in itself, and has lost sight of it’s great responsibility. So the enemy has grown strong, and God’s heart grieves.

The messenger calls for those who are able to feel that grief and understand it to come to Him for fresh anointing, so that their lights may shine out across the Church, and then across Europe.

Secondly these intercessors are going to be praying for the spirit of repentance to sweep the Church. What have we to repent of ?

- * Our sleep.
- * Our arrogance and pride.
- * Our love of self.
- * Our failure to be God’s lamp shining in Europe.
- * Our failure to understand our wider responsibilities.

- * The shame of the Church.
- * The lostness of the continent.

Is it our job to repent ? Yes- we are to offer the repentance of identification. We have to stand in the place of sinners, and in being identified with them, we can make an act of repentance which will move the heart of God.

The messenger begins his task, but again and again he seems to cry in vain. Why is this? Is it because the people do not hear, or because the people are not there? Is it because many refuse the burden of intercession, feeling either that they are unworthy, or that others will come to the call? Or is it an unwillingness to be disturbed, to be shaken from comfortable affluence, comfortable and easy to digest truth?

Whatever the reason, it seems that the messenger is calling largely in vain. The burden of this crushes his Spirit, as it did the spirit of Jesus.

FOURTH WORD

As an earthquake tears apart the land, so will be the sign of my coming. There will be disturbance in heaven and earth. Everything will be shaking, and men will cry out in fear “ Who can be saved?”

Do not fear my people, when you see these things. For they are the birthpangs of my coming.

Let your love increase. Your desire to serve be unbounded. Throw off your chains, your dependence on the things of this world which you love so much. Abandon yourselves to me, for I am your only place of safety.

Bible background

Matthew 24:Hebrews 12. v 26-27:Daniel 3:17-19:
Romans 13: 11-13:

Comment

Those who open their hearts to the brokenness of the Continent, to the pain in the heart of the King, and to the movements in the heavenly palaces will quickly discern what is happening. This vision, granted only by the Holy Spirit, will quicken the spirit, as it did the prophet Habbakuk. (Ch. 3) God commands us not to be afraid. Everything will begin to disintegrate, and we will feel the insecurity of the people, but we are not to fear. We are to thrust ourselves into service - into evangelism, into worship, into compassion, into caring, into warning, into prayer. We are to act - to be the signs of God’s imminence, and of God’s desperate compassion to save and bless all he can while there is still time, even in the darkest place.

“Do not be afraid” - this is to be our lifestyle and our message. We have no need to fear any cataclysm. Shadrach spoke for all of us when he said “Our God is able to save us, but even if our God does not save us, we will not bow down and worship your statue.” He knew in part what we know in full - we are safe in the heart of Jesus, even if we have to seek that heart in the middle of a storm. This is the message and

the example we are to give - to the Church and to the world. We need not be amazed at the unbelief we will encounter, both in the church and in the world. Remember Noah. But the compassion of Christ will drive us on. This is the outworking of the willingness to respond to the cry of God in the mouth of the messenger

FIFTH WORD

The only thing which can sustain my people is a clear vision of the kingdom of glory - that which is coming, into which they are born, and to which they belong.

Bible background

Acts 7: 54-56

One of the heartbreaks of the coming period is the unawareness of the people of God. Again and again God has warned us of his imminent action, but again and again we have refused to hear that warning. It seems to be one of our weaknesses that we have difficulty accepting the call of the prophet in times of God's moving. So many of God's people will flounder, like ships in a storm without a rudder or engines. The reason is simple - leaders have failed to warn, content in their own small corner, content with small signs of God's grace, and refusing to read the signs of the times.

The leaders of the world do not make this mistake. Our enemies do not make this mistake. But we do - again and again. It must add to the grief and sorrow in the heart of God. The real heartbreak is that it is those young in the faith - the children, the heritage who will suffer most. Those who should most be protected will be the ones first damaged. Many shepherds will be held to account for this.

But there is a means of sustaining those who are troubled, confused, bewildered. It is for those who hear the voice of the messenger to be solid rocks - living in the conviction of the coming King, in the power of his grace, in his sovereignty, and in the ultimate triumph and vindication of Jesus Christ. This fire, burning in the hearts of those who hear the cry and see the vision - this is what will sustain the people of God.

SIXTH WORD

There will be much confusion at the end.

Do not ask "Who is the lawless one?" or "where is the anti Christ?" Look to me and to your own hearts. Look to your own lives - to your praise, to your reaching out. Do not spend time on fruitless labour - keep your armour bright, and stick to your task.

Heaven is moving.

The angels are going forth at my command.

It is time for my people everywhere to examine their lives, to make ready. Do not delay, saying "tomorrow will be soon enough."

Cleanse and purify yourselves now.

Come in a solemn assembly.

Come to seek my face, not to exalt in your own deeds.

Let your requests be few, your eyes open, your hearts ready to receive what I have to say.

Come, that I may prepare you - leaders and people alike- and show you the path in these days of tumult.

**Seek me as you have never done before. Do not delay. Already the angels are going forth, and the enemy grows in strength.
Prepare yourselves in my presence, while there is still time.**

Bible background

Joel Chapter 1: Matthew 24

Comment.

The messenger turns away from the Church and away from those who have heard his message, and looks at what is about to happen. It is a powerful, awesome and frightening vision. It is meant to shake, to warn, to prepare. In many ways it is another cry - another chance to hear the earlier cry and repent. God calls - and he wants a people who will wait on him that he may prepare them.

This sentence looks so simple, yet it is diametrically opposed to our Western philosophy, with its individualistic, action based and result driven principles. This attitude pervades the people of God. We rush about, having more and more events crammed into our time. We judge on results - on how many people, how much we felt the power of God, how much we have learnt, how much influence we have gained - and in doing this we are in grave danger. For there is no space for God to speak to us, to prepare us, to instruct and direct us.

God wants to do this for us. He wants to give us instruction for the days ahead. We must come for preparation. The sorrow is that only those who have heard the beat of his heart, felt his tears for the Continent, and have already surrendered themselves in commitment and repentance who will be able to hear this greater call for preparation. Perhaps the responsibility falls on these to encourage others to see and hear.

We must at all costs be ready for the struggle which is to come, and only God can prepare us. This is another hard truth, because we are so self centred, so self assured, so full of our own words, our ministries, our churches, our programmes. I suspect that there will have to be much breaking of the things of the people of God before the will of God for his people can be made known.

And it is urgent. The angels have already gone out (Matthew 24)
We must not delay - but inevitably we will. What must it be like for God to have such a lazy people?

SEVENTH WORD

I need my light to shine - in your lives, in your hearts, in your homes, in your marriages. All over the land, these lights must shine, like lighthouses, to draw those who do not know me out of the confusion and darkness, and into my light.

Tend your lamps carefully, for if you do not shine, many will be lost.

You need to shine more brightly now than ever in the past. This can only happen if you let go of the things of the world, and draw more closely to me.

Will you do this ?

Sacrifice the things of this world, which you value so much, and let my Holy Spirit raise you up to shine like stars.

Bible background

Matthew 25: 1-10: 2 Peter 1

The messenger looks beyond the people of God. He has called, warned and encouraged the Church. God always start here. First he must prepare his people, because it is through his people that he works for the benefit of all his Creation. That is why when his people become dull and lifeless, attracted by the things of the world that his grief is so great. If the people of God are out of step with him, how can he reach his fallen creation?

Now the messenger turns to that fallen creation, and reflects God's great compassion for all that he has made. That creation may not recognise him. Much of that creation may for ever fail to recognise him, but that is not to be our perspective. We must wish that all should be saved, and never cease believing that all will be saved. Only at the end will we see the reality, and the tears of the broken heart of God, that any of his should be lost.

But we are not allowed to look on the lost from a position of insularity. We are not standing on the sidelines, while some other power brings the lost home. We are the instruments of their salvation. We are to be the lights, which attract them to the light of Jesus Christ. We are to be the burning bushes, which attract them not to the bush, but to the one who speaks out of it.

EIGHTH WORD

The enemy draws strength from fear, deceit, distrust, lies, the lust for power, immorality, greed. These are his weapons. This is what holds men in bondage. See that none of them are found in you.

Bible background

Galatians 5: 16-26

Comment

Satan trembles at the prospect of the Church of God in Europe beginning to move forward together. So he must move against us, before it is too late. Outright confrontation is never his preferred method. He likes to work in the dark, and he likes to work within the hearts of the people of God. Then, as he was able with Judas, he can strike what appears to be a fatal blow.

As this message draws to its end, the messenger turns again to the people of God. He warns of the methods of the enemy, and challenges the people of God to keep a sharp lookout on their own hearts, so that none of these weapons can be used against them.

NINTH WORD

I saw tiny streams of white hot fire burning into the hard rock of the church in Europe. I saw hearts on fire with fervour, zeal, expectation. The hard cold rocks cracked and split, and there were loud explosions as they yielded - some to life and some to death. The hard rocks could not resist or stand against the fire.

Then the Lord spoke finally to me:- “Decide my people - will you be alive or dead at the day of my coming?”

Bible background

Revelation 3:1

Comment

As always the choice rests with us. God works with his people in a partnership, which allows us the freedom to choose what we will be. At the end of his message, the messenger places the challenge at the feet of the people of God. The Lord has plans - to return to His creation. What kind of Church will he find? The answer to this question rests in our hands.

CONCLUSION

“Therefore keep watch.”

This was the Lord's great commission to his people, as the end times scenario unfolded before them. In failing to keep watch, the Churches in Asia of John's day became prey to a string of deeply disturbing and weakening illnesses, which threatened their very existence. Today the Churches in Europe face similar problems as the pressure mounts, and as the Lord begins to focus the time for his return.

My own fear is that the Churches in Europe have become too comfortable, too self centred, and too concerned with trivial issues, and have lost the ability to lift up their eyes to see the wider picture. They have turned in on themselves, looking at their own particular Nation, City, Town, or Church. There has been a loss of overall vision for God's wider working. So there is not a prepared people across the Continent, waiting for the Lord's return - longing for it, expecting it, and living in the light of the imminence of that great event.

My hope is that Christians and Churches will wake to what is happening, and will become a people on fire for the Lord, filled with the blessings he has in store for the Overcomers, and so be ready to receive Him.

What if they do not? God is compassionate and merciful, but not to be played around with. The people of Israel soon found, after their exodus from Egypt that ignoring God could be a very costly business, despite his great love for them. Do we want forty years in the wilderness, until all this generation has perished? Frighteningly, the choice is ours.