

# South Africa in Prophecy

By

Orlando Mostert  
Kingdomvision.co.za

---

**There are two prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of a people “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.” If you were standing in Israel and looking south to the other side of Ethiopia you would be describing Southern Africa. So what prophetic destiny awaits the people of Southern Africa in God’s program of the ages? We investigate the possibilities that these prophecies hold for South Africa as the Kingdom of God spreads over the earth.**

---

Christians throughout South Africa have this feeling ... there is something different about South Africa, this is a special place! This is not just a feeling of super patriotism but an inner “witness of the Spirit” that the Lord has a special calling for us here in South Africa. If you combine a unique history with a unique geography and geology with a real move of God currently underway in the country and then combine all of that with what is happening in the world around us and you get a feeling that this is a nation of destiny. God is going to use us in a special way!

If this is your “gut feel” then let me give you some fascinating scriptural insight into Bible prophecy that directly refers to South Africa and that will give spiritual substance to your inner feelings. After much study in prophetic scriptures, combined with historical studies, combined with an in-depth look into the current international crisis I have come to the conclusion that the Lord has a special calling on South Africa to be a unique witness to the nations of the world in these critical days. This great calling includes all race groups in South Africa!

Let me state up-front what I believe South Africa’s three-fold calling is:

1. South African has been uniquely endowed by the Lord to survive the coming world economic collapse, so that we may be a base from which resources can be created to spread the Kingdom message into all the world.
2. South Africa has been given a mandate by the Lord to win Africa for Christ.
3. South Africa will be the first country in the world where the Christians catch the Kingdom vision and actually start to implement the Kingdom vision in practical ways in terms of community, finances, church structure, education, culture etc. showing other Christians around the world the way forward.

## Kingdom Strategic Background

Before considering the scriptures that describe the people “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia” lets first get the background vision of the Kingdom with respect to the nations of the world.

In my article “The Return of Israel” I showed that evangelicals have made the wrong conclusion about Israel and the “end times”. Israel is not a single nation that the Lord wants to bring back to a small dusty strip of land in Palestine. When God renamed Jacob as Israel He promised him that Israel was destined to be “a nation and a company of nations”. (Genesis 35:11) I further explain in my article how the Lord planned to graft the gentiles into the true spiritual nation of Israel making it a company of nations. Furthermore He promised Abraham, “And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west and the east and to the north and to the south; and in thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”. (Genesis 28:14). As I further explained this “seed” of Abraham according to Paul was his spiritual seed who are of the faith of Abraham (Gal. 3:29). Now let’s examine the Lord’s strategic war plans.

He takes Israel out of Egypt and sends them to Palestine and says this is your Promised Land. Why not march them farther north into the empty European plains that were far larger and more fertile than small Palestine which was occupied by large giants (the Nephilim) and walled cities. Why? Because Palestine was in the strategic centre of the world. To the far north were the Assyrians and the Hittites, bordering to the north were the Phoenicians and to the east was Babylon and the Medes and Persians, to the south was Egypt. It was the cross roads of the known world where world trade went through and where competing empires would have to cross for world dominion. The Lord said here in the middle of the known world you build Zion, here you build my Temple, here you proclaim my name to the gentiles.

Now we are in the times where spiritual Israel has become a company of nations and has spread to all the corners of the world. Why? Because the Lord has put into place His strategic war plans to establish His Kingdom on the earth. His first step is to make beach heads into strategic regions of the world (like the Allies landing in Normandy to start the assault on Germany). South Africa is a strategic beach head for landing the Lord’s troops to win Africa for Christ. There are other strategic nations in the world where the Kingdom of God has made a strategic landing for a regional assault.

Singapore and South Korea are key nations from which the gospel will go into the Asian region. Brazil is a strategic nation for winning South America. Guatemala is strategic for winning Central America. England I believe will have a great revival and be once again a springboard for the Kingdom into pagan Europe. In America, the mid-west and northern states will be strategic areas from which the Kingdom will spread after the American economic collapse. In the Pacific region Australia and New Zealand are key nations.

The promise to Abraham that His seed would spread also to the south is fulfilled here in Southern Africa as we are one of Israel's company of nations that must spread the Kingdom message to our African compatriots that they too may be grafted into the nations of Israel. Truly Abraham's seed (spiritual seed) will be as the sands of the sea and the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!

### **From Beyond the Rivers of Ethiopia**

Both Isaiah 18 and Zephaniah 3:10 speak of a people who are beyond the rivers of Ethiopia and both say that they will do something special for the Lord. Isaiah 18:7 says "In that time shall the present be brought unto the Lord of Hosts..." by these people and Zephaniah 3:10 says, "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants even the daughter of my dispersed shall bring my offering." So Isaiah says they will bring a "present" and Zephaniah says they will bring an "offering". Since two important prophets are prophesying about the same people doing the same thing, it is important for us to understand who they are, where are they located and what is the present or offering that they bring to the Lord.

### **Their Location**

Matthew Henry in his famous commentary on the whole Bible has this to say about Isaiah 18:1 "*Woe to the land shadowing with wings which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia*". He says, "Interpreters are very much at a loss where to find this land that lies beyond the rivers of Cush." The reason is that all the chapters around Isaiah 18 the prophet is prophesying to nations known to him as well as historians. In Chapter 13 Babylon, Chapter 15 Moab, Chapter 17 Damascus, Chapter 19 Egypt, Chapter 23 Tyre. All these were prophecies to known nations in known geographical places. But here in the midst of the prophecies to the nations he prophesies to an unnamed people in a distant location. People who at that time therefore were not yet in existence.

Their location was "beyond" or on the other side of the rivers of Cush (Hebrew word for Ethiopia). To the Hebrews of that day the black people of Africa came from the land of Ethiopia or Cush. That is why in Jeremiah 13:23 we have the statement, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard change his spots." So if you stand in Jerusalem and look south you have Egypt and they knew that if you travel up the Nile, its source was somewhere in the land of the Ethiopians which was on the other side of Egypt. But now the prophet says go beyond

Egypt, go beyond Ethiopia (Central Africa) and on the other side of Ethiopia (Southern Africa) you will find this unnamed people who will one day bring a present or an offering unto the Lord.

### **Their Description**

In describing who these people are, Isaiah gives a physical description and Zephaniah gives a spiritual description. The King James version is not a very good translation of the Hebrew words used as there are various ways you can translate a Hebrew word depending on the context; it says they are "a nation scattered and peeled". The American Standard Version has a more accurate translation saying, "a nation tall and smooth (skinned)". The Afrikaans Bible (Ou Vertaling) is even better, "die hoog uitgegroeide nasie met die blink vel." Isaiah is describing a people who are physically different from the Ethiopians. Zephaniah does not bother with a physical description but gives a spiritual description. They are "my suppliants, the daughter of my dispersed". They are the Lord's people. That is different to how the prophets describe other nations like Egypt, or Babylon or Moab or Tyre. These are never described as His people. But these people beyond the rivers of Ethiopia in Southern Africa are His dispersed people, people who worship Him, people who have been sent to that region with a task to perform for the Lord.

### **Their Task for the Lord**

But what is the "present" or the "offering" that these people are to bring to the Lord? I believe the answer to this question is to be found in Psalm 2:7-8 and in Romans 15:16.

In Psalm 2:7-8 the Psalmist prophecies of Christ, "*Thou art my son this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thy inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*" The Father tells our Lord Jesus that He is going to give him a gift and that gift is the heathen nations as His inheritance and the whole earth as His possession. Paul confirms that this was His task and the task of the church, to present an offering to the Lord. What is that offering?

Romans 15:16, "*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*" Paul says that our task of winning the Gentiles into the Kingdom is an offering unto the Lord. This offering is made acceptable to the Lord through them being sanctified or made Holy by His Spirit. So the task of these people is to present an offering to the Lord. What offering does He want? He wants the Gentile nations of Africa for His inheritance. But not only are the people of Africa to come into the Kingdom of our Lord, He says the ends of the earth are to be His possession. The ends of the earth are to be found "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia". The Lord is not just interested in a little patch of ground in Palestine. The riches of Africa must be brought into the Kingdom along with the people of Africa so we can supply also all the needs of the people. He does not just want Africans saved, He wants us to prosper and live in the abundance that Africa can provide.

But how is this to be accomplished?

## **Raising an Ensign over Southern Africa**

The Lord says how He is going to accomplish this great task. In verse 3 of this chapter 18, Isaiah says, *“All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see you when He lifts up an ensign on the mountains and when He bloweth a trumpet hear ye.”* So something very important is going to happen in Southern Africa that all the inhabitants of the earth are going to see and hear. Now if you take a look at the context of these two prophecies in Isaiah 18 and Zeph.3:10 you will see in Isaiah 17:12,13 the Lord is getting ready to deal with the nations of the world in judgment. In Zeph. 3:8-9 the Lord says, *“Therefore wait ye upon me saith the Lord until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determinations is to gather the nations that I may assemble the kingdoms to pour upon them my indignation even all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord to serve him with one consent.”*

With verses 8-9 as an introduction that there is a time coming that the Lord is going to deal with the nations of the earth with the intention that they must all call upon His name...the prophet then goes into verse 10, *“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants...”* So at the time when the Lord is ready to do a mighty thing in the earth, a thing that He says “wait upon me” till He is ready to do this great thing in the earth, at that time the people of Southern Africa will experience a supernatural visitation from the Lord that the whole world will see. Isaiah says this is where the Lord will raise His standard, His ensign and from there He will blow His trumpet.

## **The Gathering of the Lord’s Army**

When the Bible uses words like “raising an ensign” and blowing a trumpet it is rich in Biblical symbolism. The tribes of Israel were to gather around the raised ensign (Numbers 2:2) When the trumpet sounded the warriors were to gather, first a trumpet for the gathering of the princes of Israel then a trumpet for the armies of Israel (Joel 2:1). When the Lord raises up His ensign or banner over South Africa it means He is gathering His kingdom warriors for battle against Satan and He wants the whole world to see what He is going to do here.

## **The First Kingdom Possession**

Now I want you to follow some interesting scriptures that make me believe that it is here in Southern Africa that the world will see the first mighty breakthroughs that will demonstrate the power and manifestation of God’s Kingdom on earth.

If you read further on from Zephaniah 3:10 the prophet has further words for the Lord’s suppliants, the daughter of His dispersed. He says they will be a poor and afflicted people which is caused by the Lord Himself. He will take away from in the midst of them the proud and haughty ones and leave them poor and afflicted.

But in verse 19 he makes this wonderful promise, *“Behold at that time I will undo all that afflict you and I will save her that halteth and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land that they have been put to shame... and I will make you a name and praise among all the people of the earth...”* Now here is what the prophet Micah has to say about these people who were “halteth and were driven out”.

Micah 4:6-8 *“In that day saith the Lord I will assemble her that halteth and gather her that is driven out and her that I have afflicted and I will make her that halteth a remnant and her that was cast afar off a strong nation; and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth even forever. And thou O tower of the flock the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come even the first dominion, the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”*

Now if you go to the beginning of Micah 4 to get the context of this prophecy you will see that this takes place during the time that the Lord raises up His mountain over all the mountains of the earth and “many nations shall say come and let us go to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob and He shall teach us his ways and we shall walk in his paths...”

I believe that these prophecies are all linked together. The day is coming that a group of people in Southern Africa “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia” a people afflicted and halted and who have been judged of the Lord to rid them of the haughty and the proud, these people will return to the Lord and raise His ensign, His banner over the land and they will blow the trumpet in Zion. They will receive a mighty outpouring of His Spirit over the land and this small flock on the Southern tip of Africa will be the first to possess the Kingdom. They will demonstrate to the nations of the world who are coming under the Lord’s judgment and who are collapsing under that judgment, this is the way you live, these are the ways of the Lord. And nations and people will come to us and say “teach us your ways”!

That is why Isaiah 18:2 says “they send ambassadors by the sea”. They are sending emissaries all over the world to say; His Kingdom has come, His will is being done in Southern Africa as it is in heaven. Let us teach you His ways to rebuild your nations on Godly, kingdom principles!

But that places an enormous challenge before us because it means that we here in South Africa, evangelical Christians of all races must find Biblical answers to all the problems that politicians, sociologists and economists have failed to solve. Consider this, all the problems that nations confront in the world today are represented here in South Africa. How do we create a community out of disparate races and cultures? How do we create prosperity for all our people? How do we solve one of the greatest crime waves on earth and provide peace and security for all? How do we live in our environment without polluting the earth and destroying our wonderful natural habitat? If we the evangelical charismatics of all races in South Africa can seek the Lord for solutions to these issues the world will sit up and take notice!

## South Africa and the Kingdom Vision

But some will argue, these are not our problems, we are to preach the gospel and get people into heaven and not get heaven onto earth. But that is what this website is all about. I need to convince you that the Lord has a far greater task to entrust to the church than just winning souls. Don't get me wrong, soul winning is the primary task of the church and every believer needs to be a witness for the Lord. But project forward 20 years say from 2010-2030 and assume the rapture does not take place during that time. In fact read my articles on prophecy and you will see why I believe categorically the rapture will not take place during this time period. Now ask yourself, we are already so successful at preaching the gospel that already 20-25% of the South African population are evangelical Christians, where are we going to be in 10 years? 20 years? I say at least half the population. And the world economy and the South African economy? Read my other articles and you will see that Babylon is Falling, the oil is running out, the money is running out, the resources are running out including water, farm land, global warming, pandemics and it is obvious the New World Order globalization project is on its way to collapse. No government in the world including the South African government is able to handle the onrushing crises of this time period.

So am I saying Christians should take over government? Absolutely not! Hear me clearly on this, anyone who thinks they can impose Christian values on a nation by taking over government and somehow turn this into a "Christian nation" is on a fools errand and does not understand how the Kingdom of God functions and how it is to be implemented on this earth. Are there good Christians in government? Yes, the Lord has placed His people in all walks of life to be a witness for Him, it is part of our task to go into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature. But it is not our job to solve the government's problems, or the corporate sector's problems or society's problems. **But it is our job to provide solutions to the needs of God's people!** And as we provide solutions to the needs of the millions of Christians in South Africa the world looks on and says "teach us your ways". Do you see the difference? As the urgent pressures of debt, disease, crime, hunger, family and societal collapse bear harder each year on the people of God in our land, the leadership is going to have to move beyond church as a Sunday morning meeting, tithing as the means to prosperity and the rapture as the escape to the problems we face.

## South Africa and the World Collapse

In my articles on "Babylon is Falling" I outline for you the reasons I believe the world is different after 11 September 2001. That should have been a "handwriting on the wall" moment for the prophets in the church to proclaim that judgment is coming on the world economic and military systems. It's time to come out of Babylon! Instead the church leaders have continued with "prosperity now, rapture next, tribulation never!". But as the years move on what is becoming clearer is that we cannot continue with church as usual. Government's, corporations, banks and families are deeply in debt. Everyone is hoping

Government has the answers. They don't. A whole generation of retiring baby boomers have no retirement savings and are hoping government will take care of them. Corporations are hoping consumers will have money to spend, but they don't. Banks are hoping people and companies will pay back their loans, but they won't. People think they can always go to the petrol station and fill up the tank, but we have reached "peak oil" production and from now on each year the world will produce less oil but the demand will be more. Prices will skyrocket. We use 33 billion barrels of oil a year now and there are only 1,2 trillion barrels of oil in reserves. In 30 years it is finished. But long before it is finished the prices will go through the roof and that means the end of the world that cheap energy made. That is the world of cheap and abundant food, travel, manufacturing production, transport, and all the 500,000 different products made from oil. It's all coming to an end. Wind and sunlight cannot replace the products made from oil. You cannot run airlines and shipping on sunlight.

The demographic time bomb is also going off. That means aging populations over the next 20 years with not enough young people to support them. Europe is finished, Japan is finished, Russia is finished. There is an enormous shortage of babies and young people in these countries. Every year Russia has been shrinking by 700,000 people. Not enough young people means not enough tax payers to pay for all the services of government and still pay the enormous debts that the "boomer generation" has left behind. With the collapse of consumer demand in the western world the factories of India and China will shut down. They can't afford to buy their own production with their low wages.

Now add in fresh water shortages, shrinking amounts of arable land for food production, weather changes, deforestation and ocean fish depletion and where do you think the world will be over the next 20 years? Let me tell you where you want to be in the next 20 years...South Africa!

In a world of collapsing food production we can still produce food surpluses. In a world of collapsing paper currencies we have precious metals. In a world of energy shortages we still have 200 years of coal production. In a world of mineral shortages we have a 1000 years of iron ore production and all the minerals needed to make steel and restart the industrial economy. And when the wars break out in the Northern Hemisphere we are thankfully 10,000 miles away from there. There are also a million South Africans in the "diaspora" abroad that will return home with skills and capital to help with the task ahead of us.

So can you begin to see why there is such a special calling from God on the people "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia"? The Lord has given us all the natural gifts we need to survive the ongoing world collapse. But the most important thing He has done is to also give us the spiritual gifts we need to establish His kingdom in Southern Africa. We are going to come up with the critical solutions we need to meet the needs of God's people here in Africa. Those solutions are going to be found in His Word!

## The Afrikaner Example for the Kingdom

I want to lay out a practical strategy for the church in South Africa that I will develop more fully on the website articles as we progress. Here I will only give a brief overview of my ideas I will develop.

The best example I can think of for us (and by “us” I mean all race groups in the church) to follow to separate ourselves out of a collapsing world system and build our own communities on God’s Biblical principles is the experience of the Afrikaners from 1910 to 1980. But hear me clearly on this; instead of building a policy of Apartheid or Separate Development on the basis of race, money and power for the needs of a small racial minority, we need to build on Biblical principles, but with the same view in mind. We need Apartheid from the world system and we need Separate Development from a collapsing, dysfunctional world system. How the Afrikaners developed from a small defeated group of people after the Anglo Boer War of 1899-1902 to a powerful nation by 1980 in a space of 70 years is instructive for those of us who want to see the Kingdom of God come into practical expression here in South Africa.

The Afrikaners started with nothing, their farms and communities devastated by the war and the English “uitlanders” in total control of the economy. Today we South African Christians find ourselves in the same situation. Our country and its economy has been bought out by foreigners who own the jewels of the South African economy in terms of mines, banks, retail chain groups, minerals, steel, land, properties and the list goes on and on. And every year more billions flow in buying up more assets. We have been re-colonized and the average South African who does have a job is living from paycheck to paycheck while most of our people have no jobs but must live on handouts and social welfare.

From such desperate circumstances the Afrikaners started their own financial institutions so that they can take their meager savings and mobilize those savings into business investments. So started Sanlam the insurance giant, Vederale Volksbelegings the investment group, Volkskas Bank. Many mutually owned groups started like farmers Coops and building societies for home loans. The Afrikaners invested in huge industrial groups like Isacor, Sasol, Eskom to create jobs for the poor whites. They started their own mining company Federale Mynbou to employ Afrikaners in the mining industry. They eventually created their own currency the Rand breaking away from the British pound.

In the cultural fields they created their own language which was recognized in 1925 as an official world language. They created their own Universities for Afrikaner students, Stellenbosch, Tukkies, RAU, Potch. They created markets for Afrikaans books, music and movies.

I believe we evangelicals can follow this example but instead of 70 years we can do it in 20 years. We need to mobilize our immense human, spiritual, cultural and financial resources in this country and put them to work for the Kingdom of God.

Can we do this? Of course we can! Look around you in our churches on a Sunday morning. Who are the majority of the doctors, engineers, technicians, entrepreneurs, farmers, professionals in the South African society? It is evangelical Christians! Who pay most of the taxes, generate most of the savings in the banks, keep the laws of the land and are always ready with a helping hand for the poor? The Christians! Are we thanked and appreciated for this? No. What does government do with our taxes? Waste most of it. What do the financial institutions do with our savings? Build more useless shopping malls.

We need our own mutually owned financial institutions that will mobilize our savings into productive investments that create real wealth with job priority for Christians. We need our own mutually owned insurance companies and medical aid schemes that have lower premiums because we Christians live healthier lifestyles, we live longer, and we also don’t rip off the system with false claims and fraud. And we have a miracle healing Lord! We need our own mutual funds that invest in our own businesses. We need our own private stock exchange to trade our shares to each other.

We need our own schools and universities to educate our children in an affordable and efficient manner. With modern internet we can have a national university online. With modern hand held electronic readers we can download our own text books electronically to our students. Difficult technical subjects can be done by the best lecturers on DVD’s with great interactive features.

We need our own cultural festivals, music, books, films and entertainment. We have a Christian culture distinct from the world and their values. We need to create our own living communities safe from the world and their criminal elements where our children can play in our own streets unafraid. We need 5000 member communities and not 5000 seat churches. We have the architects, town planners and construction companies to design these modern communities of tomorrow and build them We just need to mobilize our finances and savings to build them and equip them with our own businesses.

And remember this, there are 500 million more like us around the world so we can create an international trading environment among ourselves with our own international gold backed currency.

Church we can do this! I believe we here in South Africa will be the first evangelical charismatic community to start these Kingdom Covenant Communities in fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah, Zephaniah and Micah. I believe the time is right and we are the people divinely prepared of God to do this great work. We are going to bring our people out of crime infested townships and create safe living communities with jobs and security for all. We are going to send missions into Africa consisting of preachers, teachers, farmers, technicians, doctors and we are going to win Africa for Christ by teaching them the ways of the Lord by our example and building Covenant Communities across Africa. The church around the world is going to see what we do here and they are going to follow our example when they ask us, “teach us your ways”!