

Kingdom Report

Week of 10 August 2019

Part 2: Raising an Ensign over Jerusalem and Southern Africa

Isaiah prophesied that God would raise an ensign over Jerusalem to bring the Israelites out of Babylon captivity....and Isaiah prophesied that in the latter days God would raise an ensign in Southern Africa to establish His kingdom there. But without a vision we will perish....

So what is an "ensign" and what does it mean?....I'll explain but first....

Last week I showed you the remarkable number 539 in both time and distance in the prophetic journey of Israelites from "state capture" in Babylon to regain their lost inheritance and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple and fulfill their prophetic destiny.

Those time and distance numbers are only meaningful to our time because the Israelites of that day did not use our calendar or our miles. So there is an important message there for our time. It is a roadmap. It should catch the attention of any people in the world who are in a similar cry as Israel in captivity...."can these bones live again?. And remarkably we in Southern Africa are at that point.

I say remarkably for a reason. Because Isaiah prophesied about God raising an ensign over two areas in the world and several thousand years apart. To catch the importance of what I am going to show you I need to just give you a quick background about Isaiah especially about the timing of the years of his prophecies then you will get a better understanding of how remarkable this "ensign" prophecy is.

The book of Isaiah is probably the most amazing book in the Bible. Its 66 chapters are a commentary on the 66 books of the Bible. It has everything. Isaiah prophesied from about 740 BC to 701 BC. Northern Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians by 721 BC and gone. Only the southern kingdom of Judah remained when it too was finally captured and destroyed by Babylon between 604 BC and 587 BC.

Now here is the amazing part....Isaiah prophesied that both kingdoms would be taken into captivity before it happened and then of even greater importance he named Cyrus king of the Medes who would overthrow Babylon and release the Israelites from captivity 200 years before it happened.....

" Isa 45:1,13 Thus *saieth the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him;.... I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.*

So Isaiah knew about both the coming captivity of both kingdoms of Israel but more importantly he knew the Lord would release them miraculously from captivity and restore to them to their lost inheritance....this is how he said it...and it is important for you to catch the "ensign" message:

Isa 11:11-12 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. and he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

God released His people the first time from captivity to enter the Promised Land when He sent Moses to deliver them from out of Egypt and return then to the land of their forefathers. Now Isaiah says the Lord will a second time "in that day" gather His people once again from captivity and restore them to their land.

When he says "in that day" he is referring in 200 years time and by the way every prophecy writer gets this passage wrong by referring this to 1948. It is not. Isaiah was so clear about this second release from captivity that he actually names the deliverer Cyrus by name who would be as instrumental as Moses was the first time.

But now I want you to notice the phrase "he shall set up an ensign for the nations and assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather the dispersed of Judah". The two nations he refers to here are Israel and Judah. Israel dispersed in 721 BC into the Assyrian empire and Judah dispersed into the Babylonian empire in 604-587 BC.

An "ensign" was a "banner". Numbers 2;2 says *"The children of Israel shall encamp every man by his own standard with the ensigns of their father's house."* So wherever your fathers house was, there would be your ensign that signifies this territory belongs to you.

Isaiah in the quote from chapter 11;11-12 says that the Lord will once gain set up His ensign, His banner over Jerusalem and the outcasts of Israel and Judah will be united and may return to their inheritance because the Lord once again is giving them the land. And on top of that the Lord will command the nations to release them and Cyrus will supernaturally not only release them but give them riches and gifts so that they can rebuild Jerusalem and then temple. The same commandment was given to the Egyptians when God told Pharaoh "Let my people go..." they were given great gifts of gold, silver and cattle...

Ok here is where we of Southern Africa come into the picture.....

Isaiah makes all sorts of prophecies throughout his book about many nations. He names them. In chapter 17 it is all about the Syrians and Damascus. In chapter 19 it is all about the Egyptians. But in chapter 18 he mentions a people but does not name them. He only gives their location. He does not name them because in his day they did not exist yet. They are at the ends of the earth in a distant time in the future. But he does mention two very important things about them.

- He says God will raise His ensign over their land meaning it is holy ground, it is God's place and His people will be gathered there.
- He says they will bring a present unto the Lord.

I want to reveal to you where this land is and what the present is going to be that these people are going to present to the Lord....

Isa 18:1-7 *Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia: All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye..... In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.*

So where is the land beyond the rivers of Ethiopia? Here is a map to help you....



In scripture we know where Egypt is. Libya in those days was called "Put". When scripture refers to "Ethiopia" the Hebrew word is "Cush" and that is Africa south of Egypt. Which is why Jeremiah 13;23 says "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?"

The people of that day never went beyond Cush, they knew the great river of Egypt came from Ethiopia and they knew there was land beyond that...but that was termed "the uttermost part of the earth."

So the implication is clear....somewhere in Southern Africa, south of the rivers of Ethiopia the Lord would set His 'ensign" and say to His people "here is a land I am giving you for your inheritance...gather here."

When is this to take place?

Well the remarkable thing is that Zephaniah has similar prophecy to these people beyond the rivers of Ethiopia and tells us when this is to take place....

Zep 3:8-10 *Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations,*

that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine 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. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

So Zephania says that at the time that God determines to gather the nations then from Southern Africa, beyond the rivers of Ethiopia His people there will bring an offering unto the Lord. Isaiah said they will bring a present unto the Lord.

Ok so now we need to clarify two things:

What is the present or offering that is to be brought unto the Lord in the day that the Lord gathers the nations?

And who are these people?

Psalm 2 gives us the answer as to what the present is that the Lord wants....

Psa 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying..

Psa 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psa 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psa 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Psa 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Psa 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psa 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psa 2:10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

The present that our Father God wants to give His Son is the nations of the earth for His inheritance. And it is going to happen and the rulers of the world can plot and plan and imagine vain things but it is prophesied it will happen....the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ.

And guess what....here is my prediction. The first part of the nations of this world that is going to come to the realization that economic policies and political parties are not working, the first nations that are going to stop their vain imaginings and turn to the Lord and say "Please let these bones revive...revive us Oh Lord and raise us up for your great name...that is going to happen first in Southern Africa".

Why? Because the "uttermost parts of the earth" the forgotten parts, the parts of the earth held in derision, that have been trampled and abused and exploited....southern

Africa...are going to be the first to nationally and as a people say We are the people of the Lord and Him will we serve, we will turn from our wicked ways and follow the ways of the :Lord.

Because God delights to take the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

Because scripture says of we His people that we are joint heirs with Christ and if Christ is to inherit the nations then we are in our rights to ask.... "***Ask of me and I will give you the heathen for your inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.***"

Who are these people of Southern Africa? let me tell you who they are not. They are not Jews or Israelites by genetic inheritance. They are not white or black or some particular race. They are the Israel of God, the redeemed of the Lord, the children of God born again by His Spirit and now heirs of God and joint heirs of Jesus Christ. The people of the earth that Jesus came to redeem for His own.

And southern Africa does not belong to the corrupt, the politically connected, the international banks, the international corporations...it belongs to the people of God who the Lord brought here to redeem the land and His people, to make this a "sheep nation".

This is time we are entering into. Jesus said in Matthew 25 that He would gather the nations and then separate them into goat nations and sheep nations. The old colonial national divisions are going to be erased. There will only be sheep nations and goat nations. There will be people who serve God and people who rebel against His rulership.

80% of the people of South Africa call themselves Christians. 47% call themselves pentecostal/charismatic Christians. There is coming a great awakening, a great fire revival in the lands of southern Africa....Zephaniah says this....and from this coming great move of God will emerge a people who will say "These bones will live again" we are the people of God, we are going to raise the ensign of God over this land and declare it to be God's land.....we will thus bring a present to the Lord an offering to the Lord that both Isaiah and Zephaniah prophesied we would do. Isaiah 18 says "***All ye inhabitants of the world see when He raises up an ensign...***" Here is my interpretation....the coming great revival and restoration of Southern Africa is going to shake the nations of the world...everyone on earth will hear about it...it is going to be a sign to the nations and an encouragement to Christians everywhere!

Our lesson from today's blog....

Take courage and be of good cheer...the Lord has a prophetic destiny for our nation...things look bleak now but we are going to be a sign to the nations of the world to show them the way. The nations of the world are in even bigger trouble than we are and the time is going to come when they too will say "Can these bones live". And it is at that time that we need to be a witness to the nations of a people who rebuilt their nation on God's Word and prospered.

Coming ahead...some ideas about our strategy for national renewal.