

Kingdom Report

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The Coming Luke 4:18 Revolution in the Church

There are times in Church history when a truth of scripture catches fire and the world is changed. It happened with Luther and the Protestant Reformation and with the Azusa revival and the Pentecostal Revolution. The Church is about to wake up to Luke 4:18 and the world will never be the same again.

When Martin Luther, with his soul tormented by sin, discovered the hidden truth "The just shall live by faith", the world of feudal Europe was turned upside down and the smothering power of kings and popes destroyed and the people set free to pursue free enquiry, the scientific revolution, industrial revolution and political revolution.

Four hundred years later the church was stagnant and in great need for a new empowerment from on high, a new and fresh outpouring from heaven. In Los Angeles 9th April 1906 pastor William Seymour a one eyed black preacher and seven of his friends in prayer...something miraculous happened. A new upper room Pentecost experience. They were baptized in the Spirit and spoke in other tongues. At first this was a local church curiosity on Azusa street. But 9 days later 18 April 1906 the Great San Francisco Earthquake destroyed 80% of that great city and 3000 people lost their lives. Fear gripped Los Angeles in a holy terror. Is this judgment from God? Are we next on the same great earthquake fault zone? Within days the Azusa street revival swept into all of Los Angeles with thousands getting saved, healed and filled with the Spirit. That revival lasted 3 years and launched the world wide Pentecostal movement. Sometimes it takes destruction and an earthquake to waken the church.

Once again we are in world of neo-feudalism. The very rich feudal lords at the top of corporations and governments ruling a world of worker and workless peasants struggling to survive. And the destructive earthquakes this time is not the earth moving but the world economic, moral, cultural, environmental, structures collapsing around us.

In the midst of all this is a world evangelical/charismatic church which is now the largest expression of the Church in the earth in a crisis of its own. I hear this everywhere....what is the Lord doing?

My answer is Luke 4:18. And Isaiah 58 and Mathew 25. It is the revolution that Jesus as Yahweh asked of Israel through the prophet Isaiah. It is what the prophet Isaiah prophesied would happen when the Messiah comes, it is what Jesus announced to start His ministry. It is the outcome that Jesus said He was looking for when He returns. You have probably read these scriptures many times. But then there comes a time when some part of scripture is just made absolutely alive as to "Now is the time for this to be fulfilled".

First I am going to quote the lengthy extract from Isaiah where Yahweh (actually Jesus) complained to Israel about what they thought was religious service and what He really wanted from them:

Isa 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Isa 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Isa 58:3 Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

Isa 58:4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

Isa 58:5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

Isa 58:6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Isa 58:7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

They sound to me like a lot of where we charismatics are today...."Lord we delight in your ways, we seek you daily, we have evangelism outreach, we have teaching seminars and ministry conferences and we forsake not the gathering of ourselves together and we tithe and support missions....what more are you saying?"

Here is the more of what He was saying....He says this is what an acceptable day to the Lord looks like:

- loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free break every yoke, feed the hungry, house the homeless, clothe the naked.

And since Israel did not do this God said, Ok I will come down out of heaven and get my agenda moving in the earth. So he comes to earth and on His first sermon in Nazareth, opens to Isaiah and announces from Isaiah This is my ministry agenda...

Luk 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luk 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luk 4:20 *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

Luk 4:21 *And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

And before leaving back for heaven Jesus takes His disciples aside after 3 years of ministry and teaching and says I am leaving you now but I will return and this is what I expect from you when I return....

Mat 25:31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

Mat 25:32 *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

Mat 25:33 *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

Mat 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Mat 25:35 *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

Mat 25:36 *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

Mat 25:37 *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

Mat 25:38 *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

Mat 25:39 *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

Mat 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

Are you beginning to see the agenda of heaven for the earth. Are you seeing what God wants done through His disciples on earth?

Now the good news is that Jesus said to the disciples don't worry I won't leave you alone. I will send you a helper to get this job done. The same anointing on me will come upon you. What anointing? The anointing of Luke 4:18...

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to....."

I want you at this point to catch a very important symbolic act that Jesus did for His disciples in the way He left them.

Do you remember the story of Elijah and Elisha? It was time for Elijah to leave. Elisha realizes he must take over as prophet. But he feels inadequate for the job. So he asks Elijah give me a double portion of the Spirit that is upon you. Elijah says hey that is a difficult request but ok here is the condition....if you see me taken away you will get your request. You know the story. However don't miss this. We think it was the chariot and horses that took Elijah away, it wasn't....scripture says:

2Ki 2:1 *And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind.....*

As Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind his mantle fell down onto Elisha because Elisha had to be there to see him ascend. Elisha got his wish. Elijah had 8 recorded miracles, Elisha had 16 recorded miracles.

Now fast forward to the departure of Jesus from earth. He took them to the Mount of Olives. privately so that they could be there to see Him ascend to heaven....in a cloud not in a whirlwind. But Jesus told them go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit, the same anointing that had come on Jesus. Except now the whirlwind came down from heaven in the sound of a mighty rushing wind and they were all filled with Holy Spirit....and the mantle that was on Jesus now fell upon the disciples....a double anointing because Jesus said greater works than these will you do.

What works? Ok I grant you the great works of saving souls and healing the sick and casting out devils. All that they did. All that we rejoice in today in our meetings and crusades.

John Wimber back in the 1980's shook up the charismatic movement by challenging "When do we do the stuff?" Meaning when do we do the book of Acts stuff. And we have had this incredible world wide move of a call to spiritual warfare, praise and worship, the restoration of the prophetic and the apostolic.....but now I ask you the same question....

"When do we do the other stuff?"

When do we use the power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to feed hungry people and clothe the naked and house the homeless. When do we heal the brokenhearted? Brokenhearted? Yes...those who have lost life savings in economic swindles and rapacious looters, those young children who had their innocence robbed through molestation and predators, those broken hearted fathers who cannot feed their hungry children because there is no work available, those brokenhearted women who lost husbands to marital infidelity because we are in a moral collapse those brokenhearted young people who had dreams after college of a good job and a career but nothing is available because the economy is in collapse.

How do we begin to address the societal issues of Isaiah 58, Mathew 25 and Luke 4:18? Where are the resources to even think of how are we going to meet these needs? We feel like we are facing 5000 hungry people and Jesus tells us feed them and all we have are 5 loaves and 2 fishes.

The scope of the problems we face as a nation and a church is immense. The response in the past has been "It's not our job let someone else do it".

This is the kind of response Israel gave Samuel...."Give us a king like other nations to fight our battles for us."

So here is the situation we have here in South Africa. We the majority Christian population of South Africa have said, this is not our problems, let the government handle it....so this year we have handed over to government R1,900,000,000,000.00

(R1,900 billion in taxes and loans for expenditures by government and provinces) and we have given to the financial industry R5,000 billion (R5 trillion) of our financial assets and said please make jobs and please care for us in old age.

And the result? This last week a respected economic analyst described our government as the largest organized crime syndicate in the nation. Theft, corruption, looting, incompetence, stagnation, clueless. The corporate and financial sector is probably a bigger looter and waster of our national assets. They are just far more clever and sophisticated in how they loot. Our police and judicial system incapable of even bringing one looter and corrupt official to prison.

So what I am saying is that the issue is not we don't have the resources. The issue is that we have outsourced the Kingdom agenda of Isaiah 58 and Luke 4:18 to others....government and corporations. They took our money and resources and not solved our problems but left us poor and a new peasant class in a new feudalism.

The coming revolution of Luke 4:18 is when the people of God realize the rapture is not going to save us from a national collapse, the end times we constantly hear about for the last 70 years is not the end of the world or the end of the church in the world but is in actual fact the end of nation states and their corrupt ways and the time has come for the Spirit upon all God's people is present and willing to give us power to do what Isaiah 58 asks us to do.....

Isa 58:8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

Isa 58:9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

Isa 58:10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Isa 58:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isa 58:12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

In the season ahead I feel the Lord pressing on me to go deeper into these issues. I need to research the means and mechanisms of how we go about healing the nations. All that Jesus has told is "These are the results that I am looking for." Then He left us and said don't worry the same Holy Spirit was upon me will be on you. He will teach you all you need to know, He will empower you with all you need for the job.

So now that means we, you and I, we have an expanded task before us. How we get this job done is going to mean exploring new territory, new ways we organize church, new ways we express apostolic companies, new ways we demonstrate to glory and power of God in the earth.

I will be tackling the Luke 4:18 challenges on a number of fronts and will report back to you on my discoveries and ideas hoping it will stimulate you to do the same where you are called to be.

Let the revolution begin.....we have a lot of old waste places to rebuild and we need to lay many new foundations for the generations to come. New economic foundations, new political and social and cultural foundations. Those future generations will call us the repairers of the breach and the restorers of paths to dwell in!