

# Kingdom Report

www.kingdomvision.co.za

Week of 18 January 2024

## **Emperor Constantine and His New Jerusalem: A Lesson for the Church in Southern Africa**

On December 16 President Ramaphosa announced that in 2025 “a national dialogue would be convened” to discuss the future of the nation. What will be the contribution of the church. Here a lesson from Emperor Constantine on how to be a prophetic visionary for a nation.

Robert Kennedy once famously said “Dream no small dreams for they have no power to stir men’s blood”. I pray our evangelical prophetic church can use this auspicious occasion to participate and imagine for the nations of Southern Africa a great future. To assist let me give you the example of Emperor Constantine.

It is famously noted that in his battle to be emperor of Rome he had a vision from heaven before the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 AD which inspired his troops and converted him to Christ. In 313 AD as emperor he issued the Edict of Milan that legalized Christianity. Constantine was greatly influenced by his godly mother who was known as “Saint Helena”. Has also developed into Biblical scholar.

As emperor he had access to the empire’s secret historic Sybiline prophecies that were contained in a series of books of various “Sybils” or prophetesses whose prediction for the future of Rome were recorded and in times of trouble were consulted by the Senate and the emperors. But as a Christian scholar Constantine also had access to the Hebrew prophets translated into the Greek Septuagint. And he also had access to the scriptures of the Church and most importantly the prophecies of Revelation.

Now here is the problem confronting Constantine as both a Christian and a Roman Emperor.

Rome he knew from his histories was founded in our modern year date system in about 753 BC. But the empire was crumbling all around him. He looked at the prophetic books of the Hebrews and Christians. His attention would be drawn to the great prophet Isaiah. And Isaiah started his prophetic ministry in about the same time of 730 BC.

So Rome was a 1000 years old and crumbling. The great prophecies of Isaiah were a 1000 years old and not yet fulfilled of a new world of peace.

Constantine had a great biblical scholar as his spiritual advisor. His name was Lactantius and he wrote a book called 'The Divine Instituted'. In a chapter of his book entitled "Of the Renewed World" he quoted Virgil's great Eclogue 4 which was a poem inspired by the Cumean Sybil. It predicted that a child would be born to bring in the great "age of Saturn" that would bring peace and prosperity into the world. He then noted that Isaiah 9:6 also predicted the coming of a child into the world who would save the world.

Constantine made a great oration about these two prophecies to Rome and Israel and started a plan of action to combine Rome's prophetic destiny with Israel and the Church's destiny to renew the world.

He saw the answer in both the Old Testament and the prophecy of Revelation. He needed to build a New Jerusalem. He followed the pattern of Zerubbable's exit out of Babylon, Ezra's building a new temple and restoring the priesthood and Nehemiah building a New Jerusalem.

He would have noted that in Revelation the New Jerusalem was measured in size. In today's measurement that is about 1500 miles top to bottom and side to side. He went into action.

Constantine made the incredible announcement that he was dividing the Roman Empire in two. Eastern and Western empires. He was giving up the Eastern empire and Rome and is going to be emperor of the Western empire. This was his "leave Babylon and go and make a new Promised Land. Like Zerubbable and the priest Joshua as described in Ezra and Nehemiah....it was time to exit Babylon, Rome.

Then in 325 AD like Ezra did he called the Council of Nicea to bring order to the Christian movement. Like Ezra he collected the Word of the lord and had the council decree what is scripture and what is not scripture. And like Ezra teaching the new settlers the law of the Lord, Constantine demanded of the bishops to establish what is true Christian doctrine and what is not.

Then Constantine did the Nehemiah thing. Nehemiah came to the settlement and built a new Jerusalem, a city. In 330 AD Constantine declared a new city in the strategic location on the Bosphorous he called Constantinople. This marked the beginning of what we call the Byzantine Empire but they called it the New Rome and the New Jerusalem.

Why the New Jerusalem? Because if you measured the extent of the Eastern Empire under Constantine it would be the size of the biblical New Jerusalem in Revelation

- North to South: From the Danube River (around modern-day Romania/Bulgaria) to North Africa (near modern-day Tunisia/Egypt), the distance is approximately 2,000 to 2,500 kilometers.
- East to West: From Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) to the western parts of the Balkans or Italy, the distance could be roughly 1,000 to 1,500 kilometers.

Here is a map of the Eastern Empire:



And like in the book of Revelation Constantine's prophetic dream of a Christian empire of a New Jerusalem that will heal the world and a world renewed; his New Jerusalem also lasted for 1000 years as a bastion for a true Christianity and a witness for the Kingdom. In 1453 The Islamic armies finally breached Constantinople.

While the Western empire collapsed and the Roman church morphed into the fallen apostate state of the Roman Catholic Church the Eastern Empire not only split physically from a decayed Rome but the Orthodox Church split from the apostate Roman Church.

Constantine not only provided peaceful borders for a violent world but unlike the Eastern empire he introduced the principle of sound money like Old Testament scripture required. He minted the gold solidus. It was 4.4 grams of pure gold of 23.5 karats. It maintained its weight and purity for 700 years and was the standard for international trade.

In that empire were all kinds of nations and nationalities. But they were a confederation of states of different nationalities united by their Christian faith and their New Jerusalem where the great temple the Hagia Sophia was built. For hundreds of years you could trade, travel, farm, in peace among different peoples and nations. Your savings in gold solidas maintained their value for hundreds of years.

In 1053 the Orthodox church split from apostate Rome. A 1000 years later they are rebuilding a New Jerusalem in Moscow. With the world's biggest new Orthodox Cathedral outside Moscow. They have their own 1000 year prophecies. They believe the

Second Rome of Constantinople was spiritually moved to the Patriarch of Moscow when Constantinople fell to Islam.

The Russian nation is operating under the Third Rome prophecy of their church. Their first Czar who was converted to Christianity in the Orthodox church was Vladimir 1 of Kievan Rus in 988 AD. A 1000 years later they got a new Christian Czar (Vlad Putin) who is leading them out of 70 years of bondage to alien godless Communism. Like the Israelites coming out of 70 years Babylonian captivity to rebuild their New Jerusalem so Putin and the Russian Orthodox Church are cutting themselves off from the corrupt decaying Western Empire of America and Europe. They are in the process of reclaiming their lost ancient lands in eastern Ukraine. They, the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Federation of many nations and nationalities are planning for a Christian empire of hundreds of years. That is their history and that is their prophetic expectation.

### **The South African National Dialogue**

The South African president is going to set up a committee to plan and oversee the national dialogue. The agenda is what is wrong with our nation, what needs to be done and what is our vision as a nation for the future.

What is our vision as a church? If we get an invite are we going to say sorry but there is no long term vision since we are leaving in the rapture and the Antichrist is taking over in a world government?

Can we do a Constantine? Can we do a Council of Nicea and call our leaders together and say this is the message of the Church to South Africa, this is our message for the economy, this is our vision for peaceful prosperous nation of different nationalities and peoples. Can we project how our common faith in Christ can create a new united nations.

And even more prophetically radical....can we instead of just South Africa can we see a vision for Southern Africa as a Confederation of nations? Why not?

Our situation is much like that faced by Constantine in 313 AD. The world empire of Western hegemony is collapsing. The international monetary systems are failing. The moral order of society is corrupt. Its gladiators and games and free bread to the masses.

And like Jerusalem in 70 AD when the dreams of a Messianic Jewish empire were crushed by a destroyed Jerusalem? That was the end of Messianic Zionism in the Jerusalem church. The church needed a new vision, a new Jerusalem.

When the Israeli state collapses from violence and corruption the theology of Christian Zionism will also collapse. A New Jerusalem will be needed.

Can we imagine Southern Africa as our Promised Land? Can we build a New Jerusalem here as a blessing to our collective nations.? All collapsing under corruption and wickedness in high places....and low places.

Let the dialogue begin, let the visionaries envision a new vision for the church and the nations.