

Kingdom Report

Week of 24 August 2019

Part 4 Our Sheep Nations and the Promised Land of Southern Africa

It is time to explore our Promised Land of Southern Africa and define what Jesus meant by "sheep nations". This will give us a pathway to understanding the great work ahead to "heal our land".

If you have ever heard a powerful teaching on faith and how to exercise your faith then this scripture from Romans 4:17 is inevitably quotes:
"For God quickens the dead and calls those things which be not as though they were."

Here is the catch....this comes from the scripture in Romans 4 I gave you last week that is Paul's extended argument that:

- Abraham's was to be the father of many nations (vrs. 17)
- That Abraham's seed would inherit the whole world which is why he is the father of many nations. (vrs. 13)
- That seed is not confined to those of the "circumcision...i.e Jews" but to all his seed and in fact Abraham is the father of all those who believe (vrs. 16).

So when you get to verse 17 as I quote it above....the context of that much quoted verse is that Abraham and Sarah are too old to have children and yet when God told Abraham that not only will you have a child but you will be the father of many nations. And Abraham believed God! He did not stagger at this incredible promise. He did not look at his age or Sarah's age. He did not look at the condition of their bodies.

So if I tell you I know Zimbabwe is dead. I know South Africa is dying. I know the nations of Southern Africa are dying. The populations are steeped in poverty and growing poorer. Foreigners own the land and the resources. Corruption is endemic. Not one "liberation movement" in Southern Africa has "liberated" the people....If I tell you these things then the natural question is what I started this series with...."Can these bones live?".

Can God "quicken" dead and dying nations? And more importantly is there any hope or expectation that the church can be the instrument of national revival, of creating "sheep nations" out of corpses? Because that is actually what that verse is all about...it is about God creating new nations where none exist and where in the natural there is no way that you can actually do this....just ask the world, they will tell you all about 'African pessimism".

Abraham did not stagger in his faith when presented with this impossible prophecy. Will the church stagger in its faith when presented with the promise that we are to be the inheritors of the promises to Abraham that we will inherit the earth. That we will be the people of those many new nations?

So what is a "sheep nation" and how do we create one?

That alone is a fascinating issue and in fact Jesus gave us some real important information as to what He wants and how we are to go about it. I am not going to introduce you to that vision in this week's blog...lets leave that for next week...for now lets see about the great potential we have in our Promised Land here in Southern Africa...the land beyond the rivers of Ethiopia that is prophesied of the Lord.

So lets have a look at our Promised Land....Southern Africa!

Forget about the national boundaries you see on maps. They are artificial constructs from colonial empires. Forget about so called "national identities" about race, etc.

Look at scriptural reality....

Here is the scriptural fact about people and borders:

Acts 17:26 " *And God has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;*

Here are the facts:

- All men are created in the image of God.
- God has made all people of the same substance....His gift of life, He breathed His spirit into man to give all people life.
- God creates nations, all authority is from God.
- God from before times has determined nations....He sets their borders, He sets their times, He sets their authorities.

Look beyond race, look beyond tribes and nationalities, look beyond national borders. These are all temporary divisions that the Lord instituted after the Tower of Babel incident in order to limit the amount of damage that wickedness can do in the earth.

God's plan has always been to create a new people and new nations and new culture and new values and new agenda's....His Kingdom agenda. There is a time for this new world. The planet earth is waiting for this. All of creation is waiting for this. The poor and sick and lost of the earth are waiting for this new era.

Every man made institution built on sand is now visibly crumbling. That is why people are migrating all over the world. That is why many corporations are bigger than countries. That is why more and more people consider themselves global citizens. That is why for many companies and people, national boundaries are an impediment to the free movement of people, ideas and capital. The old boundaries no longer apply...the world is looking for new "nation" concepts. New solutions. New economics. New technologies.

This is why Paul echoes the prophecies of Daniel. Isaiah, Micah...Romans 8: "for the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God....for we know the whole creation groans and waits in pain together until now". The "new" that is now ready to come are the people of God, all over the world in all nations ready to change to world.

I want you to have another look at the map of Africa....



Africa is so big you can fit America, China, India, Europe, Eastern Europe, Japan....all these great land masses can fit into Africa.

As for Southern Africa...you can fit most of America into our region of Africa. Here is what I see in my spirit about Southern Africa....a new USA!

"The Union of Southern Africa"

I say why not? Why not say to the Lord..."Oh Lord our God all nations and their boundaries are from you. You set the limits. We the people of God of Southern Africa ask you to give us this portion of Africa for our inheritance so that we can make Jesus your Son Lord of this portion of His inheritance. If you will do this by your mighty hand we will follow your instructions to heal the land and do your will according to your commands."

Do we have enough faith to ask this of the Lord? But why all of Southern Africa?

There are actually sound economic reasons for this as well as spiritual reasons:

The barriers of national boundaries are artificial. They are colonial legacies. They do not work. The people of Africa in any case just ignore these artificial boundaries and move where there are opportunities.

There are already very strong "pan-African" movements among African intellectuals going back more than a hundred years. It just means finding a good means to create a

new union. There are many existing political models in the world today. The prime one being the European Union. Borderless trade, national identities, single currency.

A new union will create a common market of over 100 million people. If we are to create a new prosperity for our people of Africa then world economic realities tell you that you need a common market and a common monetary region of at least 100 million people. That kind of population makes your region a world power. That kind of region gives you the large population to create world class companies. That kind of potential creates enough people for all the things great nations must do:

- you need to have people resources to devote to not just agriculture but you can create a large pool of scientists, technologists, engineers.
- the more people you have the more specialists your society can create instead of depending on other nations to import expertise.
- The more people we have the greater the buying power the lower the cost of production for mass production of goods and services.

We need a sound monetary system so that the poor are not robbed of their savings through inflation. South Africa is already blessed with one of the best financial service sectors in the world with our banks being among the top in the world. Our problem now is that the financial service sector has grown too large for the size of our economy. It constitutes 16% of our GDP when it should be no more than 8%. We need a much larger economy of over 100 million people in a far larger region. The stability of our financial sector extended to the whole region will create enormous economic growth. That coupled with borderless travel and trade in our region will create wonderful economic opportunities for of the people of Southern Africa.

We need to eliminate the great wasteful expenditures of too high an overhead cost that so many independent nations of Southern Africa create. There are far too many politicians, too many parliaments, too many bureaucrats, too much red tape, too much useless regulations, too many armies and military waste, too many blockages from borders, too many foreign embassies by too many small nations...and I can go on and on.

As far as military and security all we need are good naval patrol boats to stop our sea resources being stolen by the fishing fleets of the Chinese, the EU, Japan, Taiwan etc. And for the rest do what Costa Rica has done...just disband all the armies and use that money to strengthen police services and education and health care.

We also need to integrate the incredible resources of Southern Africa into one mega-economy. We need our farmers to be able to farm in all the regions of Southern Africa so that when there is drought in one region there is always food being produced in another. Our region if properly farmed can feed all of Africa. There is absolutely no need for hunger in our region.

We need to have a regional economic policy that creates tariff barriers to dumped commodities from overseas. There is no need for dumped imports of sugar, cement, chickens and many other products.

We have all the energy and mineral resources in our region to be the major low cost producer in the world of steel and stainless steel. We have some the of the best

resources for the production of next generation tech...rare earth minerals, lithium, cobalt and nickel for the big market in electric vehicle batteries. We have great thorium and resources for the next generation of thorium fueled nuclear reactors.

Our other energy resources are also vast: The best sunlight and wind resources for unlimited renewable energy. We have coal resources for a thousand years. And yes I am a supporter of coal use. We can scrub the sulfur dioxide pollution. And then of course great natural gas as well as oil off our shores.

We urgently need to integrate our whole subcontinent with a vast rail connection so that we can move people, minerals, food and goods to markets. And that rail system should not be expensive imported diesel electric locomotives. We need to start at the first industrial revolution before dreaming of the 4th industrial revolution. The first industrial revolution of Europe and America was steam locomotives. They were in use right through to after World War 2. The entire world industrialized on them. Why? Because they are cheap to make, can pull enormous loads, use cheap energy and do the job. It's just crazy that South Africa spent R54 billion on 1004 imported diesel electric locos. We can make thousands of steam locos 100% from our own materials and our own factories and export them into Africa...at less than 10% the cost. And we can service them ourselves and make our own spares.

And of course we Christians a borderless Southern Africa is ideal for preaching the gospel. We can travel anywhere. We can move money and resources to any region. We also love being with and meeting with our family of God in other nations. We would greatly benefit from such a re-organization of Southern Africa.

We can also as Christians vote for a new "law of return just like Israel has for Jews all over the world. Except our law of return would be all those in America who have African ancestry and were taken in slavery to America have a right of return to our region of Africa with citizen rights. That will create a lot of excitement and support from the American political groups (and all those who saw "Black Panther" movie and dream of "Wakanda".)

Is all this doable? Can we create a new USA ...a new Union of Southern Africa? if it were left up to the politicians, no never. They like being heads of nations, the prestige, the blue light convoys, the pomp and ceremony. They won't do it. Let me tell you who will do it:

- The Christians of all nations of Southern Africa are the majority of people in each nation. If they catch the vision of "sheep nations" instead of nationality nations...we can be the binding factor that unites the region.

- The young people will love it. They have no nationality ties. They are urbanized and want expanded economic opportunities.

- The powerful banking and business community will be very excited about this development and will be natural allies.

- And believe it or not the international community will be for it. China wants stable and well run economies they can invest in and 100 million new middle class consumers are what they want. The EU and other trading blocs will welcome a prosperous Africa.

Have you heard of all the prophecies of a great move of God starting in South Africa and spreading north into Africa? This kind of visionary movement that can excite the people of our region to a practical way to bring the gospel of Good News to the poor can be a catalyst for unity among the people of God to work together for a great cause...and this can be the catalyst for a great spiritual revival as we work together to win African for Christ.