

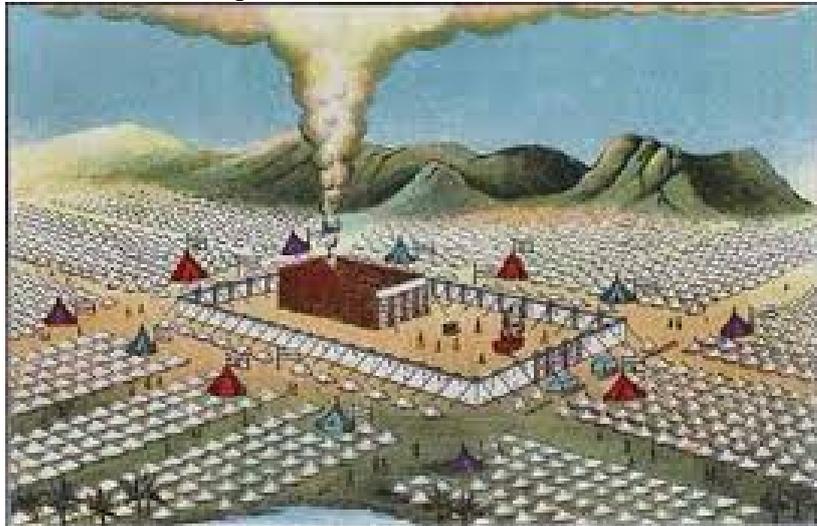
Kingdom Vision Report

Week of 10 Nov. 2018

Rebuilding the Waste Places: Scope of Work

I want to get on with a positive message of how we can rebuild the waste places both here in South Africa as well as around the world. But first I must explain the scope of work because this is never raised in our churches and this will be new for most of you.

Let me give you a very useful division of labour in the Church that frankly is not really preached on the way I think it should because of theology problems of eschatology. To illustrate this to you have another look at that picture I showed you last week that scripture describes as "the church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38):



In my mind I see two ministries there:

- Inside the tent precinct I see the tabernacle and alter of sacrifice and the laver. This where High Priest, priests and Levites functioned ministering to the Lord and to the people.
- Around the tabernacle are the armies of the Lord divided in their tribes, clans and families.

Each group has a different function which I divide into Genesis 1 people and their calling and Genesis 2 people and their calling.

The Genesis 2 people are in my mind the 5-fold gift ministries of pastor, apostle, prophets, evangelists and teachers. Their job is to save the lost, train them up into the warriors of God, restore the glory and presence of God back among the people, close up the gates of hell, open the gates of glory. Basically restore Eden and the power and the presence of God back on earth.

The Genesis 1 people are the ones who the Lord addressed in Gen. 1:26-28 and who He made in His own image and commanded them "be fruitful and multiply and work to subdue the earth."

The job of the Genesis 2 ministries is to restore the lost image of God in us through teaching and preaching and ministry and impartation of the Holy Spirit until "Christ be formed in us."

As I see it this work only started seriously 500 years ago with the start of the Reformation when we as a church had to come out of the darkness and bondage of a false church and to rebuild the waste places of the Tabernacle of God and to restore the glory of God and presence of God among the people. I believe we are at a wonderful point in our church reconstruction that the 5-fold ministry is restored, people are being taught and filled with the Spirit, the lost are being saved....and I believe it is time for the Genesis 1 folks to now get on with the job of subduing the earth.

Here is my problem: The Genesis 2 ministry folk really think that once they have done their job then the end can come, job done, we can now be raptured out of here. The Reformation folks who don't believe in end times/rapture theology also have a problem...they really don't know what constitutes the end or job done. I have asked them.

Neither side knows actually what is the scope of the work that Genesis 1 people are supposed to do. How do we subdue the earth, how fruitful and how much should we multiply? What sort of time frame are we talking about here and what should we subdue? The earth? What about space? What about the galaxies? I mean exactly how long is God's timeline here and how many children does He want and how much multiplication should we be doing?

Now my opinion about a timeline is this...we are only now 500 years into the Reformation era and 2000 years into the Kingdom age (which started at the resurrection of Jesus in 33 AD)...as far as I am concerned we are not at the end...we are at the end of the beginning!

Now let me give you an understanding of the problem of the waste places that need rebuilding from an incident after Cain was expelled from the Eden precinct. The Bible tells us that this rebel who decided he was not going to live under the High Priesthood and rule of his brother Abel (that is why he killed his brother, his sacrifice was rejected by the Lord)...he was going to go off and build his own kingdom and so he went to the land of Nod and built the first city in Sumer.

Today archaeologists know where that first city was built...they also know why it later collapsed. It was built on the Euphrates river and Cain and his city flourished for several generations and all looked fine...until the great irrigation systems that fed the agriculture that fed the people, over time deposited too much salt from the river water in the lands and turned the earth barren. In fact that is why the whole region down the Euphrates is a desert. Too much salt in the earth from too much irrigation and this resulted in a desert. The same by the way for the whole of North Africa that used to be wonderful forests and pastures and grain lands, and so also the barren regions of the Middle East. (including Israel)...they wasted the land, cut the trees, salted the earth.

God warned Israel about what happens to the ungodly. In a number of times in the Bible He warns "I will punish the ungodly to the third and fourth generation but those that love me I will bless for thousands of generations". (Deut. 5:9-10; Ex.20:5-6).

So here is our international problem and our problem here in South Africa with sinners and their great city building and civilization building grand schemes:

Things seem to go well for a while...God says for three or four generations. And then the accumulation of the abuse that results when sinners care nothing for the earth, the environment, the economy, the family structure of society, morality, hard work etc...judgment builds up in the form of things that have a habit of biting you back. That is how God constructed the reality of this world.

Proverbs 8 tells us that God made this world by wisdom...and you better live by wisdom if you hope to survive long term on this earth because this earth is made to destroy stupidity. And that is why the Lord told Israel, don't make covenants with these people in the land, don't serve their gods, don't participate in their foolishness...because down the line...the judgments of the Lord come.

I had to grow up in the Lord and start living in wisdom. Forty years ago I thought the world is about to end, the end is upon us any year now. I am shocked to be still here 40 years later. What is more this last 40 years have been absolutely unprecedented in the explosion of technology, wealth, poverty reduction, gospel outreach.

But let me give you a sobering thought: The next 40 years are not going to be like the last 40 years. The abuse of the earth, the destructive culture of hedonism, the selfishness of the corporate world, the inequities of the financial system...the day of reckoning is coming and we are facing a waste land that will have to be rebuilt.

Sooner here in South Africa than in other places of the world. South Africa especially is living on borrowed time that comes from borrowed money. We have maintained a false prosperity with 2000 shopping malls kept alive by a highly overpaid government sector paid for by selling off the best assets of the nation over the last 20 years and then incurring huge and unpayable debts every year to keep the spending party going.

So I work and plan and preach under the following assumptions when I set about determining what is the scope of our work and what are the remedies we can start discussing as Christians as follows:

- I work on the basis that this is not the "end times" as preached from all the pulpits...i.e end of the world, Jesus is coming any moment to establish His kingdom or take us out of here depending on your theology.
- I work on the basis that this is the end of the beginning. Now come the judgments on a sinful world as in the collapse of the economic system as it is now based in mountains of unpayable debt, as in the collapse of eco-systems like the overfished oceans, as in the collapse of the rain forests from palm oil and soya plantations (which will turn Indonesia and Brazil into deserts like the Middle East)....
- I work on the basis that politics and politicians are never going to be the solution because this is an adversarial system whereby some guys paycheck is dependent on

him not agreeing with the other guy. That combined with a wasteful bureaucracy that no matter how inefficient can never be fired or held responsible.

- I work on the basis that no theory of economics up to now has been able to provide a sustainable and long lasting economic system. Every fiat money system in history has collapsed; Thomas Piketti in his book last year "Capital" explained the impossibility of the current system...when capital demands to grow and increase at 15% per annum and the economy only grows at 2% per annum then great wealth accumulates for the few at the top and leaves the bottom of society impoverished.

- I work on the assumption that our economy as well as the world economy is totally unbalanced and heading for a crash.

- I work on the assumption that nationalism and nations are crumbling and money and finance and the pursuit of security through money as the binding factors that hold society and order together...these are all crumbling...chaos beckons.

For these and many other reasons which I will elaborate over time...I work on the inescapable conclusion that only the people of God, the Church of Jesus Christ can be the force that rebuilds the waste places that are coming, that have the solutions for the strategy to rebuild the nation and have the power and the message to change people's lives and give them a living hope for the future.

I also work on the assumption that this great task is the "work of the ministry" that Paul talks about in Ephesians of why God gave us the 5-fold ministry. So I don't expect the ministry folks to agree with me. They don't see it. This is what they see....

"If my people who are called by name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face....." everyone agrees with that. So we hold big prayer rallies. Good. We confess our sins. Great. But here is the part that goes missing....

"...and turn from their wicked ways..."

This is where I get all the arguments. You see the Lord is referring here to a way of life. He laid out a way of life in the laws of Moses. We love to sing and shout Praise God I am not under law but under grace!

Oh is that so....

Well there is a law in the Bible about our money should be sound, proper weights and balances...meaning no inflation. You happy about our shrinking rand and dollars?

There is a law in the Bible about fair wages for work. You happy you are not under that law?

There is a law in the Bible about everyone of God's people should be owners of assets in the land and every 50 years the assets of the nation should be in the control of the people. You happy you are not under that law?

There is a law in the Bible that you may not have unlimited debt liability...the people must be debt free every 7 years. You happy about your endless debts?

There is a law in the Bible about proper sanitation, there is a law about healthy and unhealthy foods, there is a law about limited government, there is a law about the right to private property (which our South African government is happy to transgress).

And I can go on and on. And I am going to go on and on. Because these are the "ways" of life that the Lord wants us to live by so that we can live long in the land and be prosperous. But we are not living by His ways...we are living by the ways of the

world...what God says are wicked ways. Turning from the world's way of living and restructuring the coming waste places to live by God's ways is what our discussions need to be about.

We have had our great solemn assemblies. We have humbled our selves. Now it is time to consider our wicked ways of how we live as a nation and how we can change that.

That is what I want to start addressing....