

Kingdom Report

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SA Elections, the Church and the Long Term Strategy

The political and economic landscape both here in South Africa as well as the rest of the world is fracturing. Economic and political power structures are crumbling leaving room for the expansion of the Kingdom of God. We need a theology and structure for discipling a nation.

As I am writing Friday afternoon 2 days after the South African elections it is clear that the ruling ANC party has suffered a humiliating defeat at the polls at the expense of a rising leftist “radical economic transformation”. The rest of the political landscape is littered with a multitude of over 60 smaller parties each hoping to climb aboard the governing “gravy train” of 5 years sitting in Parliament with nothing to do except pick up a huge salary with major perks and benefits.

Also among these fractured political hopefuls are a number of political hopefuls hoping to attract the Christian vote with an appeal to Godly government assuming there is a huge Christian population in South Africa estimated at 83% of the population—expecting or praying for a miraculous response. To no avail.

So let me take this moment to project forward to the next elections in 5 years time in 2029 and give you an idea of what I think just a few world trends and prophetic trends are going to look like. The point being this. I wish to give you an insight on the kind of strategic change we must start implementing so that we can be the difference makers in 2029.

By 2029 I expect the following.....

- I expect the end of the entire “end times” Dispensational Theology. This will principally come about because of the demise of the whole Israel as “God’s people” experiment. This Gaza war is the start of the inevitable economic collapse of the Israeli economy, with world sanctions coming and nations around the world coming on board to recognize a Palestinian state and demand equal political rights for Palestinians. The mass exodus of skilled and wealthy Ashkenazi Jews to America and other welcoming countries has already begun and is accelerating.
- I expect the whole prophetic narrative of “Antichrist and World Government” to collapse as it becomes very clear that the world is being divided into a multi-polar world with various cultural and economic power centers. The Lord will once again pull a Tower of Babel on the machinations of secret societies and other would-be world power fantasies.
- I expect the end of the phony “prosperity gospel” out of America and its corrosive influence on the church in Africa as the whole US economy implodes in a mega-debt fueled economic crash as the dollar loses its world reserve currency status. American prosperity is currently fueled by an ability to borrow \$1 trillion every 100 days to keep a consumer

economy going, hoping other nations will ship goods and services for dollars created out of nothing.

- I expect the demise of the European economies as the Euro follows the dollar into a debt default.
- I expect the rise of the East and the demise of the West.
- I expect a major world changing deception to be perpetrated by hidden forces of political and economic power in alignment with dark occult demonic powers perpetrate the long expected “UFO disclosure” to destroy the culture and faith of the monotheistic religions of the world (Christianity, Islam, Jewish). The Pope has already declared he is ready to baptize any “aliens” willing to convert. They know what is coming.

In South Africa a Church that is still concentrating on “end times” and rapture and meetings and not engaged in a strategy of healing the nation I expect....

The South African economy continues its downward spiral.

- The emigration of skills and capital increases.
- The power and infrastructure continues to erode.
- The rand continue its decline through inflation and money printing.
- The economy like all other African economies becomes just resource extraction and tourism. Industrial production falls from lack of skills, investment capital and energy.

How do we reverse this downfall? How do we structure a Church capable with vision and skills to heal the nation and bring blessing and prosperity to the land?

I want to give you key insight to a strategic change of direction.

I need you to re-read the famous and well known Great Commission of Jesus to His disciples before His ascension....but with a new insight:

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, **All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.**

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

You know this command very well. I left the words of Jesus in the red it is usually printed in to make a very important point. Jesus told them to go to all the nations, make disciples and “teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”. Here is our great omission and misunderstanding. We naturally assume all the things that Jesus taught us are contained in the red letters of the Gospels in the New Testament. Wrong assumption!

The teachings and commandments of Jesus that He taught His disciples are also contained in the Old Testament! Who do you think “Yahweh” was who met Moses on the Mount?

Who gave Israel all the commandments for the nation? Who taught Israel about how they were to do government and economy and justice and care for the poor and how to worship and how to treat the stranger and how to love one another and how to love God?

Here is my point. When we do the Great Commission and send out our great evangelists and missionaries we very rightly emphasize all the wonderful “red letter” teachings of Matthew, Mark, Luke John. We love the parables, we love the Beatitudes and we especially love John 3:16.

But those are not all the commandments and teachings of Jesus. Jesus did not just sit on the Mount of Olives and teach. He also stood on Mount Sinai and taught Moses and Israel. How much of that are we teaching the nations?.

Here is the issue:

God not only wants to save and heal people.

God also wants to save and heal nations.

And the Lord gives us examples for both as to what He wants.

God incarnated and came in the flesh as Jesus to show us what His plan for restoring our humanity looks like...which is why when we lost that vision in the sin of the first Adam, Jesus came to restore that as the second Adam.

God created the 5-fold ministry of Apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists to save and disciple us to grow into the image of Jesus Christ as our example. The local church is God’s platform where the 5-fold ministry operates to do this great work.

But God is also the creator of nations. He sets the bounds of nations. He creates nations for His purposes. Nations are God created structures for different purposes. It is through the structure of nations that we have a platform to create an economy, a structure to have a common law to keep the peace and protect the people. So that families can prosper and increase and so that the local church can do its job of discipleship.

Now here it the crucial insight we need to add. Ephesians says the 5-fold ministry of the local church is there for the perfecting of the saints.....”unto the work of the ministry”. (Eph. 4:12) Well we know what the “work of the ministry is for those called to be in the 5-fold ministry of the local church...but what is the “work of the ministry” for those who have been discipled in the church? What is their mission field?

I propose to you that the ministry platform for them is the nation. They must go out into the nation that God has placed them and teach the people of the nation all the things that Jesus taught and commanded.

Here is the important point:

Israel is the Template and example of what Jesus taught a group of people who He called to be a nation on how they are to run their nation according to God’s ways. So what we the discipled ones of the church, as we go into the world, must take the lessons of Jesus to Israel and find out how can we teach those as principles and practices for national blessings.

The Israel Template for Our National Healing

Both Old and New Testaments offer profound insights for our culture, but it is the Old Testament that provides detailed information about how God wanted his people to structure their economy and society. Unlike Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God, the Old Testament model builds in measures to account for 'hardness of heart': humans' innate tendency to go their own way. Such tough realism is essential when dealing with the realities of a secular society, over against God's ideals for the Church (Matt. 19:8)

Politics and economy and justice and evil these are tough issues! But God expects us to deal with them in structures that accommodate these realities.....which is why He created the nation state as a platform for society.

Even Christians can be sceptical about the relevance of the Old Testament. It can seem so remote from our culture that we sometimes believe it cannot possibly have anything helpful to say. However, one reason that the vision of society described in the Old Testament is uniquely relevant is because it was so highly integrated. Different types of relationship and themes of public policy worked in harmony, rather than in competition. This is important because looking at a single topic from a biblical perspective, perhaps debt, abortion or workers' rights...is not enough. Even if the whole span of biblical thought is applied in detail to a specific issue, the idea still needs to be connected to the other interwoven strands of society, first in the historical, biblical setting and then in the application for our own day.

To understand how to apply a principle drawn from the Bible, then, we first have to understand how the different laws fitted together for Israel to create the relational ideal. Otherwise, it risks becoming disconnected from related issues, potentially leading to unintended and perhaps harmful consequences. Understood as a whole, the model of Israel offers a 'paradigm' or comprehensive template we can use to tackle the problems that face our own society.

The most important themes of biblical law and the sections of society they impacted are familiar to us today:

Government, Community, Family, Finance and the Economy, Property, Work and Rest, Justice and Welfare. Although there are other themes that are important to life today – such as education or the environment – the significance of these themes is indicated by the amount of space they occupy in the Bible.

For instance the role of government. The Bible is extremely cautious about centralised power of any kind. This was partly a reaction against the abuses the Israelites had experienced in the highly centralised and bureaucratic state of Egypt, where Pharaoh was viewed as a god. Similarly, the Assyrian, Babylonian and Roman empires come in for heavy criticism on the grounds that they are prone to corruption, violence and injustice at their citizens' cost. Samuel warned the Israelites that establishing a king and state apparatus in Israel would entail a loss of their freedom and would require heavy taxation to pay for it all (1 Sam. 8).

Power was passed down to the local level as far as was possible, with families and communities governing themselves and higher authorities only being involved when a problem became too

large to deal with. The immediate form of government for most citizens consisted of the ‘elders at the gate’ of the city, who judged local matters (e.g. Ruth 4:11). State intrusion was kept to a minimum; instead responsibility and initiative were encouraged at a local level where they would have the effect of helping people bond together through their collective involvement.

The economy was vitally important and there were many laws on how to operate a fair and productive economy with God’s plan that there are to be no poor in the land. A major economic law for instance was the Jubilee laws of Leviticus 25. These laws were given to Moses on Sinai, to be applied ‘when you enter the land I am going to give you’ (Lev. 25:2). The section of the book of Leviticus in which this chapter is found is intensely focused upon the idea of holiness as a condition of staying in the land (Lev. 26). Leviticus 25 lays out some of the core principles that shaped Israel’s society and economy with interconnected values and priorities that provided the foundations for the kind of society that God wanted his people to build.

Starting a Nation Building Movement

We as the people of God in Southern Africa need to start looking to 2029 already with a view to building our nation on God’s Israel template or blueprint. There are issues here that need a lot of investigation but let me just make the important points that will need to be addressed:

- It is time to get out of the ‘end times’ paradigm of retreat and defeat and focus on the victory of the Church, the defeat of Satan and the spreading of the Kingdom of God into all the earth.
- We need to see the nation state as a creation of God to be disciplined into a vessel that serves God’s purpose for what He created nation states.
- We need to use the Israel template of the Old Testament as a blueprint for national policy formulation leaving aside the ceremonial laws as already completed in Christ but looking at all the other valuable guidelines for inspiration and policy formulation.
- That means get our eyes off of national Israel in Palestine. They are never going to be the world example until the turn to Christ and obedience to the gospel. That means we need to make Southern Africa the example for the nations of the world as God’s national template for world revival.
- We must understand this issue of national healing is a ministry of the broad Body of Christ as those who have been disciplined and ready to be sent into their part of society to heal the nation. This is not a job we can look to for our local pastor or apostle or prophet to do. Their platform and their job is in the local church.
- We need to have our own ministry networks of those called to similar fields of national healing to find the will of the Lord and God’s strategy for our field of work....education, farming, law, finance, government, entertainment etc.
- We need our own national conventions and conferences and publications that form networks of cooperation and education and encouragement and collaboration.
- We need to declare all of Southern Africa as our “Promised Land” with a vision and strategy to possess the land for the Kingdom of God ready for 2029 with policy and activists and programs and action ready.