

Kingdom Report

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Part 7 : The Ezra-Nehemiah Strategy : Goat Nations and Sheep Nations

God creates nations and sets their boundaries and times. And then God creates “sheep nations” (the Ekklesia) within nations. This was the Ezra-Nehemiah strategy: A New Jerusalem in the midst of a Persian empire. And this is the task for the Church in the midst of a crumbling Southern Africa, Plus important announcement about Yom Kippur 11 October 2024.

Next week I want to launch a very important series because of the signs of the times. The times I want to prove to you by mathematical, astronomical and scriptural proofs is this:

2024 is the 49th year of the 70th Jubilee cycle since the children of Israel came out of the wilderness and stood ready to inherit the Promised Land. That year was 1407 BC. A Jubilee cycle is 49 Years. Or 7 times 7 Sabbatical years. A Sabbatical year was 7 years. (Leviticus 25:2-4). The Lord told Israel in Leviticus 25:2....

‘When you come into the land which I give you then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the Lord’. Then the Lord declared 2 Sabbath timetables:

- 1) The seven year land Sabbath week.
- 2) The 7 X 7 Sabbath weeks (49 years) Jubilee cycle.

At the end of the 49 th year this is what they were to do.....Leviticus 25 : 8-10

And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

In Daniel 9: 24 the Lord gave Israel a time scale and an expected result He wants : “70 weeks are determined on they people” (70 X 7 Sabbath weeks or 490 years).

I believe the Lord has in same manner given the Church 70 Jubilee land cycles (49 X 70 years) to also deliver a result. What does He want?

In the 50 the year, the year after the end of the last Jubilee cycle then on Yom Kippur the 10th of Nishri blow the trumpet and dealer a Jubilee. That would be 11 October 2024.

When we blow the trumpet to declare that it is time for a new Jubilee cycle, it is time to transform Promised Land to Kingdom land what is Jesus expecting as results? Well He made that plain in both Math. 25: 31—40 and Luke 4:18-19....

Mat 25:31-40

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: 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: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 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: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 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.

Have you heard prophecies about the glory of the Lord coming to fill the earth and angels appearing and spiritual warfare? What are you expecting to be the signs of this? The rapture? Stadiums filled with people. Mighty miracles?

Well Jesus made it plain what results He wanted when He pours out His glory in the earth. He also made it plain when He began His ministry. Luke 4;18-19

“For the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor he sent me to heal the broken hearted to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind to set at liberty them that are bruised.....To preach the acceptable year of the Lord!”

That ‘acceptable year of the Lord’ is to declare the Jubilee cycle must start because He has just outlined the agenda for the Jubilee work in both Luke 4 and Matthew 25.

Now let’s define a sheep nation and a goat nation.

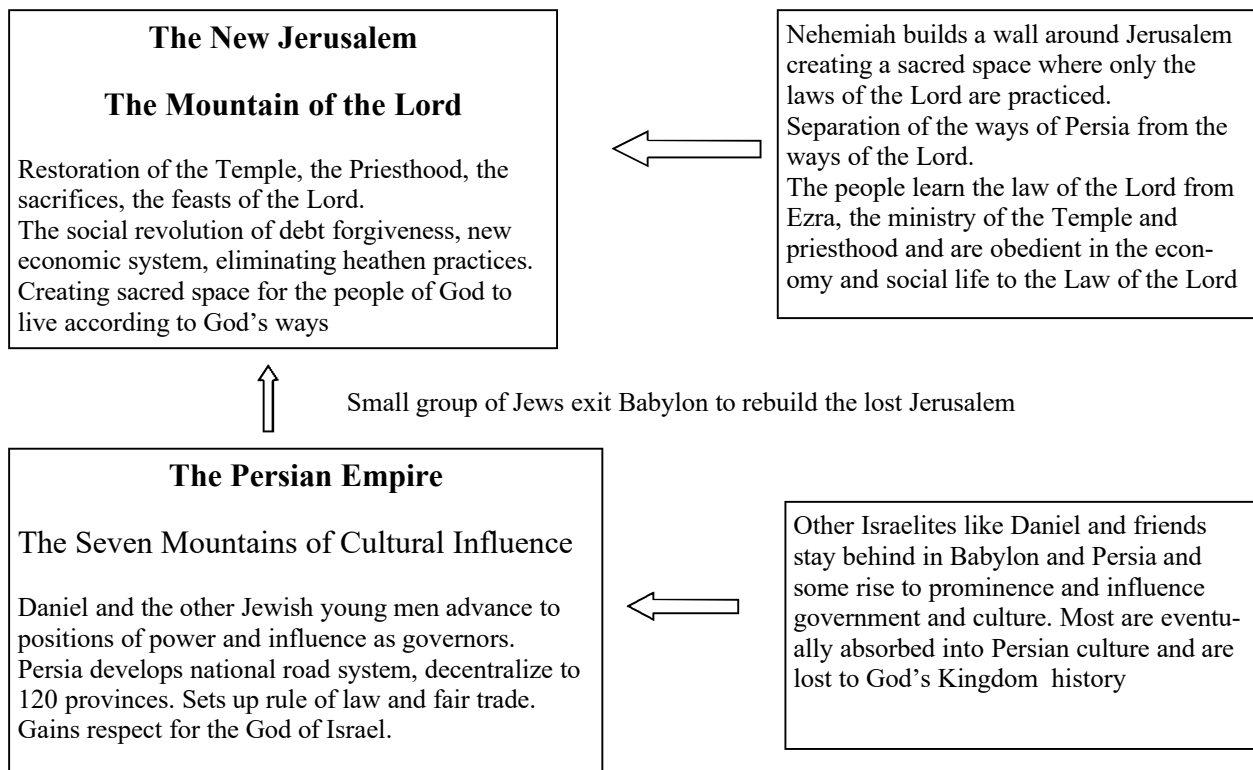
We have already in our last blogs defined that God is the creator of all nations and has set their boundaries and their times and appointed rulers to use the power of government to create peace within those borders so that all citizens can go about their lives in peace. They are ruled by civic law. And by definition they are all ‘goat nations’. Because people pursue their own agenda

Jesus said “my sheep hear my voice”. At present in the midst of all the goats in the goat nation are a lot of God’s sheep being oppressed by the wolves of the “goat nation”. What they need to do is form an “Ekklesia” which is a “sheep nation” in the midst of a “goat nation”.

How do you do that? I submit the best template for what I believe the Lord wants to do among the nations off the world is what Moses did in Egypt and what Ezra and Nehemiah did in the midst of the Persian empire. Gather God’s sheep together and create a space to prosper.

Moses got the Lord’s sheep out of Egypt and turned a Promised Land in Canaan to a sacred land for Israel where they could practice and demonstrate the “ways of the Lord” to the nations around them.

Ezra and Nehemiah did basically the same....In the midst of the Persian empire they rebuilt the old waste places of a lost inheritance and created a ‘New Jerusalem’ as a testimony to the multi-national nations of the Persian Empire. I want to illustrate some key concepts here for us to emulate as strategy for the coming great outpouring of the glory of God.



The Message for the Church

In the book of Revelation in the last chapters you have images and messages given to the remnant of the churches of Asia under persecution and threat from a new world empire....Rome. The message and image is from the history of Israel. Babylon is falling, the Kingdom of God is spreading and a new Jerusalem needs to be built in order to heal the nations.

This is the exact historical repeat of what happened in their sacred history. Except in their case it was the old Jerusalem that was going to fall (termed Sodom and Babylon) in 70 AD and they need to have a vision for a New Covenant, a New Israel and a New Jerusalem.

We need a new strategy for the Church in Southern Africa. I believe in the vision of 7 mountains of influence in a national culture. This is popular in the American church. It has historical precedence with Daniel and other Jews in the governments to Babylon and Persia. There were wonderful testimonies of the power of the Lord given to Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Cyrus and Darius.

God can use godly men and women in government, business and culture. But that is not what is meant by a “sheep nation”. It just means there are God’s people (His sheep who hear His voice) in the culture and the government who have influence. South Africa is not a “sheep nation”. It is a nation filled with corruption, poverty, crime, poverty and dysfunction.

The Creation of Sacred Space

When Nehemiah and Ezra were doing their priestly and government work there were two prophets active with words from the Lord in that small community...Haggai and Zechariah. They have an important input as to what the Lord wanted from the New Jerusalem that Nehemiah was building. Zechariah said ‘Holiness unto the Lord’

You will understand this better when you realize what “holiness unto the Lord” means. The word “holy” in Hebrew is “kadosh” which means “separated”. To be “holy” means to be separated for God’s use. When you are saved, God declares you to be “Holy”, separated from the world and its agenda and now your life is spent serving the Lord and His agenda. But it is not just people who are called “Holy”. There are objects also called “Holy”. In the Tabernacle of Israel all the implements of the Tabernacle like the “shew-bread” and the incense etc. were considered “Holy”. Not for secular or private use but to be used in the service of the Lord.

It is described Zechariah 14:20: *“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses Holiness Unto the Lord and the pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts.”*

So what Zechariah is saying is that the day is coming when the most common household items will be separated for the use of the Lord just as if it was an implement in the Temple of God. Horses, pots etc. all are now “kadosh” in that day. This is the “Kadosh strategy”. We go into the world to preach the gospel of the kingdom using the seed and leaven strategy, but we start claiming the people of the world and the things of the world for the use of the Lord and His Kingdom purposes.

But they need to be brought into the New Jerusalem, the sacred space that we need to create where the treasures of the earth and nations can be gathered for God’s purpose and use.

That was the message from the Lord through Haggai to the same people....

Hag 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai was speaking to the same people Zachariah was speaking to. The remnant that came out of Persia and Babylon to build a New Jerusalem. The “house” that the Lord wanted to fill with His glory and the riches of the nations is the City of God, the New Jerusalem.

This is the challenge that we face in Southern Africa.

How do we build New Jerusalem’s, sacred spaces all over Southern Africa where we can turn ordinary people and ordinary implements into “kadosh” holy unto the Lord....people whose lives and riches and abilities and assets are not being used to build corporate or government edifices of control but wholly used for God’s purpose to heal the nations?

It is wonderful to see so many Christians in South Africa doing wonderful work as productive employees and citizens acting as God’s agents of witness and blessing...and then only to look back and see so much of what they have contributed wasted in corruption, dysfunction and chaos by the ungodly.

How do we turn Southern Africa from a Promised Land into a Productive and Prosperous Land?

How do we turn a Promised Land into a land flowing with milk and honey....a land of great Prospects for all.

That is the strategy of God economic and spiritual plan of the Jubilee Cycle. There is no instant wealth or magic money. There is a God ordained process.

The process starts with the gathering of the scattered sheep of the Lord into a Sheep Nation who like Israel coming out of the wilderness wandering blow the horn to declare to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captive....the Spirit of the Lord is upon us....we declare the acceptable year of the Lord is coming”.

As God told Israel.....(Lev. 25:2-10)

“Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them When you come into the land which I give you (Southern Africa) then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the Lord....and you shall number seven Sabbaths of years (49 years—a Jubilee Cycle), seven times seven years....and you shall cause the trumpet of Jubilee to sound...in the 50th year you shall proclaim liberty through all the land to all the inhabitants thereof.”

In 1955 the ANC said we have a ‘Freedom Charter” and if you give us power we will bring freedom and prosperity.

On 11 the October 2024 is Yom Kippur. A time to blow the trumpet. It is in the divine timeline the start of a new Jubilee cycle. Nobody in 70 Jubilee cycles of divine history ever tried to follow God’s economic and governmental plan for national freedom and prosperity. Not even Israel.

Why don’t we as God’s sheep of Southern Africa give it a try and blow the trumpet....and say: “We have God’s plan for a national Jubilee” the real Freedom Charter.