

Bulgaria

The roots of the nation have been crushed, and the flowers cannot grow.

“Let my Spirit touch the nation, to heal the pain, to heal the wounds, and to let the power flow again into the life of the people.”

How can this begin ?

“I need a healing people, who will look for the places of suffering, and release my blood into them.

I need a powerful people, who will look for the strongholds of the enemy and pull them down

I need a compassionate people who will look for the broken and heal them.”

WORD

The roots of the nation have been crushed, and the flowers cannot grow.

BIBLE BASE

*How deserted lays the city,
once so full of people!
How like a widow is she,
who once was great among the nations!
She who was queen among the provinces
has now become a slave. (Lamentations 1:1)*

COMMENT

Is it possible for the roots, the soul of a nation to be damaged? The writer of Lamentations certainly thought so, and Jesus clearly feared for his people. ("O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. ³⁸Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Matt 23:38-39) The constant destruction of the land over the centuries by invasion and occupation, the constant bloodshed, the wars and famines, the uncertainties of the future, the foolishness of national pride, the manipulation by more powerful nations - all these are deep wounds which can eventually damage a nation to the point of despair and hopelessness.

Good things seem to fail, hope and optimism evaporate as quickly as they are born, freedom is small, and a cynical despair takes hold. In the end the nation is reduced to the point where everyone says “can anything good ever come from that place?” Has Bulgaria reached such a point? Is the soul of the nation crushed, and nothing good seems to come or succeed?

WORD

“Let my Spirit touch the nation, to heal the pain, to heal the wounds, and to let the power flow again into the life of the people.”

BIBLE BASE

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.(1 Peter 2:9)

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' (Acts 2:28)

In his name the nations will put their hope (Matt 12:21)

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.(John 5:24)

COMMENT

We know that the Lord longs to heal us as individuals, but we have lost the concept that the Lord heals nations. We are familiar with his care for Israel, but we often fail to transfer that understanding to our own lands. God’s people see Israel as their wife, their beloved, their betrothed. They have a very physical understanding of the land, so they understand that God can heal the whole land, and bring it out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9) from sorrow to joy (Acts 2:28) from desperation to hope(Matt 12:21) from death to life(John 5:24).

When we forget this, our nations are truly lost. But remembering it is painful, and bringing it to pass is painful - needing much prayer, much repentance and much renewal, which often involves change. (Nehemiah 1)

Yet however hard it is, this is God's desire for Bulgaria. He is a creator God, a healing God, a restoring God:-

*He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake he restores my soul. (Ps 23:3)*

He is a God of restoration and cleansing, a God of new beginnings and new hope:-

*"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm —
my great army that I sent among you. (Joel 2:25)*

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being
transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the
Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

If we start desiring what he desires, then hope will begin to flow.

WORD

How can this begin ?

BIBLE BASE

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." (Mark 5: 24-34)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:18-21)

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

COMMENT

It is not impossible for the Lord to bring a whole Nation back to himself. There are some very simple steps we have to take:-

1. We have to repent. Nehemiah shows the way here:-

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. (Nehemiah 1:4-7)

2. We have to turn from our empty ways (1 Peter)

This is never easy. The old ways may have failed us, but they are comfortable. Look at how Israel reacted to Moses when they stood at the Red Sea:-

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt. (Exodus 14:10-11)

It's never easy moving away from the old to take hold of the new.

3. Seek the heart of Jesus

The woman with the hemorrhage came to the loving and forgiving heart of Jesus. She knew that he was her only way, but in her heart she knew he would not fail her. We have to do the same in Bulgaria. We have to seek the loving and healing heart of Jesus for the wounds of the nation. He will receive them into his body - in fact he has already received them into his body on the cross. He longs to heal. He only asks that we seek him. He will do the rest.

WORD

"I need a healing people, who will look for the places of suffering, and release my blood into them.

I need a powerful people, who will look for the strongholds of the enemy and pull them down

I need a compassionate people who will look for the broken and heal them."

BIBLE BASE

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, (1 Peter 1:17-19)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. (2 Cor 10:4-6)

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28)

COMMENT

* The blood of Jesus releases and heals. It cries out a better cry than the blood of Abel:

“Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”(Hebrews 12:24)

The Bulgarian Christians must learn this lesson again, and begin to release the power of the blood for healing and restoration.

* The power of God breaks all the strongholds of the enemy. There are many strongholds in Bulgaria. God’s people must break them down.

* The compassion of Jesus heals and restores, and gives hope to the broken. The Bulgarian Christians must look for the broken people, and bring them hope and healing.

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E: jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk