

Is there any hope for Europe?

“My hope is that Christians and Churches will wake up to what is happening, and will become a people on fire for the Lord, filled with the blessings he has in store for the Overcomers, and so be ready to receive Him.”

Introduction.

The lamps ministry has grown out of the third word for Europe. As I prayed and waited on the Lord, he brought this word to my attention, and told me to find and light or relight the lamps, so that they could begin to pray seriously for Europe.

In this material, I am looking at the lamps ministry, and its setting in the wider European word. I want to emphasise that this brief reflection is written for lamps, who already have much other material, to which this becomes another part.

If anyone should access this material on its own, it needs to be read in conjunction with the other lamps material, which can be found at www.visionworld27.org

The full text of the word for Europe can be found in the book “Where are the lamps.” (www.visionworld27.org) I have not quoted the text or all the Bible verses in full. Readers can find all that material in the book. It is important that readers do have a copy of the 9 words for Europe, as they study this material.

Reflection on the 9 words for Europe.

The first word is very positive.

* **First** it calls for repentance. This is a wonderful opportunity for a new beginning:-

“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 Chron 7:14)

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. ***Repent and believe the good news!***” (Mark 1:15)

The reason for the call to repentance is not so exciting - **“Light the fires in the**

hearts of my people, fires to light my way. Light the fire of repentance, that will burn away the dross, the weakness, the laziness, the sleep of my people.” The state of God’s people is very bad – we are sleepy, weak and lazy. No wonder the enemy has been able to advance so widely. The call to repent is powerful and good, but when we look at the state of the people, we might wonder who will hear.

* **Second**, it is a call to passionate first love.

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.” (Rev 2:4)

The Lord loves us with a huge passion. How else can we explain his willingness to die for us? But, in Europe, we have responded to that love with coldness, and with restricted love. We have made an intellectual response to a passionate emotional love. In the word for Europe which I have shared in the VisionWorld27 series of prophecies, I have shared this word:-

**I have loved you with warmth and passion.
Why have you repaid me with cold hearts?**

**I gave you everything I had.
Why have you repaid me with limited obedience,
limited love, limited surrender, limited sacrifice?**

What did I ever do to deserve such a cold response?

I see this as a serious warning. We need to repent, because we have fallen so far short of what we should have been. We need to learn to love again - with passion. How else are we going to surrender our lives to the call of God? We are also going to have to consider laying down our lives in the service of the Lord.

* **Third**, it is a call for urgent evangelism.

We have a job to do. It is the same job that we have always had:-

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20)

But now there is an urgency in the task. The Lord is calling for an urgent response to a people who are lazy, sleeping and cold.

* **Lastly**, it is a call to praise.

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth

and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “ To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.” (Revelation 5:13-14)

The nine words for Europe are tough. But the Lord wants us to know that, however tough they are, we are dealing with his victory. Ultimately, we will worship him for his victory. In all the challenging and hard things he has to say, he doesn't want us to lose sight of his triumph.

The second word is typical of prophecy.

A prophet's commission is often included within the word or words he is given to share. Jeremiah was commissioned in chapter 1, but we don't discover the call of Amos until chapter 7. (Amos 7:14-15)

So the Lord includes here the call to the prophet – the way is going to be hard, the strongholds are going to be many, and those who respond will be few.

So is this just something for the prophet? In the new covenant, the true prophet to the world is not individuals, although we play a vital part, but the Church-God's people. The way we live, the way we pray, the way we trust, the way we reveal God's thinking to the pagan world - that makes us, the body of Christ, the true prophet. If this is right, then this commission is for any who take up the challenge of the European word, and for any church that takes it up. For all of us, it is going to be a tough challenge. The only hope we have is that God is with us. That is all there is - it has to be enough.

The third word is the “lamps” word.

The prophet begins his search, and he is looking for hearts. One of the problems of the enlightenment has been the exaltation of the intellect above all things. This has blinded us to the understanding that a relationship with Jesus is about feelings, as much as about intellect.

Intellect can look at Europe, and make many discouraging observations. But the Lord is looking for hearts – for those who who feel the tragedy which is unfolding before their eyes. He wants hearts that can feel the shame, the guilt, the waste, the destruction, the hopelessness, and then turn those feelings into intercession.

He is having difficulty finding them because our intellect, our cold hearts, and the very low level of intercession are making the search difficult. The lamps have

been driven underground, and in some places, almost put out. Finding the lamps, awakening them, and getting them to shine again is going to prove a hard task. We must remember this vision:-

“I saw a thick layer of soil everywhere. Suddenly, the wind of the Spirit began to blow, and as the soil was blown away, I saw lamps everywhere. They were not burning, but their wicks were dry, ready to be lit up again.”

The lamps exist, but have become covered in dust, and many have almost gone out, The Lord needs to find them quickly, before they are extinguished for good.

The fourth word turns our eyes to what is happening in Europe.

Perhaps a number of things are happening at the same time:-

*** The church has gone to sleep.**

Where is the vibrant church in Europe - the church which will rise up in repentance and faith, throw the enemy back, and be the glorious people ready for the Lord's return?

Here is part of what I have been saying to the church in England – is the wider church in Europe any better?

I placed you as a light to the nations. I longed that you might shine like the stars, a sign of my glory.

Yet you have compromised yourselves.

You have been willing to lie down with the snake, saying, “we will be safe in the den of the serpent.” And so you have been robbed of your power.

The serpent has stolen your power. You have become tarnished, as blind as those you were meant to save.

A sleeping church is just what the enemy wants. Such a church has all the appearance of godliness, without any of the power. Is this what we have become?

***The enemy is seizing his opportunity.**

In Revelation 13, we see the clear plan of the enemy. He wants to put the human spirit in chains, to reverse his dreadful loss at Calvary, and then to reign as God. He knows that to do this he has to destroy the church, because we are ones who

know his method (Ephesians 6:1-11), his defeat, the power of the blood, and the victory of Jesus.

He has been attacking and weakening the church for decades in Europe. Does he now see his opportunity? Does he see a sleeping church, and a powerful Islamic advance? Is this the moment he has been waiting for?

*** The Lord has begun the countdown to his return**

What are we supposed to do against this very challenging background? This fourth word suggests a beginning:-

Let your love increase. Your desire to serve be unbounded. Throw off your chains, your dependence on the things of this world which you love so much. Abandon yourselves to me, for I am your only place of safety.

This is very challenging indeed. We are called to a level of service which we have never known before - a new service, which does not depend on the ways of the world. We have to reject the things of the world on which we have depended, and throw ourselves into the hands of the Lord. Time to abandon success, and replace it with sacrifice. This is not going to be as easy as it looks, as Ezra and God's people discovered. (Ezra chapters 9 and 10)

The fifth word strengthens us.

How can we hope to survive the shaking? The Lord turns to this issue, before he shows us anymore of the struggle. That's because he is a good God, who loves his people, and wants to encourage us.

We have to have a vision of the kingdom of glory, or as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." (Heb 12:2)

What might such a vision of glory look like?

*** It's not here!**

"For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13:14)

The glory which we glimpse is not here, but in heaven. One day it will be here as well, but we have not seen that yet.

*** It's coming!**

One day, that glorious kingdom will be here, or we will be caught up into it. Either way, it's coming. "For the trumpet will sound," (1 Cor 15:52)

*** It's ours!**

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Phil 3:20-21)

The worse the situation gets on earth, the more we need to be caught up in the vision of glory. This is where we put out faith and our hope. In this way we will grow stronger, as the situation gets darker.

The sixth word is very challenging.

In the sixth word, we get a glimpse of both earth and heaven - what is happening in the physical and what is happening in the spiritual. We need this instruction, to help us in our intercession

In the earthly realm, there will be much confusion. Jesus told us this in Matthew 24:-

“Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains” .(v.4)

“Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (v.29)

In these disturbed times, we must hold fast to our faith, to active evangelism, and to attending to our armour. Most of all we must “stick to our task.” For us, this means that as the disturbance in the earthly places increases, so our intercession has to increase. This may look easy, but in a disturbed and disintegrating situation, it can be very hard.

In the spiritual realm – **“Heaven is moving. The angels are going forth at my command.”**

This is deeply challenging. The shaking in the earthly paces has been preceded by the Lord sending out the angels. This usually signifies some serious action. What are we, as lamps, supposed to do to prepare for this action? As always in

spiritual things, we have to return to the basics. We have to come in a solemn assembly, to seek the Lord, and to be prepared for what is to come.

Now, for us, the problems mount up.

- * Who is to call a solemn assembly?
- * Who is to come?
- * Where is it to be held?
- * What would we do if we could do such a thing?

I need to remind us all that part of the commitment to being lamps is to obey the voice of the Lord. We must not ask “How?” “Who?” “When?” “Where?”, but rather seek to obey.

If the Lord is calling for a solemn assembly, then we must move ahead and do it. All the questions will be answered as we go along. This seems very simple to me, and relatively easy. We are not being asked to do a hard thing. We are just being asked to come together, in a solemn assembly, to seek the Lord’s face.

How big should such an assembly be? Where should such an assembly be held? Who should come to such an assembly? The Lord isn’t asking us these questions. He is just saying “Call one!” He will do the rest.

It’s the nature of the human spirit to delay, to think, discuss and plan. There is nothing wrong with these things, except that the longer we delay, the stronger the enemy is becoming. This worries me a great deal. He is strong enough already. Why are we giving him more time to get stronger?

The seventh word speaks to the lamps again.

Now we are being taken into the shaking, and the Lord explains our task – we are to shine in such a way that those lost in the shaking can come to us, and find peace and security.

If this is right, then it looks as though the shaking will eventually be so hard, that we will no longer be able to move freely around, speaking about the Lord. We will be pushed back into our homes. But within this new context, we can continue to function. In this new situation, we will not so much be speaking and evangelizing, but attracting people to the light, by the quality of our lives, our homes, our marriages and our relationships.

The challenge is higher than ever - if we fail in this task, “many will be lost.” In the shaking, in the confusion, in the darkness and in the fear, we must be strong.

If this word is from the Lord, it convinces us of the absolutely vital nature of the

lamps ministry. We may look small and underground, but perhaps only intercession is going to survive the devastating onslaught of the enemy.

The eighth word is a warning to us.

This is almost God's final word in this long series of prophecies. So why does he use it to show us the deceits of the enemy? It is because he knows the great danger we find ourselves in.

I am in the process of finding and visiting many of the strongholds of the enemy in Europe. One day, as I was studying and reflecting on this, the Lord said to me "The enemy has hidden himself deep within the church." I was deeply shocked, but the more I thought about it, the better I could see the strength of this strategy. What better place to hide than deep within the patterns, rituals and behaviour of the church. What better place to deceive, to sow lies, to raise up a spirit of religion, and to cast down and out any dissenting voices.

We are going to find ourselves fighting on two fronts in the coming decades - opposing the might of the enemy in public, and trying to root him out of the private places within the church.

The beginning of this rooting out is to be sure that none of these things are found in lamps, and then to begin to root them out of our leaders,. We are going to have to take care, and fight hard.

Is this a gloomy end to the words for Europe? Not gloomy, but realistic. The Lord has shown us the victory, but he has also shown us the hard path which is ahead of us.

The ninth word

If the other eight words are from God, then this one is inevitable. With Europe shaking apart, and the enemy rampant, the background for the Lord's return is beginning to be prepared. We are not yet at the parousia, but we might be approaching it. Decisions have to be made. As always the choice rests with us. God works with his people in a partnership, which allows us the freedom to choose what we will be. At the end of his message, the messenger places the challenge at the feet of the people of God. The Lord has plans - to return to His creation. What kind of Church will he find? The answer to this question rests in our hands.