

**When Jim first visited Istanbul, the Lord spoke to him about Armenia:-**

### **Armenia**

There is a very deep wound in the soul of this land. This was the first nation to respond to the Lord's new order. The enemy has hated it ever since, and taken revenge. Now the land is small, broken and full of pain. It is in danger from every side. Like a child, it is beaten and beaten again.

Yet the glory is still in the soul of this nation. It is faint but not extinguished. The land was to be a light to the nations around. The Lord has not forgotten this. I saw a hand reach down, and take the child. I heard the Lord speak. "I have not forgotten you."

**As he had time to reflect, Jim expanded this word:-**

### **Armenia**

Armenia is a very different kind of gateway from Istanbul and Riga:-

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Istanbul and Riga were gateways with clear pictures attached, which help us into some understanding. Armenia, however, is a totally different kind of picture – an emotional one. Here is a quote from material which is to be found later in this booklet:-

**The environment of the gateways is emotional. The pictures are emotional, and the battle is fought out for the heart and soul of the intercessor. The**

**enemy wants to overcome us with emotion. We are not used to this. Most of us have been taught the spiritual weapons of Ephesians 6, which are very practical and earthy. Long may they last, but they are less effective when the battle is for our emotions. Looking at Gethsemane, we see the power of an emotional battle, and how a deep emotional response is called for, to endure and triumph.**

Armenia is very much an emotional gateway. What is it saying to us?

\*We can understand the present by looking to the past. Armenia was the first nation to accept Christianity, and has held on to it tenaciously ever since. This has attracted the aggression of the enemy, who obviously hasn't appreciated Armenia's commitment. The enemy has attacked the nation, and history shows the pain which this has made for this nation – and continues to do so. The child appears again, and this time the image is very vivid. The child has been beaten again and again, and so has Armenia.

\*Not worthless.

Nations which have been beaten down often have low self-esteem. But the Lord doesn't allow this for Armenia. He reminds the nation of how much he loves them – *“Yet the glory is still in the soul of this nation. It is faint but not extinguished. The land was to be a light to the nations around.”* Not only does he love, but he longs to heal and to use Armenia for the blessing of the Caucasus - and how much the nations of the Caucasus need encouragement and blessing.

### **Armenia and the Caucasus.**

Armenia has to be seen against the background of the things the Lord spoke to Jim about the Caucasus:-

## The Caucasus

I read a story from Ingushetia about the trouble there, and this drew my heart and mind to the Caucasus, not for the first time. The Caucasus is a very sad crossroads. So many years of fighting and terrorist activity. So much lawlessness and insecurity. The very area cries out for mercy, and the blood of the innocent cries out for justice. The living parable is Beslan, where the faces of the murdered children challenge in their very muteness. These children cry out, "You took our today, and we have no tomorrow."

**This was the Lord's word to me for the Caucasus in general:-**

*Darkness deeper than you can imagine.*

*Such darkness.*

*Sorrow on sorrow*

*Sorrow on sorrow.*

*Here my love*

*can find no way*

*to heal.*

*Generation on generation,*

*hate filled, pass on hate*

*until it seeps into the very ground,*

*into the very land which I created.*

*Children cry,*

*children die,*

*but still this sacrifice to evil*

*Is not enough.*

*More is demanded,*

*more evil, more hate.*

*The land cries to me,*

*the blood cries to me,*

*the enemy accuses.*

*Yet despite all,*

*my love is deeper,*

*can still reach out and overcome.*

*Yet the burden to bear the pain,  
and the burden to go on loving is great.  
Who can bear it?  
Who will share it with me?*

Later, when I was reflecting on this, the Lord spoke to me again about Beslan and the Caucasus. I saw a frightened child, trapped in a room, running around trying to find a way out. But there was no one to help. Then I saw myself standing outside the Gym in Beslan. There were many mothers there, and they asked me “Why should we let you in?” I replied “because I am very sad.” They parted and I went in, and stood in front of the faces of the children. I knelt at the cross and sang “Jesus, remember me.” Then I heard many children, crying all across the Caucasus. It was deafening, and I tried to stop my ears because it was so painful. The first crying child was Armenia.