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Prophet Jim Smith. December 2004

Ghana in the heavenly places.

I was speaking in one country in Africa, and I met a Pastor from Ghana. “You must go to Ghana” he said. “There are open skies over Ghana!” Many in Ghana believe the same, but my conviction is that the open heavens are no more. There is a great battle in the heavenly places over Ghana. The Lord is planning, and so is the enemy. In the earthly places, we are beginning to see the signs of that struggle, and in the years to come, we are going to see more. The battle is on for the soul of Ghana. The enemy means to have the nation.

As a prophet, my task is to look into the heavenly places, and share what I see there. At a Conference in Ghana in October 2000, I did just that. By teaching and by revelation, I shared what I saw. In this book I have written both the teaching and the revelation, for the testing of God’s people. I do not believe that the teaching can be separated from the revelation, nor the revelation from the teaching. I encourage readers to study the teaching, and pray into the revelation. This is true New Testament biblical prophecy. The Word gives the lead, and the revelation serves to illuminate and build up the Word in our hearts.

There is no “my miracle now” teaching here. I have grown weary of this type of so called prophecy, which promises all sorts of comfort and wealth with no need for commitment, repentance or endurance. In this book, you will read prophecy from the pure biblical stream. The miracles and wonders, if they come, follow after the proclamation of the word.

I am deeply concerned that the stream of prophecy in Ghana is being led away from the pure Biblical source, into the desert places where it will die and so will the people who follow it. In this teaching, I believe there is to be seen the kind of prophesy God intended for His New Testament Church.

1. A new slavery

There is great battle in the heavenly places over Ghana. The Lord is planning and so is the enemy. It is time to explore the heavenly places, to grasp the nature of this battle, and what part we have to play in it. We begin by understanding the true nature of this verse:-

“The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the Cedars of Lebanon.” (Psalm 29:5)

The voice of the Lord is powerful. The voice of the Lord said “Let there be light, and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3) The voice of the Lord said “Peace, be still!” (Mark 4:39) and there was a great calm. The voice of the Lord said “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43) and he came out from the tomb. The voice of the Lord said “It is finished!” (John 19:30) and it was finished. The voice of the Lord achieves what it speaks, and I believe that in the heavenly places the Lord has spoken over Ghana. That voice has said “Let my people go!” (Exodus 5:1) God is looking into the future, and has planned a new blessing for the Nation. But the enemy has also heard this promise, and is planning action of his own. What action? I think the words God has chosen to speak warn us of that action. The word from Exodus was a proclamation of the end of slavery, and I believe that in the heavenly places, the enemy, having heard this great statement of hope over Ghana is planning to put the people into slavery.

This is his response to God’s promise of a new blessing to Ghana - a new slavery.

This is the struggle which is beginning over Ghana now. It is the struggle between the unshakeable voice of the Lord, and the determination of his defeated enemy to destroy all that the Lord plans and purposes for this Nation. It is typical of the enemy, that he should choose slavery to destroy an African Nation, and to frustrate the purposes of God. How will the enemy proceed? What is the slavery?

The African personality is not well equipped to study and examine these things. It will take much time, prayer and study. Africa wants action now! We are going to have to set aside our desire for action, and spend time with the Bible, in prayer and reflection, so that we can get a true grasp of these things. Much of what follows is hard to understand, and even harder to bear. It is important to remember this as the teaching proceeds.

What is the slavery? Let’s turn to the Bible to find out.

“In those ways the voice of the Lord was rare.” 1 Sam 3:1

What a tragedy this verse reveals to us. The people of God, brought into being by the will of God, guarded and protected by the hand of God, the apple of his eye—to these people the voice of the Lord was rare. They had allowed themselves to slip into a position where they had all the outward show of religion, but none of its inward power and conviction. To such a people, the voice of the Lord is always rare. The Spirit of God can find no home in the hearts of such people, and manifests itself rarely. The people had come into a great slavery. They had to depend on what they had heard and seen from the generations before, because the living reality of God’s presence was rare.

Satan wants to bring this slavery to the people of God in Ghana. He wants to muzzle the pure voice of the Lord, revealed in the Bible, and in the mouths of God’s faithful Ministers, and in the lives of God’s faithful people. He always fears such a people,

knowing that he can make little progress. So he drains away the power of true revelation. How does he do this?

Preachers and teachers lose their commitment to the pure voice of the Lord. They look for power, for comfort, for profit and for the praise of man. They begin to squabble with each other, allowing self to divide the body.

The people of God look for a religion which satisfies their own personal desires, not to a faith which serves God. Every one looks for their miracle, and in the process, determination, commitment and endurance fade away.

The prophets begin to prophesy as the people wish. Hard words are eliminated, and instant gratification fills the mouths of the prophets. "Come and get your miracle now. Come and hear all the good things God is going to give to you. Come and be blessed." So the powerful voice of prophecy, given to us as one of God's foundation gifts for the body is reduced to a pale shadow of the truth.

The greatest slavery of all is that the people of God cannot see their bondage. Again and again Western people proclaim "The African Church is on fire. The African Church is wonderful. God is blessing them. Let's go and learn from them." The Africans begin to believe these things, and in the process, reveal completely the growing success of the enemy.

This will only get worse, as the enemy weaves his plan around us. He is only doing this, because he fears that God's plan for a new blessing on Ghana will come to pass. He plans to stop this happening. He is planning well. His plan is working.

"One says I follow Paul, on says I follow Cephas. Is Christ divided?" 1 Cor 1:12

Yes! I don't think I have met a more divided Church than the Church in Africa. Every Pastor seems to want to be King of his own Empire. He rules it, and uses it as a fortress to protect himself against other Churches and other Pastors. When I challenge this mentality with the clear Biblical teaching on the unity of the body, I am told "But you don't understand. Others will steal my sheep if I let them. I have to protect my own." Sadly, others do steal the sheep. Sheep stealing, a fortress mentality, a lack of love between the Pastors, a lack of mutual support and love between Churches - this is the normal situation.

The saddest thing of all is that few see that this is wrong, or want to do anything about it. So the enemy prospers. He twists the chains around the people of God, who are unable to do anything about it, because they cannot act in a concerted way. We are not the army of God. We are thousands of tiny groups of soldiers, each fighting to their own battle plan. This can have only one outcome - defeat.

“He who doubts is like wave of the sea - blown and tossed by the wind.” James 1:12

One of the chains of the enemy, which will successfully bring us to slavery is the lack of commitment in the Church. For although many come to the worship, few are truly committed to the body. Instead of a steady commitment to one fellowship, Africans cruise around Churches, trying this one and that one. They don't give their commitment to one Church, that it might grow in strength and power. And if they do not find what they want, they start their own Church. This last seems the most amazing to me. We surely have enough weak and struggling Churches already. Why do we need anymore? It's time for African Christianity to examine its commitment to building up the body, not weakening it further.

Because of this lack of commitment, the enemy can flourish, mostly unopposed. Unopposed! I can hear many people saying that we in African are tearing down the strongholds of Satan daily. Perhaps we are, but it is my conviction that he is building them faster than we can pull them down, because we are not committed to our strongholds - our local fellowships.

“We have divine power to pull down strong holds.” 2 Cor 10:4

But they are not pulled down. The Church is so concerned with personal satisfaction, getting “my miracle” or protecting “my ministry” that the strong places of the enemy are allowed space and time to grow. This could have very serious consequences in the years ahead. If we give the enemy time, he will grow stronger. Every strong place must be pulled down, yet this is not happening. These strong places will become spiritual slave forts, capturing and enslaving God's people, preventing their advance against the enemy, and of moving into the fullness of God's promise.

When in heaven God proclaimed “freedom” this great struggle for the soul of Ghana began. God wants and is planning to bless. The enemy is planning to enslave. What action can we take now? We must go the Gethsemane way. The Gethsemane way is hard and very painful. Look at these verses:-

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”

“My Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from me.”

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his blood was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

This is the struggle which is now already under way and which we will have to learn to endure, as He endured. We had better get prepared.

REVELATION

I saw the Father standing in heaven. Children were running around him, and I saw that they were the people of God in Ghana. He spoke to us:- “Set my people free.” All heaven took up the words, and they were such a mighty sound, that it filled every part of my soul.

Next, I saw a black cloud, full of anger and bitterness. It drew close to us, but God spoke again:- “Let my people go.” At these words, the cloud moved away. But it did not disappear.

Then the vision changed. I saw Jesus, standing in Gethsemane. He looked broken and dejected. He was crying out in pain, and we all heard him. He said “This is the way.” He repeated these words three times, and I understood that he was telling us what the way ahead would be - how costly it would be for us to move into the freedom of God.

Then the angels came, carrying jars of oil. They poured the oil over us, and I saw that the oil had a name - it was called “the oil of intercession.” We all stood in the presence of Jesus, as the oil flowed round us. The burden of intercession was placed on many of us. The visions faded, and we were left to meditate on these things.

2. The methods of the enemy.

The enemy has his plan. How will he put the plan into operation? We have to remember that our enemy likes to work in the dark, in the hope that he will be unopposed. He avoids open conflict, because he doesn't want to be seen as a defeated force. So what is his method? Jesus makes it very clear to us:- “*The thief comes to kill and steal and destroy...*” (*John 10:10*) The enemy is a thief. This is his method:-

1.To steal.

What is it he wants to steal? Anything which we leave unprotected. He wants to steal our joy, our hope, our freedom, our power, our health, our daily provision, our Church, our leaders, our family, our marriage, our children, our job and our eternal hope. Like a thief in the market place, he will steal anything - anything he can find. And when he has it, he will run away, and we will be left empty handed. It's vital to the future of Ghana in the heavenly places that we realise this, and leave nothing unguarded

2. To kill.

What does the thief want to kill? Again, the Bible makes it very clear:-

“Woe to you Pharisees..” (Mk 7:9)

The thief wants to kill our morality. He doesn't want us to honour our father and mother, to love our wife or to care for our children. He doesn't want us to feed the starving or to care for the poor. He does want us to lust after the things which God has forbidden to us. He does want us to lose all sense of right and wrong. He does want us to be deceitful.

Health - “who Satan had bent double..” Luke 13:10

The thief wants to kill our morality, and he wants to kill our bodies. He looks for opportunities to inflict pain and suffering on us. It's easy to reject this idea, but Jesus didn't reject it, as we see in the story of the woman bent double. Thousands of God's people can testify to the destruction of their bodies by the thief. We must not make the mistake of thinking that this is only a spiritual war. It also takes place here on earth, in our lives and in our bodies.

Destroy - “prisoners suffering in iron chains..” Ps 107:10

The thief wants to destroy the freedom God has given us, to destroy God, to reign on God's throne, and put us back into slavery and bondage.(Rev 13:14-17) A clear demonstration of the thief in action can be seen in the experiences of the last week of the life of Jesus:-

1. **“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”**

(Matt 26:38) The thief put great spiritual pressure on Jesus.

2. **“The disciples forsook him and fled.”**(Mt 26:58) The thief steals the personal friends of Jesus.

3. **“They spat in his face.”** (Matt.26:67) The thief steals the freedom of Jesus to protect himself.

4. **“Then he denied it.”**(Matt. 26:70) The thief steals the faith of his followers.

5. **“Had Jesus flogged.”**(Matt. 27:26) The thief steals the physical body of Jesus.

7. **“when they had crucified him.”** (Matt.27:35) The physical victory of the thief.

8. **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** The thief steals the relationship between Jesus and the Father.

The thief has not changed since that day. He has his plan, and stealing is the mark of it. We had better get prepared.

REVELATION

I saw a cloud in the heavenly places. It was the cloud of glory. It came on us. There were gifts and voices in the cloud. We rejoiced to see and experience the glory of the

Lord. But I saw that the Lord was looking beyond the glory, and as I looked too, I saw the black cloud again, and it was growing. Then the Lord spoke: “This (the growth of the black cloud) need not happen.”

Then the vision changed, and we were back in Gethsemane again. The Lord looked so beaten and broken. He spoke again: “This (the growth of the black cloud) need not happen if you intercede before me.”

The angels came, carrying their jars of oil. I saw that the oil had a different name from that poured out in the previous revelation. It was called “the oil of intercession for the Nation.” They began to pour again, and we were covered with the oil. Then the whole vision faded, but as it did, the Lord spoke again. “You who have seen my glory may see it again at any time. Whenever you pray, ask to see my glory, and you will see it again.”

3. “Victory!”

This is a complex teaching. Through Judas, we get a glimpse of the dark side of the cross, where Satan planned his victory. But his error was in thinking that the cross had only one side. He had failed to take account of the light side, where Jesus won his great victory. It’s important to remember that Satan chose the battleground. He chose to fight at the cross. He lost not because he was outmaneuvered, but because having picked the fight and the ground, he was soundly defeated on that ground. So far, we have been looking at his methods and plans. We continue that for a few more pages, but then begin to look at the other side - our victory. We will have to learn to live in this victory, even while the struggle continues.

The Bible says “Then Satan entered into Judas, and he looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.” (Luke 22:3-4) When this happened, Judas opened himself not just to Satan, but to the dark side of the Cross - the side where Satan wanted to fight and win. This dark side is not often understood by God’s people. This is it:-

The Curse. The cross was a place which was cursed. The Bible says “Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree.” (Gal 3:13) As Jesus hung there, he was bearing the curse.

The shame. The cross was a place of shame. The Bible says “Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame.” (Hebrews 12.2) As Jesus hung there, he was bearing the shame.

The sin The cross was a place for sinners. The Bible says “He saved others, but he could not save himself.” (Mk 15.31) As Jesus hung there, he was bearing the sin.

The death The cross was a place where the spirit of death appeared to triumph. The Bible says “Jesus by his death destroyed him who had the power over death - that is the devil.” (Hebs 2.14). As Jesus hung there, he was bearing death in his body.

On the cross, Jesus was despised and rejected, defeated and humiliated, covered with sin, with curse and with death. Satan choose to fight on the dark side, and he thought that with all the weapons at his disposal, he could easily win. Unfortunately, he didn't realise that there was a light side. Everything he used was turned against him. So:-

1. The curse was not just carried but destroyed.
2. The shame was not just carried, but destroyed.
3. The sin was not just carried but destroyed.
4. Death was not just endured but destroyed.

Satan saw the cross as a place of victory, but it was a defeat. He chose the battleground, and he lost. The Bible says:-

“When you were dead in your sin...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with all its regulations opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2: 13-15)

A “triumph” was a very special event in the ancient world. If a General won a great victory, he could march through his home town with his soldiers. They would have with them, chained and humiliated, some of those they had beaten in battle. This is just what Jesus did on the cross. He was the victor. It was his triumph, his victory procession, and chained and humiliated in that procession was the enemy. This enemy had picked the fight, chosen the battleground, and lost. Thanks be to God for this inexpressible gift! But it was much more than a victory. The cross gave us a new weapon to fight against the enemy. The cross is a powerful spiritual weapon. The enemy chose this battle ground. He lost, and now the weapon he chose to use we can use against him! How can we release it power?

1. Lift high the cross by our prayer.

The cross, and its victory must be daily in our prayers, and lifted high by those prayers over Ghana. I am convinced that many of God's people have failed to do this, because they are too concerned with earthly things. The battle is in the heavenly places. As we pray daily, and lift the cross high in the heavenly places, so the spiritual power of the cross is also lifted high and released, and in the process releases Ghana from it's slavery. I encourage all God's people to begin to lift the cross high.

I once had a vision of a Nation which lifted high the cross. One day, the enemy was looking for somewhere to visit, so that he could destroy. Far out to sea, he was looking, and suddenly he caught sight of land. He came near, but as he looked, he saw that over the land were what looked like thousands of trees. The closer he came, the clearer these trees became, until he saw to his horror that they were not trees - they were thousands of crosses, being held high over the land by the people of God. In anger he turned away. “I know I cannot go there” he said. Let this be true for Ghana.

2. We must embrace the suffering of the cross.(2 Cor. 11.22-12.10)

God's people often want all the power without being willing to share the pain. This is not possible. Jesus gained his victory through suffering, and we must be willing to do the same. We must be willing to suffer for the cross of Jesus. We must be willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow him. I encourage you to think about the suffering of the Apostle Paul.(2 Cor 11:22-12:10) This is what he was prepared to endure because he had a passion for the cross. We must be willing to do the same, and if we really love God and love Ghana, we will be willing to do it.

REVELATION

I saw a great plain in heaven, and in the centre of it, the cross was standing. We were standing a little bit back from the cross, and Jesus turned to us and said "Come." But nobody moved. The Lord spoke again: "Come." Then one or two of the children ran and stood with him by the cross. Then we all went as well, and stood in the shadow of the cross, with Jesus.

A great light shone behind the cross, and this made a great shadow. We stood in the shadow, felt the pain and sorrow of the cross, and began to realise how much this had cost Jesus. We looked down, and saw that the shadow of the cross had touched our hearts. When the vision faded, we all had a shadow of the cross in our spirit.

4.Power!

To fight the battle, we need power! That power has to come not from our own hearts, but from God, and the Bible teaches us clearly how we can have this power:-

1. The promise. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." (Acts 1:8) With the promise of Pentecost comes the clear Biblical promise of the power we need in our battle.

2. The promise fulfilled. (Acts 2:1-4) After Pentecost, the people of God were never the same again. With the coming of the Spirit came all the gifts, the ministries, the Offices and the daily empowering which was the mark of the New Testament Church, and still is today.

But what exactly is Pentecost power? What has the Holy Spirit given to us? We need to look at the life of Jesus to learn the full range of our empowerment. I find so often that God's people speak of Pentecost power, without a true biblical understanding of just how great that power is. This stems from the "Holy Spirit can do it" approach of many African Christians. This approach robs us of our intellectual and rational study of the Bible,

which will give us much greater power, if we are willing to make the necessary disciplined study. So let's do that now - let's see through the Bible and the life of Jesus just what power really is:-

1. My son your sins are forgiven. Mk 2:5

This is a miracle story, and has at its heart the claim by Jesus to be able to forgive sins. The people did not believe him, so, the Bible says "but that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He told the paralysed man "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all." Jesus had the power to forgive, and he guaranteed that power on the Cross. We have this same incredible power available today. The enemy binds in sin. We can release people from these chains.

2. I am the Lord that heals. Ex.15:26

In the Old Testament, God claimed to have the power to heal us from our sicknesses. Jesus claimed that same power, and proved it by healing every kind of disease and sickness. The illnesses of the human condition are not beyond hope. By the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the power to heal people, and to set them free from sickness.

3. Peace be still. Mark 4:39

But it is not just sickness that we can heal. Nature is also under the command and authority of Jesus. In the story of the stilling of the storm, the wind and waves have to obey him. This is the power of God, and it is available to us. We are not prisoners of creation. We have the power to control it.

4. Come out of him. Mark 5:8

And it doesn't stop there. We have power over all the evil forces of the enemy. Legion could not stay when Jesus commanded that it leave. None of the evil forces in the heavenly places can stand in the face of the power of Jesus. We have that power available to us today.

5. Talitha Koum. Mark 6:41

And there is yet more to the power of God. Even death cannot stand against it. We have this power available to us today.

How can we release the power? This is key question, and is the heart of the message to Ghana. God wants to act, and the enemy also plans to act. We must release the power, so that God can act. It's vital that we know the secret of powerful Christian living.

Repentance

In Acts 19, the Church at Ephesus experienced a very unusual thing. Some Jews, trying to drive out evil spirits, used the name of Jesus. The Bible tells us that the evil spirit in the man replied "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then he attacked the Jewish men, and drove them out of the house naked and bleeding. This event had a great consequence:-

"When this become known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." (Acts 19: 17-21)

The power of God was released when the people of God came and openly confessed their evil deeds. Every great move of God has been preceded with a time of repentance among the people of God. The Bible says "If my people, who are called by name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Repentance in the people of God released the power of God in Ephesus. In the thousands of years since God spoke these words, nothing has changed. If we want to see his power, we must begin by repenting. There is no other way.

Let me summarise what I have been teaching here:-

God is planning a great move of his Spirit in Ghana.

The enemy, knowing this, is planning to put Ghana back into slavery.

The struggle over this has started in the heavenly places.

The contribution of the people of God is to confess their evil deeds. A spirit of repentance must come into the people of God, to purify the Pastors, the leaderships, and the people.

A new repentance must touch every part of our Church life, our personal and our National lives.

It is the struggle to allow God to release this spirit of repentance which I believe is the current struggle the heavenly places. Other struggles lay beyond it, as the enemy switches his strategy. But the current struggle is the struggle to allow the spirit of repentance to break in to our Nation.

REVELATION

I felt a great stillness in the heavenly places, and God was in the stillness. As we stood, doves came and settled on us, and we were wrapped in the stillness and the peace of God. Then fire came and rested on us. We were filled with hope.

Can we win?

Can we win this battle? When the Philistines faced Israel, (1 Samuel 17) a great giant of a man, called Goliath, was convinced that God's people would always lose. He issued a challenge:- "Don't let's fight. Send one man, and we two men will fight. If He wins, we will serve you, but if I win you will serve us." No one could be found to face this challenge, until a young boy heard it. Then David said "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v 26)

The Bible tells us that this young man went out with five stones and his sling. Goliath couldn't believe it, and began to curse this boy by his gods. But he was killed. How? Was it the stone which David threw, and which struck Goliath in the head? No! In reality, Goliath was dead long before the stone hit him. He was dead when one man, filled with the strength of the Lord, issued his challenge. "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth and the whole world will

know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." (v 41-47) Nothing can stand against the repentant and power filled people of God. Nothing.

REVELATION

I saw a great plain in heaven, full of people worshipping. In the distance I saw a great light. We all moved through the plain, through all these worshipping people, and as we went we received white robes, and we were healed. Hand in hand we stood before the Lord. He lifted his hands, and we saw that something was written on his hand. As we looked closely, we saw the word GHANA written there. We worshipped him.

The vision changed. I saw a great battlefield. The enemy was strong, and he was pushing hard against the people of God. He was angry and vicious. He was planning a great victory. I was afraid, but then, high over the battlefield, I saw a great light, growing stronger and stronger. It swept over us, the people of God, and as it touched us, we stood up in power. I saw that the enemy was no longer advancing. I saw that he was afraid.