

Kingdoms

1) The definition of a KINGDOM is “a dominion, domain or territory over which rule or authority is exercised”. We then are subjects in SA, and need to have FAITH in this nation, because it is God’s kingdom. Take China for example, with many millions of Christians, all of whom are earnestly committed to changing the heart of their nation. We need to show the same level of commitment, and be willing and grateful servants to the kingdom we have been placed in!

2) We need to adhere to the rules of this country, as well as to God’s rules about submission to governing authorities. In this God plans for us to live happy, prosperous, productive lives. (Romans 13:1-2) This doesn’t mean we should become complacent, in other words think that because we have been saved, we now have our ticket to Heaven and can sit around waiting for the Second Coming! Each of us have been given certain gifts and talents, and in servicing we can best utilize them and make a difference.

3) There is so much spiritual restlessness today, with people moving from church to church, forgetting that Body ministry is what truly counts, not individual (and often essentially selfish) ministry quests. Unity (in faith and prayer) is strength!

4) God is our constant – He never changes. Earthly kingdoms on the other hand are unstable – fragile and changeable, they are susceptible to wars, famines, earthquakes etc

5) We need to remember that God is sovereign, and His intentions and timeframe with regards to a country’s rule is far, far removed from ours. God’s infinite wisdom and plan is so complex we will only ever understand a fraction thereof. Therefore absolute faith in God’s perfect design and wisdom is needed. Even someone like President Mugabe was placed in power by God, as difficult as that is to believe!

6) It is essential that we understand how God deals with kingdoms – He alone raises them up and brings them to an end. (Daniel 2:36-38) Although He is a God of grace and mercy, God will not tolerate unrighteousness indefinitely. Greed, corruption, sexual depravity, idolatry etc brought Judah down, and because the Israelites were not obedient to God, he raised up an even more evil and violent nation, the Babylonians, who took them captive. This was something Habukkuk had prophesied long before it happened. (Habukkuk 1:5-11)

7) We have to serve God even if we do not understand or agree with what is happening. Initially Habukkuk did not understand how God could let the wicked flourish while the righteous suffered, but he came to realize that God should be praised even when the future seems uncertain.

8) We need to open ourselves to the spiritual insight only He can provide, especially as we move swiftly towards the Rapture and Tribulation. One handful of believers who are listening to, trusting in and speaking out the good news of God are more powerful than the Devil and all his demons! “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27) God is healing our land, and simply stated, it is because this country belongs to him.

9) We need to stand up and be counted, and are commanded to pray for our country (and the rest of the world) and its leaders. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

10) God has reserved the right to override the will of a nation’s leader, if need be, to see that His people are governed according to His will. “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it withersoever He will” (Proverbs 21:1) If God will hear the prayer of an ungodly ruler like King Nebuchadnezzar, then he will hear the prayer of any government leader! He had some of God’s people under his authority (those he had taken captive from Judah), so God dealt with him.

11) Never let Satan deceive you into thinking “Can a few people like us change the whole nation?” If the Devil’s power resting on one man, like Hitler for example, can affect an entire nation for the worse, you can be sure that a group of men and women with God’s power resting on them can change a nation for the better! Therefore, we need to become prayer warriors, believe and seek His face. “If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14)
