

From Our Pastor

March 10, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

Are the terrible tragedies of Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, and Angola going to be repeated in South Africa? This once prosperous nation, the economic powerhouse of the continent, and the only nuclear power ever to voluntarily dismantle and rid itself of nuclear weapons is headed towards a future of possible civil wars and economic destruction.

According to a resolution passed in the South African parliament on Feb. 27, South Africa's land—still largely owned by the white minority—is to be redistributed to black owners without compensation. Some observe this as historic and emotional as it seeks to address the displacement of black South Africans through four centuries of colonialism and apartheid.

Some observers predict violence is coming, some do not. The motion passed was based on a policy decision taken by the African National Congress in December last year. It “resolved that this should be pursued without destabilizing the agricultural sector; without endangering food security in our country; and without undermining economic growth and job creation,” according to an ANC statement. Statements of good intention have not always worked out so well in the past.

Qz.com reported this week, "Conservative media have taken up the task of sounding the alarm that South Africa was headed toward the kind of violence Zimbabwe saw about a decade ago. British newspaper the Daily Mail reported the South African parliament's motion as a done deal that echoed Zimbabwe more than a decade earlier: "White South African farmers will be removed from their land after a landslide vote in parliament," ..."

The motion was motivated primarily by the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Party, Julius Malema. Malema has been giving vitriolic speeches recently that apparently are encouraging violent action, racism, and fear.

TheBlaze reported, "During an EFF campaign speech Sunday, Malema cranked up the hate and hostilities toward South African whites, saying that his party had decided to remove the mayor of Port Elizabeth because he "is a white man." He encouraged his followers to "go after the white man" and to cut "the throat of whiteness." In a chilling statement, he went on telling parliament, "The time for reconciliation is over. Now is the time for justice, we must ensure that we restore the dignity of our people without compensating the criminals who stole our land."

For whatever reason, the US news media has all but ignored the growing crisis in South Africa. One more nation in chaos is not good news, especially one that has been an historic ally of Western nations such as the US and UK, plus a provider of vital metals and minerals. Several other nations, such as China and India, have considerable investments in South Africa. If South Africa descends into violence and unstable government, it will have a ripple effect in other parts of the world.

Many of the nations of the earth are experiencing problems and challenges that have no easy answer. The sides are often polarized, defiant, and intolerant of those who differ from them. We are seeing that mankind, left to ourselves, is incapable of producing lasting peace or durable beneficial government with justice.

In the days of Noah, approximately 4366 years ago, the entire earth was "full of violence" and "the wickedness of man was very great" (Genesis 6:5,11). Today we can see the same conditions growing around the world. The prediction of Jesus is coming true, "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man...." (Luke 17:26). There are going to be some very difficult days ahead.

The good news is that, after the return of Jesus Christ real peace, harmony, and prosperity will break out all over the world. This will be in spite of man's efforts and will be forced on all the earth by members of the family of God.

Jeremiah 3:17 tells us, "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts."

That peace and righteous government shall never end! The prophet Isaiah foretells, "Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end..." (Isaiah 9:7).

- Rex Sexton
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