

A Powerful Outpouring

“And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

And said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned”, Nehemiah 1:4-6.

Some 330 years before Nehemiah uttered the words above, the prophet Hosea had uttered the following words from God as a warning, “Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth”, Hosea 6:1-3.

Yet Nehemiah, some 330 years later and about 450 years before God sent His Son, was appalled to hear of the spiritual and physical state of God’s City and House in the city of Jerusalem.

We currently need a downpour of Spiritual advice from the mouth of the Holy Spirit, not ‘advice’ from a ‘Yes/No’ ballot paper.

About seventy years before Nehemiah uttered his heartfelt plea before God, it is again an Old Testament prophet that guides us, “Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes”, Haggai 1:6.

Haggai continues three verses further on, “Ye looked for much, and, lo

it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands", Haggai 1:9-11.

Yes, friend, I am a great believer that the Church our Lord established should be a 'prosperity church'.

When they ran out of wine at the wedding, our Lord ensured that they had sufficient wine OF THE BEST QUALITY, John 2:1-11.

The catch of fish after a fruitless nights work, Luke 5:4-9.

The feeding of the five thousand, WITH AN ABUNDANCE GATHERED UP AFTER ALL HAD EATEN, Matthew 14:15-21.

The feeding of the four thousand, AGAIN WITH AN ABUNDANCE GATHERED UP AFTER ALL HAD EATEN, Matthew 15:32-38.

About three thousand souls were gathered into the kingdom on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:41.

Friend. Prosperity is only available to those who have prepared their lives, and how they plant the seed!

Thus, to follow Nehemiah's opening example, we need to allow God to cover us with an outpouring of His spiritual rains on the spiritual deserts of our lives.

Let us look at Nehemiah's words again, "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

And said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my

father's house have sinned", Nehemiah 1:4-6.

In verse 4 he was lacking hope and turned to fasting, enabling his spirit to guide and lead his body according to God's Will for his life.

In verse 5 he makes contact with God, and seeks God's advice and wisdom.

We all need the spiritual rain when our lives have become arid spiritual deserts.

When our life starts to allow secularity to override our spirituality we start sliding down the path of murky waters.

That, my friend, is when we need to ensure that what we are putting out is POWERFUL.