

## REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will 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 heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

## **BROTHERS & SISTERS**

**JANUARY 2002** 

## THE WARRIOR CHURCH

We live in unpredictable times Evil has taken on forms that shock the world. In its most cunning and destructive form, it comes as an idea dressed in sophisticated attire, rationalized by the prophets of 'the wind'. Since the 11 September attacks in New York and Washington the world has entered a new phase of insecurity and trepidation as the threat of terrorism hangs ominously over the heads of nations. We have now entered the third millennium of the Christian era, the third day in biblical reckoning, for "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8) When Jesus spoke of raising up the temple of His own body on the third day He was also speaking prophetically of raising up His Warrior Church on the third day. As far as the Church is concerned it has provided a Christian witness for 2000 years, or two days, so that with the dawning of the third day we have reached the time when the Church will be perfected and raised up as the glorious Body and Bride of Christ. For the Lord's own Body must first be perfected by the transforming work of His Holy Spirit before He can show forth His own glory and minister the perfection of His finished work throughout the earth. Moreover Jesus said, "Behold, I cast out devils and do cures today and tomorrow and on the third day I shall be perfected" (Luke 13:32). Not only was He referring to His ongoing ministry prior to being perfected on the third day but also of continuing to work miracles for 2000 years by His omnipotent Spirit through the Church. Long before, the prophet Hosea had prophesied, "After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight. Then we shall 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 on the earth" (Hosea 6:2-3). Here we see the promise of Church revival just prior to the raising up on the last day.

However, this blessed assurance is for those who press on to know the Lord and His divine plan for they only will be revived by those rivers of living water. Firstly, that brings us to the need to recognise the everlasting covenant that God has made with us. Initially He made a covenant with Abraham when He revealed His sovereign purpose to fulfil through Abraham His program for Israel and to provide in Christ the Saviour of all who believe. It was a blood covenant, a matter of life and death. Thus JESUS came as the seed of Abraham and by His blood shed on the cross sanctified all who put their trust in Him. Furthermore, we who are of the faith are sons of Abraham whose faith obligated God to the Gospel – His plan for the redemption of man. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God through Him." (2 Cor. 5:21). So that just as Christ triumphed over the powers of the devil we too share in that victory over the enemy of our souls. In other words, because of the everlasting blood covenant we stand firm in the faith, knowing who we are and recognising our position in Christ: blood-bought, forgiven and righteous in God's eyes. Christ's blood has already made a way for us and nothing stands between us and the Father to receive that abundant life promised in Christ.

Secondly, it is now necessary to "press on, our eyes fixed on JESUS". In a world steadily growing more hostile to Christian values and staggering from the sin of moral depravity to outright paganism the call is to Christ's followers to stand firm against all the wiles of the evil one and those he is deceiving through the insidious power of evil belief systems leading to the turbulent minefield of 'explosive theories and devastating ideas' through secularisation and pluralisation. Even now the Lord is preparing His people for

the battles ahead He is calling forth an army, **His Warrior Church**, which He is preparing without flourish or noise at the same time as Satan is drawing up his forces for battle. **Jesus** is calling His people into the secret place of the Most High God to be holy, disciplined, trained and taught in the school of the Spirit to learn how to become intercessors, for the army of the Lord must be **an intercessory army**, fighting not with carnal but with spiritual weapons. Yet the Lord is not only calling His Warrior Church to intercession that the world might be gathered into His body and be saved, He is also calling it to **fight** and overcome the powers of evil that are being let loose upon the earth in these last days. Moreover, the Warrior Church must stand in the gates of praise, worship God in spirit and in truth, praising the Lord continually even in times of great tribulation. This is not the time to let God's Truth slip away from us for we have an open door into His Holy presence with the blood of Jesus, so we need to go to Him with full assurance of faith, yielding and flowing with the sovereign, indispensable, irresistible, unavoidable, mighty wind of the Holy Spirit of God to accomplish His will.

However, there is the danger of emphasising our own importance by having God work through us almost to the exclusion of God first working in us by His Spirit in cleansing and sanctification. So often we are more desirous of ministering to people than to the Lord, being more motivated by their needs than those of the Lord Worse, many see no need for an interceding Church, let alone a Warrior Church. For they have pinned their hopes on the sounding of the last trumpet, believing that the Lord will soon appear from heaven to snatch His Church away before it is overwhelmed by the terrible things now coming upon earth. Yet Scripture does not speak of Christ rapturing His church as our hope of glory. Rather does it declare that it is "Christ in us who is the hope of glory". (Col 1:27) And that He is coming to be glorified in His saints upon the earth. (2 Thess 1: 10). Beloved, be sure you are in His Ark Know that the battle is the Lord's. When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against him through the banner of intercession. Fear not! God will raise up His people in the midst of trouble and revive them. His Warrior Church shall be polished arrows in the hand of the Lord. Even though we are called upon to suffer in the fellowship of His sufferings yet as His joint-heirs the sufferings of this present time will not compare with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

In Matthew 26:27-29 during the partaking of the last supper, Jesus spoke of drinking the new wine as being synonymous, not only with the raising up of the Warrior Church and His ultimate reunion with it, but also with the establishing of God's Kingdom on earth. Therefore, beloved, as you receive this revelation in the Spirit, your partaking of the communion can become an act of intercession. For you will be partaking by faith of that ultimate communion and fellowship with the LORD on behalf of His Warrior Church: an act of intercession that will greatly bless the LORD. Know that Jesus is the Vine and He has chosen us, called us and ordained, anointed and appointed us to go and bring forth much fruit as part of the new Vine spreading across the earth. As branches we are joined to the Vine in one Spirit with Him, so that the Life of His Spirit flows from the Vine into every branch. Even as we are joined unto the Vine in one Spirit, so are we joined to one another in His Body in the Spirit. Know that His Life continually flows into us by His Anointing: for this Vine is spread throughout the whole earth and we are chosen branches unto Him.

Thus the Church should not be fearful of the things that are coming upon the earth for they signify that our full and final redemption draws near. For our Redeemer stands at the door of our hearts to purify and totally possess His people and overcome evil through them by His Spirit manifested in the Church in the coming days. For even as the Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil so must He be manifested in us if we are to know the reality of victory. Even now the Lord stands at the doors of our hearts saying, "To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" Alleluia! To God be the glory

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a glorious New Year 2002.

**R.A.:** Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name Amen

[REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS]