



# 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*

VOLUME 8:7

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## A PRODIGAL LAND

The parable of the prodigal son is probably the best known story in the Bible, if not in all literature. It is the story of a son who left home, squandered his living in a foreign land, worked amongst the pigs eating and sleeping with them and finally returned to his father a wiser man. We here in Australia are prodigals, in fact we are a populous of prodigals, a populous of prosperous prodigals who have wandered far away from God and become lost in a world of affluence, apathy and ignorance.

### **Reflect and Consider**

During the unhappy time the prodigal lived in the foreign land and mixed with the pigs and people who lived like pigs he had lost himself. But when "he came to himself" he rose up and returned to his father. In other words, when he reflected on the depths to which he had sunk and began to think clearly he realised his unhealthy state and decided to do something about it. And it is only when we as a nation stop to reflect and consider our ways that there is any hope for us. For we are indeed a prodigal society. There was a time when we were blessed by God because we followed His ways and obeyed biblical precepts. Our laws were founded on His laws; our people acknowledged Him as Father and give Him thanks. However, there came a time when our masters decided we must get rid of the Father and His "narrow" ways and be "free". They assured us that it was for our good that new rules be adopted - that morality was relative, that the Father's fixed, immutable moral code was outdated and irrelevant in this "modern age". So they set new standards, a new "morality". They decreed that adults should be free to read and see whatever they liked provided it did not interfere with others. Homosexuals, lesbians and transvestites were to have the same rights as married couples. Young people were encouraged to have "safe sex", not concerning themselves with being chaste. Most restrictions on pornography in films and literature were eased and swept away under the guise of "film classification". Certain drugs were legalised. The Ten Commandments were discarded in favour of "softer" laws. Whatever was necessary was done to break the so-called bondage resulting from following the Word of God which is the pillar and foundation of our Life, Truth, Grace and Mercy - useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

### **Dying Spiritually**

Yes, it is time to reflect on our prodigal society that has wasted its God-given blessings and is now in a far country, far away from God. In fact it is only as we begin to reflect, as the prodigal did, that there is hope for us. He came to see what caused his miserable condition: he ought never to have left his father's home. That was the beginning of his undoing. If he ever was to get back on the right track he must return there. Back at home he had been stunted for nothing; now he was dying of hunger. We as a people too are dying, not physically but spiritually. We have been wasting our God-given heritage, perhaps not in riotous ways but in careless, godless living. We are now eating the husks rather than the grain. We are plagued with crime, corruption, greed, drugs, suicide, divorce, juvenile delinquency, witchcraft, abortion and AIDS.

### **A Downhill Slide**

The morals of this nation today are on a downhill slide that will eventually lead us to calamity. For sin is a reproach to any people but righteousness exalts a nation. What has happened to our faith, our hopes and our joy? It is time to follow the prodigal's example. Like him **we need to repent**. That is, we need to have second thoughts. We need to say to ourselves that we will not wallow any more in the mud of sin; we will

look up to a higher standard; we will look to all God's blessings for us for the future. We need to say, "Father, in Jesus' Name, we have sinned against heaven and before You; we are no longer worthy to be called Your sons and daughters; treat us as one of Your hired servants." This we must do both as individuals and society as a whole if this nation is to be saved from absolute moral degradation, ruin and spiritual suicide!

### **The Most Perfect Image**

In this parable of God the Father, Jesus has presented the most perfect image of Him. He is the loving Father longing and looking for His lost son's return; of His going out to meet him; the kiss of welcome and the fond embrace; the complete forgiveness; and the forgetfulness of the shameful past as if it had never happened. This is God's attitude to every one of us when we as individuals and as a society at large return in the spirit of humility and contrition as did the prodigal son. Though we as prodigals sin, yet the fatherly heart never changes. The separation between man and God, between we humans and our Creator, has always been on one side only – ours. Just look at our social and moral landscape! God's forgiveness is not weakness, an easy overlooking of our wilful disobedience; it is His delight in seeing His obedient children faithfully realise their son/daughtership; it is God's welcome home. It is a welcome that exceeds our fondest dreams. "Make me as one of Your hired servants," said the prodigal. But when father and son have met there is no longer any mention of hired servants. Fear and shame are swallowed up in love, grace and mercy.

### **Give Me or Make Me**

The prodigal left home saying, "Father, give me the share of property that falls to me." He returned saying, "Make me as one of your hired servants." His attitude changed from *give me* to *make me*. So must all Australians learn to face the future, not selfishly crying, "**Give me**", but unselfishly praying, "**Make me**". As it stands right now we are unquestionably a populace of prosperous prodigals living in a far country, far from God and living in a faithless way that displeases Him. We have been wasting our substance on selfish living, far from obeying God's Word and the service of God to whom all things belong. Is it not high time we came to our senses? Across this nation, in cities and towns and the outback, may we respond and return to the Father through His Son Jesus. May we find the welcoming arms of the Father and hear Him say, "**Let us have a feast and celebrate. For this land of Mine was dead and is alive; it was lost and now is found**". How about it, Australia?

### **OUR PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Gracious Father, in the name of Jesus and in the presence of Your Holy Spirit, we acknowledge our nation's folly in turning away from You, the Great I AM, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, Jehovah, our covenant making God, Faithful and True - the Living Word of God. Omniscient Father, we humbly come clothed in the blood of Jesus to thank You on bended knee for Your forgiving grace and immeasurable mercy for **all** You have done for mankind to be reconciled in You through **Jesus Christ**, Your only sinless begotten Son. We thank You, Father, that Jesus obediently fulfilled Your Will to die for our sins and redeem us from death and who triumphed through the resurrection conquering death and Satan. We thank You that He is now seated on Your right hand as our Mediator and great High Priest interceding for every born-again believer before the throne of Your grace and mercy.

Blessed Spirit of the Living God, help us in the spirit of true repentance to renounce the malevolent influence of humanism, disobedience, unbelief, pride, greed, unforgiveness, injustice, unrighteousness and witchcraft in Jesus' name. We also plead for Your mercy, Lord God, on those who reject Your redeeming grace and disobey Your infallible Word by giving heed to Satanism, the occult and the doctrines of seducing spirits because they have been denied the Truth of the Gospel by their parents, our secular education systems, our materialistic society and our national apathy. Like the Prodigal Son of old we have squandered our God-given heritage and abundant blessings and now are living on the husks rather than the grain of life. Merciful Father, forgive our nation's foolish ways; we pray in Jesus' name to accept our plea for forgiveness and accept us back into Your eternal fold as we eagerly wait for the gates of Your glory to open for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Glory. Indeed we long for Him to usher in His New Age of peace and righteousness and establish the Kingdom of God on earth in all its fullness. **Come quickly Lord Jesus** Amen and glory to God.

**R.A:** Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen

**REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.**