

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

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WHY SO DRY?

I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains; of rugged mountain ranges, of drought and flooding rains. Dorothea MacKellar's rousing words have become one of Australia's favourite songs. It typifies our land as few poems have ever done. Throughout its short history since European settlement this sunburnt land of endless plains and rugged mountains, of hills and valleys, lakes and rivers and streams, has weathered its times of drought and floods. However, in 2006 we now face one of the worst droughts on record. Australiawide, this June was the fifth driest from 107 years of records, while it was the driest on record for Western Australia and the third driest for Victoria. This has contributed to the largest area of drought on record in south-west WA with the northern agricultural region hardest hit, and in central New South Wales since the start of autumn. Other areas of severe rainfall deficiencies have had serious effects in large areas of central and western Victoria, extending into South Australia. The north-eastern corner of Tasmania, areas in south-east Northern Territory, far northern South Australia and far south-west Queensland have also been hit by the Big Dry. In other words, Australia is suffering one of its worst droughts ever. In fact, in WA if not elsewhere, up to 1000 drought-hit farmers, who have not recovered from the last dry spell, face ruin. Consequently a number of suicides have struck rural WA as the devastating drought threatens to slash the grain harvest in half, if not more, driving desperate farmers to seek disaster relief funding from the Federal Government.

Materialistic Society

Undoubtedly rural Australia faces a grim future unless it rains and rains! But will it? In our rankly materialist society, scientists and politicians search for answers to our water problem. They postulate various theories for the state of the weather, but omit the most important controlling influence of all. Why? Because it must be revealed spiritually! As an example of this ignorance in seeking a purely materialistic solution to the formidable water situation in WA, the Water Corporation has even considered cloud seeding as a viable option. Well, by looking heavenward they are looking in the right direction but for the wrong reason. In fact, we should all be looking to the heavens for the answer to this monumental problem. We should be looking to the only One who can send the rain we so desperately need. But first, we should be asking ourselves just why He has been withholding this precious commodity from us. Long ago, wise King Solomon understood what we seem to have forgotten: that God is the One who controls the weather, and why. At a time of drought in Israel he prayed, "When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain because they have sinned against You; yet if they pray and confess Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them, then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants." (2 Chronicles 6:26-27)

Flouting Divine Laws

Make no mistake: WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST GOD! Our hedonistic materialism has blinded us to the fact that He is the One who observes all we are doing that flouts His divine laws and excludes Him from our national life. We scarcely ever bother to offer Him thanks for the countless blessings He has poured out on us over the years, but are quick to blame Him when disasters strike. As prophesied by the Apostle Paul of those living in the last days (meaning now), we are "lovers of ourselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers (taking the Lord's name in vain), disobedient to parents (many young people out of control), unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control (road-rage), brutal, despisers of good...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power." (2

Timothy 3:2-5) Unquestionably we have sinned against God in so many ways---by allowing crass and degrading pornography to constantly flood into our homes via the media and the internet; in the rampant crime that is treated so lightly by our courts where justice is often found wanting; our acquiescence in the unrestricted abortion of some 80,000 to 100,000 future Australians who are slain in the womb annually in the name of a "woman's choice"; our acceptance of homosexuality (an abomination to God) as normal behaviour; the widespread usage among youth of mind-numbing and soul-destroying drugs; our godless education systems that promote the theory of evolution as fact and deny the One who created us in His own image; and making a mockery of marriage in giving de facto relationships equal status with this God-ordained institution. All these contraventions of God's will reflect a nation careering down a slippery slope further and further from His ways that we once accepted and followed. For there was a time when we acknowledged that we were a Christian nation and proud of it. As a people we revered Jesus Christ, God's dearly beloved Son, recognising that He was our Lord and Saviour, the One who died for each one of us on the Cross and who now sits at the Father's right hand interceding for those who bow the knee to Him. We believed, too, in the Bible as the Word of God and followed the statutes we inherited from the English Common Law as the basis for an orderly and safe society. But now we have tossed that aside for a mess of pottage founded on multiculturalism that worships many gods, and none at all.

Sowing and Reaping

No wonder we are no longer enjoying the grace of God our loving heavenly Father in what could well be the worst drought in our history! We are reaping what we have sown! But there is yet hope. Let's turn again to the wisdom of Solomon for help, "... yet if they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear from heaven and forgive the sins of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on the land." God really wants to bless us despite our sins and rejection of Him, His Word and His ways. The main reason He brings trials and tribulations is for our correction. In love, He seeks to correct us so we may avoid reaping the curses of broken law, repent and receive the blessings that come from willing obedience to Him. Surely we can comprehend that the great Creator God, who formed man from the dust of the ground, knows how best to get man's attention. However, should we continue to sink deeper and deeper into gross national and personal sins and go on wallowing in our immoral, depraved ways, especially through the mediums of film, music, magazines, the internet and television, which are transforming us into their own ungodly image, and turn our backs on the One who alone can bless us with the rain we so desperately need, we are fools indeed

Time to Get Serious with God

At a time when our water supplies across the land are drying up and we desperately seek answers to this ever increasing problem, we must get serious with God. Commendable though they be, man-made efforts cannot replace the natural supply of rain that falls from the skies at the behest of Him who alone has the power to control the weather patterns on earth. Blessings are there for us to grasp if only we would humble ourselves, repent, seek His face in prayer and turn from our wicked ways. For He will hear from heaven, forgive our sin and HEAL OUR LAND! His Word declares it, and His Word is true. Moreover, He promises to those who belong to Him, that He "will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand." (Deuteronomy 28:12) Come on, Aussie, come on. Swallow your pride, banish your doubt, yield to His call, repent of your sins and see Him open the heavens and send the precious rain on this sun-drenched land we all love.

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; the great I AM; the Alpha and the Omega; great and amazing are Your deeds; just and true are Your ways; infinite are Your grace and mercy. Gracious Lord, we gratefully offer our thanks for the finished work of Christ on Calvary where He defeated sin, death and the devil. Abba Father, as covenant children clothed in Jesus' righteousness and through Your Spirit of holy power we pull down all strongholds of fear, apathy and deception in the hearts of both leaders and ordinary citizens of this fair land. Cleanse their minds of all unbelief so that in deep humility they will turn to You in prayer and seek the Lord God with all their hearts. Believing You are a good God and answer our prayers, dear Father, we plead for a release from the devastating drought that has struck our nation, and receive from Your divine hand the blessings of prosperity, peace and protection. Father, by faith in Your promises we know You will forgive our sin and heal this land by releasing heaven's blessings of rain on our parched and hungry ground. Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Fountain of Living Waters, to the glory of God. Amen.

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