

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Lord Is Indignant for the Honor of His Land

‘Community Transformation is a condition of dramatic, socio-political renewal that results from God’s people entering into corporate vision, corporate repentance, and corporate prayer. During these extraordinary seasons the kingdom of God pervades every institution of human endeavor.’ George Otis, Jr.

God created mankind with a mandate of dominion and rulership and this mandate has been completely restored in Christ.

Gen. 1:28—‘God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Mat. 28:8-20, Mk. 16:15-21

Gen. 2:15—‘Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.’

Man is always given a ‘garden’ so that he can have dominion. God calls all mankind to individual and corporate dominion with assignments according to God given territory, gifts and calling (2 Cor. 10:13-18). As we are faithful in our stewardship, God entrusts us with more (Mat. 25:14-30, Lk. 19:11-27).

Stewardship=accepting our responsibility for the possessions that are entrusted to us by someone else. God calls us to manage all that He gives us, which is everything, i.e. time, talents, money, possessions, job, etc. We are given these to manage so that His kingdom can be extended through our stewardship of His resources. (Deut. 8:18)

Our mandate of rulership speaks to us as stewards to reclaim for God all the land that is rightfully His which has been defiled and lost through fallen sinful stewardship.

You cannot get the keys until you are ready to steward (Mat. 16:18-19).

God’s Land

God uses the land to state His purpose, direction and desire for the lives of His people.

Dt. 11:10-12—‘For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. But the land into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, *a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.*’

Job 12:7-8—‘But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or *speak to the earth, and let it teach you*; and let the fish of the sea declare to you.’

Joel 2:17-18—‘Let the priests, the LORD’S ministers, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not make Your inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they among the

peoples say, 'Where is their God?'" Then *the LORD will be zealous for His land* and will have pity on His people.' (i.e. indignant for the honor of His land)

Gen. 9:19; 10:20, 31; 11:8-9; Dt. 32:8; Job 12:23; Ps. 16:5-6; 78:54; 74:17; Is. 9:3; 26:15; Ez. 16:26-27; Acts 17:26

Lev. 25:23—'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me.' Ps. 104:14-17

God loves the land He created (Gen. 1-2, Col. 1:16-18, Rev. 4:11).

Rom. 8:20-22—'For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.'

Principle: Land is the meeting place between God and man; therefore, the land reveals the pleasure or displeasure of God towards those who occupy the land. When wind, fire, water and land turn on humanity, it is a wake up call.

Obstacles in the Land

Mat. 13:3-23—parable of the sower and the soils

Principle: Before the work of evangelism takes place in a community, we need to remove the spiritual rocks and thorns, break up the fallow ground, and keep the spiritual birds away as we sowing the seed of the kingdom.

Is. 57:14—'Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people.'

Is. 62:10-12—'Go through, go through the gates, clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, "Lo, your salvation comes; Behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him."

And they will call them, "The holy people, the redeemed of the LORD"; And you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."

Jer. 1:9-10—God's word in your mouth accomplishes His will to break up fallow ground, remove the obstacles (stones) and remove the thorns.

Principle: 'Land takes on characteristics based on what we do on it, both good and bad.' Releasing Heaven on Earth, Alistair Petrie, p. 42

Gen. 3:17—the ground is cursed due to disobedience of the fall

Gen. 4:11-12—Cain was 'driven from the ground' and became 'a restless wanderer' due to his sin of bloodshed.

Num. 13:23-24—the abundance of the land is seen in the grape cluster

Lev. 19:29—the land is filled with wickedness due to prostitution

Lev. 18:24-25—the land is punished for the sin

Lev. 18:27-28—the land vomits out its inhabitants due to the sin of earlier people

Jer. 2:7—‘...you came and defiled My land...’

Jer. 12:4—‘How long is the land to mourn and the vegetation of the countryside to wither? For the wickedness of those who dwell in it, animals and birds have been snatched away...’

Job 31:38, 40—‘If my land cries out against me, and its furrows weep together; if I have eaten its fruit without money, or have caused its owners to lose their lives, let briars grow instead of wheat, and stinkweed instead of barley.’

Rom 8:19-22—‘For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.’

Eze 9:9—‘Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood and the city is full of perversion; for they say, ‘The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!’”’

The character of any community is composed of vision, traditions, stewardship, culture, social mores and the spirituality of different people groups who have inhabited the land. Each generation builds upon the other forming the character of a community or city.

The Causes of Defilement

Ezra 9:11-12—‘The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and with their impurity. So now do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons, and never seek their peace or their prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever.’

Idolatry-spiritual adultery

Ex. 20:3-4—allowing anyone or anything to take priority over Christ in our life.

Jer. 3:6-10—‘...Because of the lightness of her harlotry, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees....’

Jer. 16:18—‘I will first doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable idols and with their abominations.’

Rom. 1:20-25—‘ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse....’

Note—Where are the places you see idolatry in your city?

Immorality and Fornication

Lev. 18:1-25—‘...Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations, which I am casting out before you, have become defiled. For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants....’ Rom 1, Gal. 5:16-26, Col. 3:5-10

Note—Where are the places you see immorality manifested in your city?

Bloodshed

Num. 35:33-34—‘So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; *for blood pollutes the land* and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel.’

Gen. 4:1-12—‘...He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth."’

Hos. 4:1-3—‘Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear.’

Bloodshed will lead to criticism, anger, jealousy, bitterness, rage, hatred, etc. (all the beginning stages of sin that leads to murder) as a defilement on the land over many generations.

Note—Where do you see these issues manifested in a concentrated way in your city? Is there a place(s) where fatalities, homicides or accidental killings take place?

Broken Covenants

Is. 24:5-12—‘The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore, *a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty*. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. The new wine mourns, the vine decays, all the merry-hearted sigh. The gaiety of tambourines ceases, the noise of revelers stops, the gaiety of the harp ceases. They do not drink wine with song; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. The city of chaos is broken down; every house is shut up so that none may

enter. There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; all joy turns to gloom. The gaiety of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city and the gate is battered to ruins.’

Jer. 23:10—‘For the land is full of adulterers; for the land mourns because of the curse. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course also is evil and their might is not right.’ Jer. 3:1

Lev. 26:14-39, Deut. 28

Ex. 23:10-13—explains how God wants the land to be given rest

Eze 12:19-20— "Then say to the people of the land, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the land of Israel, "They will eat their bread with anxiety and drink their water with horror, because their land will be stripped of its fullness on account of the violence of all who live in it. "The inhabited cities will be laid waste and the land will be a desolation. So you will know that I am the LORD."“"

Broken covenants lead to broken marriages, broken contracts/agreements, lack of trust, competitiveness, adultery, division, false covenants, etc.

Note—Where are the places you see evidence of broken covenants in the city?

Principle: The issues in the church (heart of the people manifested in church life) reflect the issues in the community, i.e. most churches are under the spirits of the community and therefore influenced by them. Until the issues are discerned and dealt with in the hearts of the church you have no authority to deal with them in the community or in the heavenlies. The issues are revealed in the church so that they can be addressed in safety.

The Curse on the Land

Curse=to bind with a spell, to encircle with obstacles, to render powerless, to make infertile, expressing or feeling abhorrence toward something, calling forth mischief or injury on something, the removal of God’s favor and presence.

‘...people involved in the occult can actually obtain catalogs of statues intended for use in cities. A person wishing to curse a city can purchase any number of statues, based on what kinds of curses they want to place on that city. What an open invitation for evil spirits to enter a territory!’ Bob Beckett, Commitment to Conquer, p. 106.

There are many common practices of occult based religions in marking territory with curses: anoint with blood, display power symbols, create stone/metal/wood sculptures and images, uses string around the base of rocks/trees/buildings, tie power objects in trees/on top of buildings (high places), cast spells, use particular names, etc.

Jer. 12:1-15—‘...It has been made a desolation, desolate, it mourns before Me; the whole land has been made desolate, because no man lays it to heart....’

‘lays’=Heb.=direct, establish, extend, work, transform

Amos 8:4-13—‘Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over, so that we may sell grain, and the sabbath, that we may open the wheat market, to make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, and to cheat with dishonest scales, so as to buy the helpless for money and the needy for a pair of sandals, and that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?" The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob, "Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.

Because of this will not the land quake and everyone who dwells in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, and it will be tossed about and subside like the Nile of Egypt. It will come about in that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight. Then I will turn your festivals into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring sackcloth on everyone’s loins and baldness on every head. And I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son, and the end of it will be like a bitter day. Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD. People will stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; they will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. In that day the beautiful virgins and the young men will faint from thirst.’

Zec. 5:3—‘Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side.’”

Mal. 4:6—‘He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.’

Principle: Gal. 3:13—Christ became a curse for us so that we might receive the blessing.

God’s Judgments on the Land

Ez. 14:13-20—famine, ecological devastation, war, disease (Deut. 28:15-68; Lev. 26:14-46; 18:25-30)

Famine—Ez. 14:13

Ps. 105:16—‘He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food.’

Amos 8:11-12—"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD. People will stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; they will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.' Any form of lack is evidence of the judgment of famine.

Note—Have there ever been any famines in the city history? Is the word of the Lord coming forth from the prophet or church in the city?

Ecological Devastation—Ez. 14:15-16

Gen. 6—the flood

Jer. 23:10—"...the land lies parched...."

Jer. 3:1-4—God reminds us that little growth (physically and spiritually) will take place if He is not honored and worshiped.

Amos 4:7-11—"I withheld the rain from you while there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city and on another city I would not send rain; one part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up. So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, but would not be satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. "I smote you with scorching wind and mildew; and the caterpillar was devouring your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. "I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, and I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. "I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.'

Haggai 1:9-11—"You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring *it* home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands.'

Is. 33:9—"The land mourns and pines away, Lebanon is shamed and withers; Sharon is like a desert plain, and Bashan and Carmel lose their foliage.'

These scriptures reveal that idolatry, personal selfishness, greed and carelessness are the moral source to ecological devastations.

Note—What is the city history of ecological devastations—floods, tornados, mold, mildew, earthquakes, wind, hail, insects?

War—Ez. 14:17—"Or if I should bring a sword on that country and say, 'Let the sword pass through the country and cut off man and beast from it...'

Wars/battles/fights that were fought on the land.

Ethnic cleansing—rooted in anger, jealousy, resentment, competitiveness, aloofness and divisiveness.

Family/church/business disputes—conflicts and fighting among members

Family feuds

Note—Is there any history of wars or battles fought in the city (even before it existed)?

Have there been any church splits, business splits, etc.?

Disease—Ez. 14:19-20

Epidemics, localized diseases, anxieties, sorrows, calamities, health related issues

To control an epidemic, you must find the source.

Note—Is there any history of epidemics, etc. in the city? Are there certain diseases prevalent in the city or certain areas?

Cleansing the Land

2 Kgs. 23—Josiah cleanses the land and some of the high places. His guide in knowing what to cleanse is the Word of God (the law=truth) ‘...Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, **according to all the law of Moses**; nor did any like him arise after him.’

Jer. 7:5-11—‘For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever....’

2 Chron. 7:13-15—‘If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and *will heal their land*. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.’

Consecrate Yourself

Ps. 66:18—‘If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear.’

Jos 7:13—‘Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst.’

Dan. 9:1-3—‘...So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.’

Identificational Repentance

Dan. 9:4-23—‘...we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled...we have not listened to Your servants the prophets...we have rebelled against Him...’

Ezra 9:6-15—‘O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens.... For we have forsaken Your commandments, which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets... we are before You in our guilt, for no one can stand before You because of this....’

Neh. 1:6-7, Mat. 23:1-39, Acts 7:39-53

‘When one generation decides to stand in the gap, accept the consequences of the sins of previous generations and appropriate the shed blood of Christ, an end will come to the inherited curse, as well as to the consequences of that curse.’ Petrie, p. 185.

Admit the true nature of the sin with no justification.

Own the sin and resolve to turn from it.

Forgive everyone involved in the origins of that sin.(roots).

Accept the forgiveness promised in God’s Word (1 Jn 1:9, Js. 5:16).

Be willing to forgive others.

Renounce (verbally) the negative characteristics of that sin and its effects on the individuals and the community.

Choose (declare) the way of righteousness.

Petrie, p. 188

Using Spiritual Cleansing Acts

As far as it is in your power, remove any natural or manmade objects from the land, house, or building. Dispose of them or burn them. Acts 19:19

Use Salt for Cleansing

2 Kgs 2:19-22—shows the use of salt prophetically to cleanse the impurity of defiled water in the land.

Lev. 2:13—‘Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.’

Num. 18:19—‘All the offerings of the holy gifts, which the sons of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD to you and your descendants with you.’

Salt symbolized faith and loyalty in entering into a covenant or contractual agreement. Ez. 43:23-24, Mat. 5:13, Col. 4:6

Salt preserves people from corruption, is a sign of covenant, is a form of judgment and shows the perseverance of the saints.

Lk. 14:34-35—Salt is not regular table salt. It was an enriching compound that produced fruitfulness. Salt was placed on the manure pile to disinfect and to stop the odor.

Sprinkle salt at certain places as directed by the Spirit. Mix the salt with water and apply.

Use of Water for Cleansing

Water is the symbol of the living Word (Eph. 5:26, OC temple sacrifices were washed, the laver, Jn. 4:9-14)

Pour out the water as directed by the Spirit over thresholds and entryways and as a boundary marking a territory.

Use of Anointing Oil

The original recipe is Ex. 30:22-25, 31-33.

Js. 5:14-15—anointing with oil to release healing and restoration

Heb. 1:9—anointing of oil for joy—Ps. 45:8, 23:5

Is. 61:3—anointing with the oil of gladness instead of mourning

Ps. 133:1-2—anointing oil is a sign of unity

Oil releases the presence of the kingdom of God. Oil establishes a mark of the authority of God over a person, building, land, etc.

Use of Communion

This is especially helpful in areas where there has been bloodshed or unholy sacrifice.

Take communion at a place to sanctify and release Christ's presence. Pour out the elements for cleansing the land as Christ's blood was poured out on the land.

Use of the Drink Offering—wine

Gen. 35:13, 14—Jacob poured out a drink offering on the land as a sign of God's blessing.

In sacrificial system the drink offering was offered along with other sin, guilt, and burnt offerings. Wine was always used as a part of the covenant celebration.

Phil. 2:17—‘But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.’

Pour out wine to mark a place for covenant redemption and for cleansing.

Use of Consecrated Stones or Other Items

1 Cor. 10:4—‘...the rock was Christ.’

Dt. 6:8-9—Word of God put on hands, foreheads and doorposts of homes.

Jer. 43:9-13—Jeremiah performs a prophetic act with consecrated stones

Ex 20:25—‘If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.’

Ex 28:12—‘You shall put the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, *as* stones of memorial for the sons of Israel, and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial.’

Le 20:27—‘Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.’

Deut. 27:4-8—‘So it shall be when you cross the Jordan, you shall set up on Mount Ebal, these stones, as I am commanding you today, and you shall coat them with lime.

Moreover, you shall build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not wield an iron tool on them. You shall build the altar of the LORD your God of uncut stones, and you shall offer on it burnt offerings to the LORD your God; and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very distinctly.’

De 19:14—‘You shall not move your neighbor’s boundary mark, which the ancestors have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess.’

De 27:17—‘Cursed is he who moves his neighbor’s boundary mark.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Set stones/stakes, etc. engraved with the Word of God at certain places, i.e. foundations, boundary points, etc.

The Kingdoms of This World

There are seven mountains (kingdoms) that influence culture:

Church—spokesman of God to city, pillar of truth, watchman, kingdom principles

Family—basic institution to uphold all society

Government—local govt, police, firemen, politics, lawyers, judges, courts

Education—schools, libraries, internet, universities, higher learning

Business/Economic Institutions—banks, mortgage companies, governing entities, retail and service companies, hospitals, drug companies, insurance companies
Communication—news media, internet, phone systems, satellites, print media
Arts/Entertainment/Sports—cultural arts, TV/movies/theater, sport celebrations