

But God!

23rd March 2003

Psa 30:11 “Thou has turned for me my mourning into dancing: Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.” (KJV)

How wonderfully God is able to turn things for us. The last article I wrote was also early on a Sunday morning, called *“Another look at Habakkuk”*. In it, I spoke of the terrible drought that we had been experiencing, and our need live by faith and to trust God to supply our needs despite the drought. Well, later that very day we received 15mm of rain from the good hand of the Lord. The next day we had 23mm, and the next we had 41mm. The last downpour had come so suddenly that the rain did not have time to soak in, and most of it ended as run-off, and in one day almost filled the dam I had built! Over the next two weeks, a cyclone hit us, and we had an average of about 25mm of rain per day. The dams filled to spilling, and the ground was thoroughly soaked.

Oh, how beautiful the rain is after a drought! The grass grows, the flowers come out, the frogs croak, and crickets squeak, the birds sing their little hearts out, and all of creation responds in gratitude to our wonderful Creator. It reminds us of that Scripture which says,

Hosea 6:3b “... He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.”

With all the turmoil in the world, His coming will be like the spring rain after the drought. Oh, how I long for that day, when

the heavens will open, and *“every eye will see Him”* coming in the clouds. Myriads and myriads of angels will attend, and multitudes of the saints who have gone before will also come with Him. Both my parents will be there. What a reunion that will be! In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be caught up to meet Him in the air. Our old bodies will be changed in an instant into glorious bodies. All pain and disease will be banished forever. What singing there will be when He *“comes like the rain”*.

The whole of creation, which had been corrupted, will be instantly released from that corruption and decay.

Rev 21:4,5 “There will be no more killing or hurting, no more pain or death. All things will become new again!” (paraphrased)

When His feet touch down on the mount of olives again (Zech 14:4) and He sets up His righteous rule upon the earth, then:

Num 14:21 “All the earth will be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.”

What a day that will be!

In just the same manner, God is able, wonderfully, to change things for us in one moment. Just as He changed things for me on my farm, so He is able to change things in our dear country, too. In one day, He can *“turn our mourning for us into dancing”*.

Elisha predicted to the king in Samaria, who had faced severe famine due to the Assyrian siege, that in **one day** God would cause an abundance to come. The officer standing next to the king as Elisha spoke, laughed, and said to Elisha:

2Kings 7:2b “Behold, if YHWH should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?”

Elisha responded to him,

2Kings 7:2c “Behold, you shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it.”

In just the same manner, God is well able to turn things for us in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The fact that He has not yet done so, indicates His absolute control over our situation. So many political leaders have tried to bring change. Powerful international agencies have deliberated about our nation’s problems, and reason itself says that a change is imminent. Yet it is not happening. Why? Just like the months we cried out to the Lord for rain during the terrible drought, so the Lord has His own reasons for allowing things to continue as they are. God appoints leaders, and God dethrones them.

The Lord taught me an important lesson during the time of drought.

Isa 55:8 “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares YHWH.

55:9 “‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Notice that it does not say that His ways are different from ours. It says they are HIGHER! That means they are *better* than ours. We might not understand the need for drought. We might not understand why a tyrant should rule over us, or why 8 million people face starvation with only one meal in two or more days. But we **do** know that God sees all these things and

is well able to turn things around so dramatically, to cause us to skip and dance for joy.

The Scriptures contain several “*but God*” phrases. In each case, an impossible situation presents itself, and then we read, “... *but God!*” One of my favourites is:

Eph 2:1-3 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ... But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ...”

Where would we be without that “*but God*”? In His great mercy He saved me from sure destruction. It was His grace which snatched me up from my sins and planted my feet on the solid rock of His Word. His grace alone!

Gideon faced a multitude of Moabites invading the land. He only had 300 men with which to fight. “*But God*” fought for them and gave them an astounding victory.

Moses’ parents faced a wicked king’s edict which was to kill all the little Hebrew boys. His mother finally faced the inevitable, and by faith abandoned her child to the hand of God as she placed him in a little wicker basket to float down the Nile. “*But God*” who sees every act of faith, did not abandon her, and Moses ended up being educated in the very courts of Pharaoh - the man who had wanted him killed!

Rahab, the harlot, a wicked contemptuous Canaanite woman, with no hope in the world against the invading forces of Israel, reached out in faith to the Israelite spies and hid them in her home in Jericho. Her simple faith not only saved her own skin, but also included her in the messianic line, and a place in

Scripture's "*hall of fame*" in Hebrews 11. How amazingly God is able to turn a situation around! Rahab's story tells me that God is able to save to the uttermost! If God could do that for Rahab, and for Gideon and Moses, and for David and Samuel and Daniel, and his three friends, and countless others, saving them from the mouths of lions, the power of fire, the edge of the sword, and even the clutches of sin and death, surely God can do it again for you and me!

My dear friends, God is not finished with Zimbabwe or South Africa yet! As we are in the last throws of moving out of our house of 16 years, to our newly acquired farm (in 2003), and experiencing the abundant blessing of God in the middle of a severe national crises, so God is able also to turn things for our entire nation. Our nation is in the process of transition. It will never be the same again. God is making sure of that. I am not sure how God intends to do it, but I do know that He has a plan that is much better than ours. Our plans usually tend towards making ourselves comfortable in the physical realm. His plans start with the spiritual realm, turning men's hearts toward Himself.

May we hear Him speak, and in hearing, may we respond. May we humble ourselves before Him and trust Him to "*turn our mourning into dancing*". In whatever difficulties you might be facing my dear friend, may you always remember that there is always a "*but God*" for you.

With special love to you all

Henry D Jackson.