

## **A Prophetic Word for the Nation: Steve Rayment and Paul Miller**

The Lord has given me a picture that I felt was for the nation, but it may well apply to other nations too. It began with a picture of a hand. I felt it was the Father's hand. He had a cork block with sandpaper round it – a rectangular block like those you wrap sandpaper round to sand and smooth a piece of wood.

I felt the Father say, "Steve, if I used a plane, a wood plane on the timber – the shouts against it in the nation would be incredibly strong. All you really want is a bit of smoothing off. Then I saw a picture like a tree that had been almost coppiced where you take out the central trunk leaving all the other new branches to grow. The central trunk was still in place, with lots of new branches growing from the ground, and I felt the Father say, "If I took the saw to the base of this plant to cut out the dead wood, the shouts and screams and gasps at the depth of pruning out of dead wood to take out of the plant would be incredible in the nation." We are not ready to hear the word for the plane, never mind the depth of cutting that would be involved were a saw to be taken to take out the dead wood from the tree.

Steve then had a tongue which Paul interpreted.

I felt the Lord saying that there is a tremendous change coming to this nation and the family of nations that we know. It is change that is going to be outside our expectations.

### **Tumultuous change.**

"For I am shaking the nations and you have only begun to see the gentle shaking of the trees. You have not yet seen more of the full force of my wind. For indeed this will go through the nations but it will also go through my church – and that is so that my church may be truly founded on the Rock who never changes and who cannot be shaken. I am giving you forewarning of this again and again and again, even though it is not a new warning, but a wakeup call. These things are settled and are not going to be changed, but it is for you, My people, to be awake and aligned with what I am doing, so that you may know how to respond in that day in a way that is honouring to Me and a witness to the peoples."

There was then a second tongue and Paul continued . . .

I felt in the second part that the Lord was picking up on the reason we are here, and saying that we have gathered together as friends. The Lord says, "I am gathering you as My friends if you are willing to respond to the invitation. For these are days in which I am calling My church higher from a place of servant hood and obedience into a place of friendship where I can show you in advance what I am about and what I am doing. For friends know what the master is about. And this is an invitation to you that if you will accept the call into friendship with Me I will begin to share with you the things in my

heart in your localities, in your contexts and in your situations so that you can have a head start in the purposes that I have and understand how to work them in. I am willing to share some things with you on no other basis than this friendship. There are some things I would want to say to a friend that I would not say to a servant. Some difficult things. There are responsibilities and privileges of friendship that exceed those of servants.

But I want to encourage you not to be afraid to hear My voice when the plane comes, and even when the saw comes. For this is for your good that you may be conformed to Jesus. For as that begins to happen in this nation then the world will stop walking past you and stop to pay attention.”

### **Tumultuous Times**

It is always tempting to link this word about ‘tumultuous changes’ to specific events. The latest crisis that the Euro is facing would be an obvious example, together with the enormous pressure the EU put on Ireland to accept a large scale bailout. Sally Mowbray wrote to me the other day that she was concerned about this, both because of the matter of yet further diminishing sovereign state sovereignty, but even more because of the old adage that ‘whoever controls the debt controls the debtor’.

There is no doubt at all that the heads of the EU are seriously concerned about the possibility of the Euro collapsing. The consequences on individual nations are likely to be huge. Greece for example has now been downgraded to little more than a ‘protectorate’ since receiving its bailout. The influential German magazine Der Spiegel has this to say about the situation there.

#### **An EU Protectorate**

The Greek parliament and government are now virtually stripped of power. They're not allowed to decide on any new expenditures without EU approval. Finance Minister Giorgos Papakonstantinou is required to report every four weeks on progress made in budget restructuring. Brussels, not Athens, now controls whether and how the austerity program takes effect. If "detailed and ongoing inspection" shows that the actual results fall short of those predicted, Almunia says, then Brussels' watchdogs will demand additional measures. There have even been calls at the European Parliament to send a special EU representative with extensive authority to Greece. The small country has become little more than an EU protectorate.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/0,1518,676507-2,00.html>

These are areas for prayerful concern, but rather than linking the word exclusively to specific issues, it is wiser to view specific ‘episodes’ as contributory endorsements

rather than the sole fulfilment of it. What the Lord is saying is very clear. He is warning, to use the concept He expressed through the prophet Jeremiah, that the work of refining has not been sufficiently responded to in order to avoid immense consequences.

As the second part of the prophecy makes clear, the Lord is also stressing the importance of our friendship with him. He truly does want us to take Malachi 3:16 to heart:

*Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honoured His name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession.*

Cultivating and strengthening strong ties with our fellow believers is always crucial, and never more so than in the days we are moving into. We are certainly experiencing this here in Malvern as the Lord continues to 'wrap' a new framework around existing relationships.