

A POIGNANT PICTURE

There is a picture I will carry in my heart for a very long time – two women holding each other in a tight embrace, weeping and crying, as they prayed and interceded. Standing around, with hands stretched towards the two women are several other women, also ardently praying and weeping. The interesting thing about this picture is that it seems so powerful and spiritual, and yet, so very natural. This picture was an actual event that took place several years ago in Kenya, as we prayed and interceded for the Republic of Congo. The woman in my arms represented Congo, and as I held her in a tight embrace, we stood in the gap and travailed for her nation!

The truth is that women are very good at engaging with each other on a deep level, when it comes to interceding, praying and crying out until heaven responds. It comes to us so naturally, which is why God calling on women in the United Kingdom to rise up at such a time as this!

God is calling on women to come together on 9th June 2018 to intercede, repent and pray on behalf of the UK, in response to His word in Jeremiah 2:9-13. We must heed this call and come together and join hearts and hands, as mothers and daughters of the land, to intercede on behalf of Britain.

THE CALL - ISAIAH 32

To understand why God would call upon women to rise up in prayer and intercession, we must turn to Isaiah 32, which talks about the coming of a righteous King, who would transform society by bringing righteousness, justice and peace. This scripture has a future fulfilment in Christ; however, it also gives a picture of what a nation would be like if Christ's Kingdom is established within that nation. There would be righteousness and justice, security, prosperity and blessings for the people and the land.

Right between the promise of an ideal society and its actual manifestation, Isaiah 32 issues a call and command to women to rise up and take responsibility.

"Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. ...Tremble, you women who are at ease; be troubled, you complacent ones; strip yourselves, make yourselves bare, and gird sackcloth on your waists... Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest." — Isaiah 32:9-15

The scripture, very clearly, puts such a huge responsibility on women!!! It not only calls on us to rise up and begin to intercede, but also describes what would happen if we ignored the call.

COMPLACENCY

There are many things which stop us from heeding God's call. However, nothing hinders us as much as complacency and apathy! God hates complacency (Amos 6:1; Jeremiah 48:11-12)! The call, therefore, is for women to come out of complacency, that is, ease, self-focus, apathy and indifference, and take responsibility for the social, political and spiritual state of this nation by standing in the gap and asking for heaven's help.

WHY WOMEN?

Why does the scripture instruct women to rise up? What is the place and role of women in national development and transformation? What is it about women that qualifies them for such an awesome task?

God has designed and created women in a unique and powerful way, and has put certain abilities, strengths and gifts into us, which He wants to utilise for His glory. Below are a few examples:



- **Multiply** Everything women receive, they multiply. Give a woman a male seed and she will incubate, multiply and nurture it to create new life. Give her trouble and she will multiply it and give you hell. Give her love and she will multiply it and build a home and haven. Better still, give a woman the seed of restoring her nation, and she will take it into her spiritual womb and nurture it.
- **Endurance** Women have the strength and patience to endure nine months of pregnancy with its associated problems. So, we can endure the waiting on our knees in prayer and intercession.
- **Travail** Women have the strength to labour and birth what they have carried in their wombs. So, we can labour and travail, and will not give up until this nation is turned around.
- Nurturing Women nurture what they've birthed; so, we will sustain revival on our knees, build our
 homes and families on the word of God, as well as share the Gospel with other. We will keep praying
 until Britain turns back to God and is transformed.

HUMILITY AND BROKENNESS

God is inviting us to focus on Him in prayer and listen to His voice. He is stirring us up to come out of complacency and be concerned by the state of affairs around us. We are to 'gird ourselves with sackcloth, showing our humility and brokenness in prayer, intercession, travail, and waiting before God for the United Kingdom. We must heed the call and not give not give up until heaven answers. *Isaiah 62:7*

FULFILLING GOD'S PROMISE

In Genesis 3:15, God promised Satan, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed..." God's promise is fulfilled when women rise up!

ARISE WOMEN!

""Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy." Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? A nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons." — Isaiah 66:7-8

What God is asking of us will not be easy, but we possess the strength and tenacity to endure! We can certainly go the long haul and endure the length of time and the travail it takes to bring change in our nation! With the help of the Holy Spirit we can make it.

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" – Romans 8:26

Woman, Bride of Christ, God is calling on you. Will you heed the call? Will you rise up? Will you take responsibility? Will you stand in the gap for our nation until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wildernesses of our churches, families, communities, government, society and nation become fruitful fields. Will you join us in praying on 9th June 2018?

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For more information about joining other women to pray for the United Kingdom send an email to info@quiverprayermovement.org or visit www.quiverprayermovement.org

