

## **Pete & Pip's Update - April 2026**

### **Regime Change?**

In the last update we finished by saying that all believers who engage in some sort of prayer to advance the purposes of God are engaging in what will ultimately produce global regime change. We find this in Matthew 6 where the Lord encourages us to pray for his Kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We see this prophetically fulfilled in Revelation 11 when the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ. The ruler of this world is defeated and Jesus replaces him.

So, let me ask you a question: Is smaller 'regime change' a part of God's plan to complete his purpose? Pip and I have been giving stronger focus over these last few months to regime change in a few nations, two of which are Iran and Russia. Our conviction is, that as the current regimes are replaced, then it will release an advance of labourers into the harvest field both within their own and in neighbouring nations.

### **Does God do 'regime change' and is there evidence that the gospel finds further release as a consequence?**

Here are a few biblical examples where God initiates regime change.

1. Egypt under Pharaoh (Exodus 1–14)
2. Babylon under Belshazzar (Daniel 5)
3. Assyria under Sennacherib (2 Kings 18–19; Isaiah 36–37). This is not full regime change but it is a decisive divine intervention against a tyrant.
4. Nineveh (Assyria) in the book of Nahum
5. Tyre and Sidon (Ezekiel 26–28)
6. Rome in Revelation (symbolic "Babylon")

### **Does modern-day evidence show us that regime change can bring a release of the gospel?**

#### **Consider the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989.**

What happened to the church afterwards?

Churches in East Germany saw a surge in attendance.

- Romania experienced a wave of conversions after its leader Ceausescu was executed by his own forces.
- Poland's Catholic and Protestant communities gained new freedom and influence.

#### **Consider South Korea after the Japanese Occupation in 1945**

What happened to the church afterwards?

- South Korea experienced one of the most dramatic church growth movements in modern history. From 2% Christian in 1945 to 30% Christian by the 2000's

#### **Consider Indonesia after the fall of Suharto in 1998**

What happened to the church afterwards?

- Rapid growth of evangelical and Pentecostal churches
- Large public worship gatherings became possible

- Christian universities and ministries expanded

Today Indonesia has one of the world's largest Muslim-majority Christian minorities.

### **Consider Ethiopia after the fall of the Derg Regime in 1991**

What happened to the church afterwards?

- Ethiopia experienced explosive church growth.
- The Ethiopian Evangelical Church grew from ~1 million to over 10 million today
- Pentecostal and evangelical churches multiplied
- Public evangelism became possible

### **Consider China after the Cultural Revolution from 1976 onward**

What happened to the church afterwards?

- China's underground church exploded in size under Deng Xiaoping, China's new leader.
- From an estimated 1–3 million believers in 1976 to 70–150 million today (depending on estimates)

In all these examples, persecuted Christians within these nations prayed, endured suffering, remained faithful and trusted God with the outcome. After the regimes fell, evangelism increased, new freedoms emerged and spiritual renewal led to church growth. These patterns closely resemble biblical themes where God brings down the proud, lifts up the humble, and advances His purposes through faithful endurance.

### **Even when wicked regimes continue God is not restricted**

North Korea has remained at the top of Open Doors World Watch list of most severe persecuted nations for the last few years, yet the church is growing faster than the church in South Korea. Joshua Project estimates the evangelical church in South Korea is growing at a rate of 0.7% per year whilst in North Korea, the church is growing at 6% per year, much faster than the global average with an estimated number of believers at 400,000. In Iran, number 10 on the World Watch list, is now estimated to have over 1 million believers. Most of this growth has been from the year 2000. It is considered by some to be the fastest growing national church worldwide.

### **We take heart that God is angry with wicked rulers (Psalm 107)**

Similar sentiments are found in Psalm 2. God warns national leaders that if they do not change then he will release his anger against them. In prayer I sometimes ask God to release his fury against these regimes so that their people can, on mass, hear and believe and become disciples of Jesus.

The book of Nahum is a real example of God releasing his fury. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. God speaks against them because of their arrogance and brutality. Nahum prophesies against them: -

**Nahum 1:1** - *The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.*

God's wrath is as real as his mercy – forgetting this can lead to such apathy.

Within the first minute in the latest conflict against Iran, 40 of their top leaders were killed. Was this God expressing his fury? I suspect so. 1 Kings 20: 13-49 and Acts 12: 20-23 give some examples.

As we continue in prayer for Iran, we have had to remind ourselves that regime change will not come about by might or by power but by the Spirit of God (Zech 4:6). We are not to put our trust in the arm of the flesh but in the arm of the Lord who brings deliverance. God will and does use earthly might and power for his purposes but the directive actions that eventually bring about God's judgements over the principalities and powers that fuel these wicked regimes is a Holy Spirit action upon a geopolitical scenario.

Geopolitical prayers for change are long-term and heavy duty. It is Holy Spirit conviction, persistence and patience that are needed to persevere in this type of prayer. Last week the Lord gently spoke into Pip's heart not to get distracted by the rhetoric of President Trump and subsequent frenzy and opinion of observers but to keep focus upon the Lord and listen to Him. We share this to encourage you so that as you engage in this sort of prayer, don't let your hope become tied to what is happening on the ground but keep your eyes on the Lord that he will do it.

We hope this helps in some way  
Richest blessings,  
Pete & Pip.

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