

What Is A Transformed Nation?*

Part I.

There are various ways to answer that question, depending on which lens you are using. As we approach this topic we do well to adopt the watchword "transformed and always transforming" to remind us that transformation is a process and not realized in fullness until Jesus comes. God's agenda is to restore every nation to Himself through Christ (Eph. 1:10 and Col. 1:20).

1. **Biblical Lens:** a nation transformed is seen when a nation is built on the principles of God's Word and infused by God's presence. For a nation to be great it needs the Spirit of God and the law of God. *"See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it..."* (Deu. 4:5-8)
2. **Humility + Prayer Lens:** a nation transformed is revealed when its people seek God in humility with united focused fervent prayer. *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"* (2 Chron. 7:14)

-*"In 1986, God gave me a special mission. Stand up and travel through the country, calling Christians to prayer; every Christian house should become a house of prayer. Work with everyone; fill the nation with prayer."* John Mulinde, Uganda.

-*"For fifteen years Indonesian Christians prayed for the transformation of the cities of Indonesia,"* Dr. Iman Santoso, Indonesia.

3. **Sentinel Lens:** a nation transformed is visible when, "a nation where both the people and institutions have been overrun by the Kingdom of God," George Otis, Jr., Sentinel Group.
4. **Institutional Lens:** a nation transformed is observed when a nation in which the divinely ordained institutions by God, fulfill their primary purpose. That is, as it relates to the family: to procreate, educate and sanitate (health and welfare); for the State, to protect the righteous and punish the evildoer and practice justice for all; and for the church to win the lost, build and send.
5. **Theological Lens:** a nation transformed when a nation is filled with the glory of God. *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Hab. 2:14
6. **Missiological Lens:** a nation transformed is a nation experiencing the power, the presence and the peace of God. God gave the vision of the glory of God revealed by his power, his presence and his peace filling the earth as the waters cover the sea to his servants across the ages. In the six biblical clusters of usage of the term "glory" there are different degrees of emphasis on the presence of God, the peace of God and the power of God. The term glory references the meteorological phenomenon, as in the Psalmic cluster, drawing attention to God's awesome and unstoppable power. In the glory clusters in Exodus, Ezekiel and the gospels, glory spotlights His

presence. The Pauline glory cluster emphasizes the peace through glorification in the life of believers, not as a peace devoid of conflict, but peace as harmony with themselves and their surroundings, pointing toward the harmony of life in a glorified creation. The most explicit glory passages occur in and around the person of Jesus Christ incarnating the power, the presence and the peace of God.

7. **Kingdom of God Lens:** a nation transformed is evident when a nation is overrun by the Kingdom of God. "The Kingdom to which the Bible testifies involves a proclamation and a realization of a total salvation, on which covers the whole range of human needs and destroys every pocket of evil and grief affecting humankind. Kingdom in the New Testament has a breath and a scope which is unsurpassed; it embraces heaven as well as earth, world history as well as the whole cosmos. The Kingdom of God is that new order of affairs begun in Christ which, when finally completed by Him, will involve a proper restoration not only of human's relationship to God but also of those between sexes, generations, races, and even between [humans] and nature..." Johannes Verkuyl. Verkuyl pointed to a missiology of metamorphosis by emphasizing, "the Kingdom of God as the goal of the Mission of God."
8. **Personal Lens:** a nation transformed is weighed by the impact on individuals. "Transform the individual and you will transform the nation," said Elder Kim Yong Ki. Elder Kim Young Ki himself was instrumental in transforming South Korea over past the fifty-four years. Likewise, few Norwegians would negate the fact that the transformation of Hans Nielsen Hauge led to the transformation of Norway itself.
9. **Culture Lens: A Nation with a New culture:** a nation transformed is linked with a definitive culture. Former Singaporean Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew said, "More than economics, more than politics, a nation's culture will determine its fate." The manifesto of the new school of thought on human progress and nation building is called, "Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress," by Samuel P. Huntington and Lawrence E. Harrison. The concluding thought summarizes their findings. It offers an important insight into why some countries and ethnic/religious groups have done better than others, not just in economic terms but also with respect to consolidation of democratic institutions and social justice.
10. **Worldview Lens:** a nation transformed is revealed through behavioral changes, as a result of understanding and committing to a biblical worldview. Case in point, Ugandan businessman Stephen Langa concludes that behavioral change resulting from biblical worldview teaching, transformed his country from 30% of population with AIDS virus in 1993 to less than 7% ten years later. Behavioral changing worldview instruction, answers three basic questions: Where do I come from? Who am I? Where am I going?
11. **The Bible Lens:** a nation transformed comes to the forefront when the people of a nation apply the principles of the Bible in all spheres of society. This is about the power of truth to transform nations. "The perennial, singular, seminal force for transformation is the Word of God," Wilbert Shenk. *"For the word of the Lord is right and true, He is faithful in all He does."* (Ps. 33:4); *"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."* (Ps. 33:4) *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance"* (Ps. 33:12). *"The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."* (Ps. 33:10-11). Loren Cunningham provides evidence in his

recent publication, "The Book that Transforms Nations," that the Bible transforms nations as in the story of Pitcairn.

12. **Historical Lens:** a nation transformed is revealed to the level at which the people in a nation respond to the challenges which they are presented. In studying the decline of twenty-six civilizations, Arnold J. Toynbee came to this conclusion "...for any civilization or culture to maintain its health and advance, it must respond positively to the challenges with which it is presented at a given point in time described as the crisis/catalytic/kairos moment of opportunity. The nature of the breakdowns of civilizations can be summed up in three points of the first one being: A failure of creative power in the minority and answering withdrawal of mimesis on the part of the majority and a consequent loss of social unity in the society as a whole."

** The following is an extemporaneous lecture given by Dr. Luis Bush during the launch of Transform World Connections Singapore on 12th June 2007*