

CLEANSING THE LAND

Week 3

1. **"When the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. ...So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. ...I judged them according to their conduct and actions."**
Ezekiel 36:17-19

Father God, You who know all things: This is our third week of doing confession over the land. We have confessed the bloodshed, the violence, the abuse of power and many other sins. But even if we were to spend the rest of the year in confession, we could not list every sin because we do not know them all. We ask now that you open the books of heaven that contain the record of all the rest of our sins and the sins of our forefathers and the sins of those who have lived among us.

2. **"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 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. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."** 2 Chronicles 7:13-15

Father God, The God of Judgment and of Restoration: You have been angry with us. You did shut up the heavens for years. And we did repent and turn to you. You have heard from heaven, and you have forgiven our sin and you have released the rain once again. For this we are deeply grateful. But Father, we do not want partial restoration. We ask you to blot out all the sins of our people, all the sins of our forefathers and all the sins of those who live among us. We ask you to be attentive to this our prayer so that the land can be completely healed, not just in part. *** Apply the grape juice now.

3. **"I will make the rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it."** Isaiah 41:18-20

Holy Father, we plead with you to make Yourself known to the people. But not all of the people have seen Your hand. As You continue to heal the land and heal the people on a greater scale than we can even dream, we ask You to make people see. Cause them to see and know and consider and understand that there is a difference between religion and the ways of the One True and Living God. Let them see that the Holy One of Israel has done this and that His hand is at work among us. Lord, what purpose is there in healing the land if You do not heal the hearts of the people? We gratefully receive the healing of the land that has been started. But we ask for the greater miracle: Heal the people.

4. **"Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you."** Exodus 20:24

Holy Father, You have caused Your name to be honored by us. There was a time when we did not honor You. We were not seeking You. You have caused us to know You and to honor Your name. We ask now for the rest of the promise. Since You caused Your name to begin to be honored among the City/nations, we ask You to come and bless us with Your presence. May Your glory dwell among us with ever increasing brightness.

We add these stones to this memorial pile as a witness between us and Almighty God that we have repented for our sins and have claimed the forgiveness that the Holy Scriptures offer.