

## Germany: The Key to World Revival by Loren Cunningham

How many movies or TV shows have you seen where the villain wears a swastika and has a thick German accent? From Casablanca to Raiders of the Lost Ark, we have been raised with German villains. What is it like growing up in a land with the dark shadow of the swastika on your past...one of the darkest shadows in the history of the world? How does this affect your image of yourself and your nationality? Can a country escape its past and find itself again?

Several months ago, one of the leaders of newly-reunified Germany went to Israel and met with her political leaders. He carried a message. He asked them to forgive Germany for the holocaust against the Jews. Their answer? Not in this lifetime!

Recently, my wife Darlene and I completed a ministry tour of Germany, where I spoke --- times in --- days in 15 cities. In each place, I opened my message by reading the entire genealogy of Jesus from the first chapter of Matthew. By the time I read aloud all the "begats," along with interpretation into German, the congregation was laughing.

Why All the "Begats"?

Why did God include His "telephone books" in the Bible? The genealogies show us that our roots are important to God and should be important to us. They are a part of who we are--deny them and we die a little. Jesus accepted His roots, including Rahab the prostitute, David the murderer, and Rehoboam who ruined his country. We can never have a healthy image of ourselves--either as individuals or nations--or find God's destiny for us if we don't accept our heritage, forgiving the wrongs and being grateful for the blessings.

Most of us realize that God has a unique destiny for every baby born on earth. Each individual has been gifted in a combination different from everyone else in the world. We are each a gift to the rest of humanity, with a calling which we will either lay hold of, or allow to remain unfulfilled. If we miss our destiny, we miss the reason we were born.

God also has unique callings for every country on earth. In His Word, God makes it clear that He is the one who gives birth to nations and each nation has a destiny to fulfill. If that destiny is unfulfilled, it affects all of us.



I have given this message in many countries, but never with such a sense of historic importance as when I preached all over Germany that they should accept their roots, as Jesus did.

Few of us realize what we owe Germany. From the very beginning, from before they were officially a nation, the German people have blessed the entire world. It seems as if God has placed a special international anointing on this people. There are five things all of us need to thank God for giving us through them:

1. The Bible in our language God gave the ingenuity to a German named Gutenberg to invent the first printing press, making it possible for Bibles to be printed in quantity and in the language of the common man. Every time you open your Bible, you owe that privilege to the German people.

2. The Reformation and the Counter-reformation

I cannot comprehend what our world would be like if it hadn't been for a German priest named Martin Luther in the town of Wittenberg. From that move of God we received the foundation for our laws, our constitution, and the understanding of what a Christian nation should be.

3. Revival Movements, from the Moravians to the Charismatic

4. Modern Missions

5. Intercessory Prayer Ministries for the Nations

Last fall, Darlene and I visited Herrnhut, the birthplace of the Moravian revival, in what used to be East Germany.

Actually, the Moravians were religious minorities who had fled for protection in the 18th century to the lands of Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf. There, they fell to quarreling among themselves over theological issues. One day, one of them suddenly realized what dissension was doing to them. He went over to a brother from the opposite theological persuasion, asked his forgiveness, and began to wash his feet. That man responded by breaking too, and asking for forgiveness. That was how revival began, a revival that eventually ended up in missionaries being sent to many nations.

Many credit William Carey with being the father of Protestant missions, but



Carey said he was inspired by the Moravians and their radical obedience to the Great Commission. They even sold themselves into slavery to take the Gospel to the slaves in the Caribbean. Their cry was:

"May the Lamb receive the reward for His suffering!"

The Moravians gave us more than the idea of missions. They were the beginning of a revival thread that has stretched across centuries. Moravian missionaries made a deep impression on an Anglican priest named John Wesley, leading to his conversion at Aldersgate, and the revival that turned England around and spread to America. The roots of the Wesleyan revival ultimately flowered into the revivals of Finney, then the Holiness revival, the early Pentecostal revival, and finally in our time, the Charismatic revival and the Jesus Movement.

#### The Longest Prayer Meeting in History

What fired the original missionary thrust of the Moravians? It came out of prayer for the nations. They began a 24-hour prayer chain--not for their own needs, but for the nations waiting to hear the Gospel. This 24-hour prayer vigil continued without interruption for over 100 years! Thus German people gave us the modern missionary movement, revival movements, and the idea of intercessory prayer for the nations.

How could a country which gave us so much good be the soil for a man like Adolph Hitler?

I believe Satan determined to destroy Germany because of the way she had influenced the world for missions. Added to this was a severe lack of unity that crept into the Body of Christ, which removed the barrier that would have kept Satan from working his plans. I have traveled among the nations constantly in the last 31 years, and I have never seen such polarization among believers as in Germany.

In the 19th century, Satan found a willing accomplice in a young German named Marx, who unleashed the philosophy of communism which led to millions of deaths and years of imprisonment for multiplied millions. Out of Germany Satan stirred philosophies which denied God, such as humanism, and theologies which claimed God was dead. The stage was set for two world wars in 25 years, Nazism, and the Holocaust. None of this would have



been possible if God's people had not been divided and neutralized.

### Finding the Holy Heroes

What now? Will Germany reclaim her destiny to bless the nations? Will she be able to forgive the Rahabs and Rehoboams of her past and be grateful to God for her good roots? Can we as Americans extend that forgiveness to them which the Israelis refused?

You may have seen news reports recently of hundreds of young neo-Nazis marching in East Germany, resurrecting the hateful rhetoric of Hitler. My heart goes out to these young people. They were raised in Marxist schools in a country that existed only as the surrogate of communist Russia. They were told that their past was evil...Germans were Nazis. Now, they are acting out what they were taught.

The only healing for Germany is in forgiving those in her past who have caused them to be branded as an evil nation, and being grateful to God for her holy heroes. I am praying for writers in Germany who will research these heroes and publish their stories. We have heard of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Basilea Schlink, but there must have been many more who stood against the evil.

I am also praying for new unity among the Body of Christ in Germany. As we traveled all over that country, we sensed that it is still deeply divided. Politicians cannot unite a country. But as Christians pray and agree in unity, God can truly unite Germany and bring another revival that will send out missionaries. I am praying for 10,000 Christ-like Germans to be sent out as missionaries. Then people all over the world will think of Germans on the basis of these role models. God's gifts and callings are without repentance. He still has an international destiny for Germany. Europe will not be healed until Germany is healed. Out of that healing will come revival that will spill out all over the world.

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