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MOVEMENT**



SOVEREIGNTY

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PLANTER INTERNATIONAL

**“RELIGION, ABOVE ALL THE OTHER AREAS OF
PEOPLE ACTIVITY **IMPACTS BLACK PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS.**”**

Sovereignty

Ronnie Vanderhorst

President of Seen Planter International

I want to thank you Dr. Freeman for this opportunity to be a part of this groundbreaking movement, The Liberation Movement, that you and your wife, Dr. Linda Freeman, is moving forward. I'm certain that all of us really appreciate this cathartic opportunity that we are receiving as we are engaging in these pertinent conversations. Yes, I did bring forth the issue of sovereignty in our very first session and there were varied responses on it. Of course, I didn't take it personally. However, there were responses, and I believe that to some extent, there was a misunderstanding, misinterpretation, and mischaracterization of what I said and meant, so I appreciate this opportunity to share. Dr. Desmond Tutu, the anti-apartheid activist, Anglican church bishop, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, contextualizes my reflective remarks. He said, "When the White missionary came to Africa, we had the land, and he had the Bible. He said, 'Let us pray,' and when we opened our eyes, he had the land, and we had the Bible." Thus began the hazardous intersection between white hegemony and black hyper vigilance, and this toxic relationship has not changed.

It's just more sophisticated and subtle. Mark those words, "sophisticated" and "subtle." Jim Crow is now J. Crow, Esq. He's exchanged a robe. Excuse me, he's exchanged a hood for a suit and a noose for a legislative position. That's the sophistication, but here's the subtle part. Back in 1945, Langston Hughes said,

"Racism was more overt, but then, it became covert to a certain extent." Then, he said, "All an individual has to do is subscribe

to the norms of the institution, and the institution will do the discriminating for them." Elder Neely Fuller Jr, who was the mentor of Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, our imminent woman psychiatrist and now ancestor, espouses nine areas of people activity. They are economics, education, entertainment, labor, media, politics, religion, sex, which is family, and war. Each of these areas of people's activity is institutional functionaries of white supremacy. Each of them "legally" barred African Black people from access to the services they provided for Whites in this country, but as Hughes posits, the systematic White supremacy that was blatantly and overtly perpetrated in the past is still in the DNA of each of these institutions, and it is impossible to extract 100% out of one's nature. For that to happen, it must be completely dismantled. That institution must be completely dismantled and rebuilt on a principled, moral, and humane foundation. If not, residue will always be found somewhere in its policies, protocols, practices, or it's White privilege, but for the sake of this summit, I'll focus my remarks on the institution of religion.

According to Dr. Tutu's quote, religion was used as a major and purposeful functionary of White supremacy global domination. Religion, above all the other areas of people activity, impacts Black people more than the others. To be sure, spirituality has always been an innate center of African Black life and well-being, but Western religious mercenaries, terrorists, labeled African spirituality as heathen,

demonic, satanic, and savages with no hope of salvation without White intervention. Therefore, ships named “Jesus” and “The Grace of God” docked on the shores of Africa taking enslaved African Black labor for White wealth. At the same time, the White oligarchy employed European theologians, the second estate, who then concocted so-called scriptural substantiation for the subjugation of African Black people by using willful theological misinterpretations and hermeneutical prostitution of selected Bible texts to replace African Black spirituality with a European system. The deliberate fixation of Heaven, force-fed to enslaved Africans, conveniently diverted away from their fleecing of Blacks on Earth. During the Berlin Conference in 1844, Europe sliced up Africa. The British got much of Southern Africa. The Germans got Namibia, and the Italians got Ethiopia. During that whole Conference from 1844-1845. Europe sliced up Africa, and it is evident to this day that they still have the land, and we still have only the Bible. Simultaneously, came the fleecing of African Black identity, and that is our core and is foundational to our Creator-endowed humanity. That obviously led to the fleecing of the African Black mind.

Bantu Steve Biko, the Azanian freedom fighter and journalist who was arrested and murdered in South African police custody during apartheid, said, “The greatest tool in the hand of the oppressor is the African mind.” Then, the venerable Dr. Carter G. Woodson taught us, “When you control a man's thinking, you don't have to worry about his actions. You don't have to tell him to stand here or go yonder. He will find his proper place and will stay in it. You don't have to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary.” This is nothing short of what Dr. Bobby Wright

terms in his book, *The Psychopathic Racial Personality*. He calls it “menticide” which is the deliberate and systematic destruction of a group's mind with the ultimate purpose being the extirpation of that group. I had to look up the word, “extirpation.” “Ex” means “out of.” “Stirps” is “the trunk or the roots of a tree.” It means to pull up the African mind by the roots, but let's stay here just for a moment longer dealing with the African Black mind for one more point.

The eminent African Black historian and ancestor, Dr. John Henrik Clark, informed us that Europeans not only colonized lands and peoples, but also, they also colonized information. Now enters education, another insidious functionary of White supremacy, and that also includes White-run religious and parochial schools where revisionist history highlights the superiority of Whites and the inferiority of Blacks from K to 12 and beyond. If that's not a mind job on African Black children and youth, after they pray and start class, then I don't know what it is. This onslaught also includes the fleecing of African Black language. Whenever a person's or people's language is replaced or disregarded, then that people can be defined and redefined, labeled, and categorized for willful and nefarious purposes. Enslaved and colonized with the unabated assaults to this very day by these nine areas of people activity, these institutions with religion at the forefront of the African Black identity, mind, and language and make us ripe candidates for three things that can bind us for life without a movement towards sovereignty. These three things are indoctrination, internalization, and institutionalization. Indoctrination, my brothers and sisters, is dangerous, but once a person is indoctrinated, and then we internalize it, it is not difficult for us to finally become institutionalized. You know, that's a prison mindset that is locked down, and it can happen for life, so when a person or a

collective is institutionalized in White supremacist constructs and institutions, it's difficult for them to get into movement even when it's against their own interests.

As my friend and mentor Dr. Jerome Crichton posits, "Those African Blacks display hypervigilance, and they will defend their own oppressors and colonizers even against their own people's interests and needs. They will attack or criticize their own people who advocate sovereignty even though they observe and hear the "isms," "ologies," and dog whistles of the identical twins that are mainstream America and mainstream Adventism, and that's not to mention witnessing the impotence and disempowerment of regional colonies in this religious system." Now, having said that, permit me to posit an analogy. What would you prefer? Would you prefer to live in an apartment or own your own house? Come on, be honest about that. What would you rather have? In my opinion, it actually comes to a choice between sharecropping or sovereignty. Richard Allen made a sovereign choice once he actually understood the effect of and impact of White supremacy and racism upon Blacks in his day, and he chose to finally own his own house because of the attitude and atmosphere of the religious institution that he rented all those years. He said, "Enough is enough." Listen, sovereignty is actually the logical and intentional response to Black African unfinished business. That's what it is. There is unfinished business that we have. In my reading of Dr. Ezra Aharone, and I'll give you those resources shortly, he said, "The Civil Rights Movement is still unfinished business." Now, Dr. Claude Anderson in his book, *Black Labor, White Wealth: The Search for Power and Economic Justice* basically said that the fault of King (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) and many during the Civil Rights Movement was that they didn't

have an economic plan, and they were depending on the good will of Whites, but the Civil Rights Movement is still unfinished business. Likewise, I posit to you that the so-called regional conferences still have unfinished business since its inception.

This hat in hand unfinished business was started based on a White supremacist system, but it's not done yet. It's in an incomplete stage of growth, and as I said, this hat in hand relationship with the dependency mentality is based on a system who will never relinquish their sovereignty or their reigns to power. White people have always had their own sovereign systems, and if you are affiliated with the right White run institution, religious or otherwise, then you are under their sovereignty, so the issue is not about really having or not having sovereignty. The issue is whose sovereignty will you be under? Will you continue to rent or own? Dr. Ezra Aharone at Delaware State University said in his book, *Sovereign Evolution*, "Sovereignty rights is a historical context that effectively confers us with just as much integrity and authority as any other person on Earth to espouse and employ sovereign standards for ourselves." Even for those who would resist sovereignty, the reality is that we will be under someone's sovereignty.

We will rent someone else's apartment because we definitely won't own their house, and they are not going to let us own it no matter how long or how hard or how incessant that you whine or complain about them. The best you may get is a little more square feet for your apartment. You might get one or two key positions under their sovereignty where many of you celebrate, but you ain't getting the keys to the house, and if they deem it necessary, they will put you out of the apartment that you have been renting because you don't own the deeds. You pay for the building fund. You borrow your own money back and pay interest on it, but you

don't own the deed. Maybe, I should have entitled my remarks, "Shut up and preach." However, in your own house, you have full and free use of your own money - all of it. You can carry out your own visions. You can honor, affirm, and place the women in your house, front and center, and not as placeholder preachers for masculine theology and its endeavors. An apartment or own your own home? Let me move to the end. Sovereignty is unfinished business, and like truth, it is not against people. Truth is against false doctrine, error, and false systems. Truth is always for people, and many of us understanding the truth should be recovering from hermeneutical interpretation for many things that were fed to us and taught to us.

Sovereignty is not against White people. They've always had their businesses, but please understand this, sovereignty, Black sovereignty, is not a new thing. It's not a new phenomenon. We've always had forerunners for sovereignty, African independence movements - Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Joseph Nyeri from Tanzania, and Patrice Lumumba from the Congo. We can go on and on and on even up to this very time of sovereign movement where we have the "sister" Prime Minister from Barbados (Mia Mottley) who is now saying to the Queen that you can't reign anymore. You can't be our Head of State anymore. Now, they're saying, "Not only must you leave being the Head of State, Queen Elizabeth, but we also want our republic, now. I'm decreeing that there will be sovereign ministries that will make movement out of money draining colonizing institutions. They will not replicate the institutions that don't value them. That model doesn't work. They will not duplicate their policies, procedures, practices, and male privileges.

This will not be some type of alternate denomination. They will choose not to be apartment dwellers anymore, but

homeowners. I decree that they will be spirited, Christ-centered organisms that are community centered as non-profit or for-profit businesses and other types of ministries with a Kingdom-first focus of the mandate of Luke 4:18 that provides hope, help, healing. I decree that, and it's already going on. It's happening now, and it can't be stopped. I'll say this, finally. Who is to say, or do you even know if what is being positive now is not a prophetic voice that's speaking? See, I don't believe that many people really understand or know about the prophetic voice that is to go on in these last days especially if your minds have been embalmed since 1844 as to what a prophetic voice entails, but who's to say that this is not a prophetic voice that is now espousing sovereignty? How will you even know if it is a prophetic voice? Has anybody ever taught you about a prophetic voice? Can you hear or discern what a prophetic voice actually is and what it will entail? Maybe, some of you may just look at just being disgruntled or just being upset with the White supremacist colonizing institution. Whatever the area of activity is, it ain't about that.

I know brothers and sisters who have made movement and are making movement, sovereign movements, under a sovereign Christ. See, it's the sovereignty of Christ that is above, and coming under that sovereignty of Christ, there is a sovereign movement. It happened back at the ascension of Christ. After He rose, the group was called "the way." Those were His followers. It was a sovereign movement. The veil had been ripped from top to bottom. It was 30 feet high. That veil was 4 inches thick, but it was ripped from top to bottom giving us access into the very presence of the Most High. The followers of Christ, the followers of Yeshua, the followers of "the way," did not go back to cutting the throats of lambs. They didn't go back under that system. They were under the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, a real spiritual

Kingdom, and let me throw this in for free. Heaven is not our home. It never was and never will be, and it's not even Scriptural. Heaven is a thousand-year vacation.

We have been made for Earth. We are not to try to have an escapist mentality or as one brother used the sports analogy. He said, "Yeah, Adventists are just trying to run out the clock." Heaven is not our home. We were brought here, committed, and created for Earth to prepare people to live here, not to escape the mandate of Luke 4:18. Our manifesto is to open the eyes of the blind, set the captives free, and break yokes here on Earth. We're not to escape. This is where the work is, and then, one day, it will transition into an Earth made new. We will still be here, and so those sovereign movements who are spirit-led, Christ-centered, Kingdom-focused who will not be restricted by the limited parameters of a system where so many have more abilities than the system even permits you to utilize in your employment. They will make kingdom movement and sovereignty, under the sovereignty of Christ, and will move forward in this Earth apartment or your own house. That is the question. Where there is life, there is hope, and hands that help are holier than lips that pray. Thank you.

Dr. Freeman

Thank you so much, Minister Vanderhorst. If you could see the comments are still going. This is so needed at this time about the notion of having sovereign ministries, and I think you've clarified for us what that may look like. Could you go a little deeper? You were saying that it could look like non-profit ministries rather than a new denomination. Could you continue to kind of paint that picture for us of what sovereignty would and could look like?

Ronnie Vanderhorst

I see sovereignty under the construct of what I call "specialty ministries" that focus specifically around the country on things that are community-based services and activities that are community based. For example, in maybe some city in California, that sovereign group would focus on legal business where they may be actually writing policies. It's holistic. It's not simply religious oriented. Sovereignty ministries will address all nine areas of people activity. That's it right there - all areas of people activity that restrict, denigrate, and deny African Black people in this country and even around the world. For example, I was talking to a brother, and he was talking about church planting. Now, you know I'm not against church planting, but I said, "Listen, my brother, instead of church planting, why don't you consider a community center plant? You know, this edifice mentality does not help their brothers and sisters in the village who are not coming to a church. I don't care whose church it is, but in a community center plant, you know you can have services like a daycare. There can be different services, and if you want to have a spiritual study or something like that or a service, so be it if that's what you want to do, but it's more holistic to the community, specialty businesses, and ministries around the country.

The last thing I'll say on that is I have a friend, Vin Phillip, who is an incredible thinker financially. He said, "Man, we need to flood the communities with non-profits because we can keep the money there, and we can keep the services there." I see all kinds of non-profit sovereign organizations all around this country doing Kingdom work.

Dr. Freeman

I could see someone asking if this is somewhat in competition with the denominational structure. I've heard the term "institutionalists." They don't want to step

away from the current structure. Where do you see these types of ministries in relation to official denominational structures.

Ronnie Vanderhorst

Well, first of all, it's okay if a person wants to stay under affiliations of wherever they are. It's fine. That's a personal choice. That's a personal decision. That's okay. However, in an apartment you're gonna rent. In an apartment, you're not going to have all that you need to do all that you know needs to be done especially in the Black village. You see, that's not the vision of White run institutions, but it's okay. It's some people's employment. They feel safe there and so forth. That's okay. No problem, and I will not criticize or condemn them for that. However, there's room for all of us, and there is not one entity that can cover all the Kingdom work that needs to be done. Basically, then, sovereign movements come alongside anybody who is simply trying to increase people's capacity for financial intelligence in the village and for therapy and family interventions. It's a coming alongside of something and not a competition with anybody.

Dr. Freeman

Definitely, thank you for clarifying that. Fawn Nicole Rhodes asked the question, "Can you explain for me here what Hebrews 13:14 said regarding 'but we seek the city that is to come.'?"

Ronnie Vanderhorst

Whenever we look at Scripture, and the doctor before me, Dr. Maponga, just, I mean, he laid it out, we have to look at context. What was going on? What was the situation? Who was saying it? Who were they saying it to or whatever? Aside from that, that was that person's perspective. That was what they posited, so to speak, but to take that and make that the central focus as if Heaven is the actual endgame or end goal, I don't think that

that is the contextual interpretation of that particular text. Hey, all of us want a vacation. It would be great. It would be nice after this "global reset," as my friend Dr. Nosakhere Thomas calls it, instead of a pandemic that we can get out again. You know, my family's itching to get back to the continent again. We all want a nice vacation. However, when she reads Revelation, it speaks about the Holy City descending, so Heaven won't even be the central location. The Earth made new is said to be the central location. I'm just simply saying we need to prepare people to live an abundant life here and then in the transition of the Earth made new, it can be eternal life, but it won't be an escape or pie in the sky by and by. Thank you. Thank you for the question.

Dr. Freeman

You also talked about some series of books related to sovereignty. What are those books and other resources that may be helpful for people as they think about developing maybe even their own sovereign ministries or organizations?

Ronnie Vanderhorst

I'll just give you three from the same author, Dr. Ezra Aharone. He's a professor at Delaware State University. He is an incredible thinker. In fact, he consults with many African countries as it pertains to sovereignty, but one of his books is entitled, *The Sovereign Evolution*. You can start with that one to get the context of it. His other book is called *Pawned Sovereignty*, and his third book is *The Sovereign Psyche*. In the beginning of his book, he quoted something Winston Churchill said way back during the war. He said, "The empires of the future will become the empires of the mind, and if Europeans can conquer the empire of the mind, then they will guarantee sovereignty for themselves." So, you have *The Sovereign*

Evolution. You have *Pond Sovereignty*, and you have *The Sovereign Psyche* by Dr. Ezra Aharone. Just those three books right there will set anybody up for a cogent understanding and a holistic understanding of sovereignty.

Dr. Freeman

Yes, we actually have those books on our book list. If you go to drsidneyfreemanjunior.com and go to the tab,

Liberation Movement, you'll find those three books as a part of our book list. Minister Vanderhorst, we thank you so much for sharing your thoughts around sovereignty. We're gonna now ask Pastor Souffrant to come and give us a response with regard to what we just heard.

Minister Ronnie Vanderhorst: President of Seen Planter International and Lead Facilitator/Trainer of Prepare Our Youth, Inc.

Reference

1. Vanderhorst, R. (2021). Sovereignty. In S. Freeman, Jr. (Eds.), *Decolonizing the Black Mind. The Liberation Movement, Inc. 1, 1-8*. www.the-liberation-movement.com