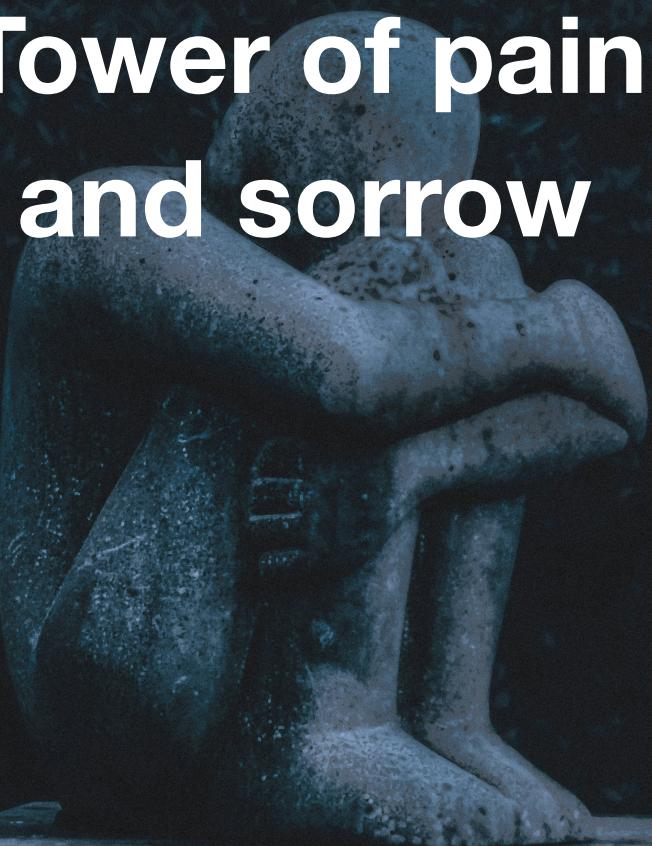


# Iran - Tower of pain and sorrow



**Rev Jim Smith**



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jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk  
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*This is a very unusual tower, revealed in a unique and painful way. Trying to understand this tower has not been and is not easy. I have done the best I can. My conviction is that those called to deepest intercession will understand.*

Rev Jim has been an Anglican pastor for 55 years and involved in intercession for over 40 of those. Recently he has been developing his “towers of intercession” ministry and is searching for individuals who are deep in the intercessory stream and who would be willing to hear what the Lord is saying to them about intercession and Iran. Jim and his wife Mary live by faith and ask for nothing.

# Introduction

*Often, we will say I will follow you but let's not speak of the cross. When we journey without the cross, we are not disciples, we are worldly.*

## The tower is born

Here is the story of how I found this tower.

For weeks I had been feeling sorrow in my heart, but I did not know why. I tried to push it away, but it kept coming back. This sorrow invaded me everywhere - in the shops, in the house, at the football, in church - everywhere. Then this happened: -

*I woke up in the early hours of the morning with intense pain in my body. It was the most intense pain I had ever felt. Nothing I could do would ease it and I became desperate. My wife prayed for me and as she did, I felt a slight easing. "I am going to send out a request for prayer on WhatsApp," she said and went to the room next door to use her phone. She had been gone no more than a minute.*

*In that minute, I recalled intercessors of the past – Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, John of the cross, Alexandrina da Costa - how they all felt the burden of intercession in their physical bodies. I asked the Lord "What am I bearing?" He replied – "The intercessory tower in Iran."*

*Immediately the pain eased, and I was stronger. When Mary returned, she could not believe the difference. “The Lord has spoken,” I said.*

(I have written more extensively about this experience in the material “The Saturday Miracle” available soon on our website.)

At the time of writing, the towers ministry is 1 year old. I have written about many towers and visited Singapore as part of this ministry. But nothing has come close to the pain and sorrow I felt for this tower. I will try to describe the tower as best I can.

The towers are spiritual and are dealing with spiritual issues. They are not political statements. I am aware of what is happening in the middle east, and these events will have an effect on intercession, but I am writing about spiritual issues.

# **Chapter 1. How the towers ministry started**

## **Still Waters to la Verna and beyond**

The towers ministry really began 20 years ago. My house is on the top of a hill looking over the South Downs (in the U.K) towards the sea. Early one morning I saw a light high up on the Downs and although I tried to convince myself it was the reflection from a windscreen of a car, I knew it was not. One of my closest friends, who was very experienced in intercession said that she thought I had seen the light of the Holy Spirit and that we should pray. Out of that prayer time came the vision of Still Waters - a small intercessory group which would meet to pray.

We managed to find four others to join us and one morning we sat in a room with 6 chairs with no idea what to do. Week by week we met and slowly we began to understand how to intercede. Over 2 years we learned a great deal - almost all by experience.

That group eventually closed, and I began to read and study the great intercessors of the last thousand years. I thought I had completed what I had to do, then one day the Lord said to me - "I want you to go to Geneva." So I went but I couldn't understand why. Standing one day outside the headquarters of the International Red Cross buildings, which are based in Geneva, the Lord said to me, "They started small and your intercession experience is small. But like them you will grow. Follow the thread I will show you throughout Europe."

Over the next years I visited many holy places in Europe and at each place, my intercessory experience did grow. Finally, after many years I came to La Verna. This is the mountain about two hours from Florence where Saint Francis received the stigmata. There is a monastery there and in it is the “Chapel of the stigmata”. I knelt there for an hour in prayer. “Now,” said the Lord, “I have told you what you need to know about intercession. Wait for my command.”

The years passed and I had almost forgotten this experience when in response to the situation in Gaza, I started a four-night prayer series on the internet and from that the towers ministry began to grow.

## **Who will stand in the tower?**

When the war between Israel and Gaza broke out in 2023/4, I was working on my mission base in Ghana. I held a four-session prayer time over a month for this war. About 10 people joined me online and 35 on catchup. As the prayer times began, I became aware that something unusual was happening during them and especially at the last one. In the final prayer time, the Lord told us that he was going to stand in the middle of the conflict area and asked which of us would stand with him. “We need a tower of intercession,” I said, “Who will occupy it with the Lord?” As so often in intercession, I did not know what I was really asking for. Some of the group said they would stand in the tower. I thought that was the end of it. I was soon to discover it was far from the end of it.

During the subsequent weeks the Lord began to show me that a tower of intercession was a very strong spiritual presence, and that the tower in the Middle East would last until he returned. I asked him if there were any other such towers, and quickly he showed me many. Each one had a specific name reflecting its function.

## **Early one morning**

I woke up in the early hours of one morning and the atmosphere in my room was one I had never experienced before. There was utter stillness – a stillness which I could almost feel. I sat there wondering what was happening. Then the Lord spoke to me and said, “I’m going to show you a worldwide network of intercession. You must act!” While I was thinking about this during the next few days, the towers of intercession began to show themselves - Singapore and Hawaii being some of the first ones. This was a new experience for me. I could not understand how someone with no influence, no power and little financial resource could in any way influence a worldwide ministry. I didn’t choose this path. The Lord opened it for me.

## Chapter 2. Biblical sorrow

**Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him.** (Genesis 37:34-35)

### Surrounded by sorrow

The beginning of my experience was the overwhelming of sorrow in my life. I should not have been taken by surprise with the sorrow. St. Paul of the Cross, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian, wrote this – *“We must contemplate Jesus engulfed in an ocean of sorrow to save us from the eternal abyss.”* I began to pray and study what the Bible taught about sorrow as a background to deeper understanding.

### The Lord knew deep sorrow

**Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”**  
(Matthew 26:36-38)

“Sorrow” in the Greek is “Perilupos” - translated more deeply as “surrounded by sorrow”. It brings an awareness of imminent peril, desperate circumstances and hopelessness. No matter which way it is taken, sorrow is, as one theologian wrote: - “grey slipping into black”. This kind of sorrow is extremely dangerous as the only way forward seems to be imminent death. Julian of Norwich certainly felt this way: –

*“After this the upper part of my body began to die, so far forth that scarcely I had any feeling; - with shortness of breath. And then I weened in sooth to have passed.”*

Another bible student described it as “crushing.” That exactly describes how I felt. Sorrow was overwhelming all my faith. Its darkness was enfolding me and crushing me to death. After the event, I realised what a privilege this was but at the time, I found any sense of purpose hard to find.

## **Common experience**

This experience is very common in the intercessory stream at the deeper levels. Marthe Robin, the French intercessor wrote this, which captures something of what it like to enter this battle zone; –

*I am yours Jesus in the cross and enjoy in cruel trials and sharpest pain. It is sweet to suffer when it is a sacrifice to you. Painful torments enter my soul but increasingly I repeat “I thank you my Saviour.”*

Alexandrina da Costa, the Portuguese intercessor wrote -

*“An invisible force is dragging me. I am falling deep into the ground. I am dead. I have no life but I know all is well - it is your divine love that leads me. I trust Jesus. I trust you”.*

This is a tough place for intercessors to come to, but it is one of the greatest honours. To be allowed to feel as Jesus feels at the very depths of existence, is a great privilege even as it is a great agony.

### **Jesus - a man of sorrows**

**He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. (Isaiah 53:3)**

Jesus knew sorrow and it was prophesied in Isaiah. This Old Testament prophecy is very profound. The Lord's sorrow is set in the framework of rejection. The Lord felt the pain of creation - the emptiness and bewilderment it experienced as it tried to live without its creator. He took that burden into himself. It generated the emotion of sorrow: - sorrow at the loss, sorrow at the waste, sorrow at the empty pathways in which creation has chosen to walk.

Yet all this sorrow was wasted on a creation that despised and rejected him. The crushing burden of that was great and was a foreshadowing of what would happen in the garden of Gethsemane: - “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”

(Matthew 26:38)

**Sorrow is a key part of the Iran tower, so I suppose it was to be expected that it would first of all become a key part of my life. Any who intercede in this tower are going to have the same experience.**

## Chapter 3. The prophetic framework of this tower

**Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.**

**The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.”**

(Matthew 13:24-8)

Every tower is set in a spiritual and prophetic environment. The more intercessors understand this, the better equipped they will be to pray. What is the prophetic environment of this tower?

### **There has been a failure to watch**

*I saw a huge reservoir, but it was broken and empty. The people were crying out for water and grieving that their dam was broken.*

*“What is this?” I asked the Lord. “Who broke the dam?” Tears streamed down the Lord’s face, but he gave me no answer. Then I knew that his people, had broken this dam and lost the life-giving water.*

*As I watched, a few people came with old tools and began to try and rebuild the dam. It was a slow job because they were few and their tools were old. But they were strong old tools which had been used many times in the past for this job.*

*As they worked, they were filled with sorrow at the loss of the water and the destruction of the dam. What they did not see as they worked was tiny drops of rain beginning to fall, forming a tiny lake in the reservoir. This reservoir had a name. "Hope of new beginnings."*

### **The enemy has been at work slowly destroying all that is of God**

The enemy has been destroying the intercessory stream for years. Here is my vision: -

*The Lord called the Prophet into the desert, where he saw the Lord brushing away the sand with his hands. The Prophet looked into the ground where the Lord had swept away the sand and saw hundreds of lamps. Most of them were damaged beyond repair. One or two were still intact, but they had stopped working many years ago. "What is this?" asked the Prophet.*

*"These were my Intercessors," said the Lord. "They tried to stay alight, but the sand swept over them and buried them. Now they no longer shine or give warning."*

*“Why did the people allow this to happen?” asked the Prophet. “They needed the light which these lamps gave them. Because they didn’t care,” he said. “And can they be relit?” asked the Prophet, “for now the people need their light.” There was no reply.*

If these visions are of the Lord, then clearly within the prophetic environment there has been a failure of intercessory watchfulness and endurance.

### **Spiritual powers have invaded**

What spiritual powers might be found in this environment? Intercessors are often slow to name them but here are some: -

#### **Goliath – dominate by fear**

Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. (1 Samuel 17:10-11)

Goliath uses his power and strength to dominate God’s people and fill them with fear.

#### **Nebuchadnezzar - dominate by unquestioning and violence-threatened obedience**

“Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (Daniel 3:6)

This is typical of aggressive demonic forces. Obedience is demanded, backed up by violence and severe threat.

## **Molech – using occult powers against God’s people**

Then he took his firstborn son, who was to succeed him as king, and offered him as a sacrifice on the city wall.  
(2 Kings 3:27)

Use of occult practices – curses, spells, divination and aggressive assault are regularly found where the church is in difficulty.

## **The beast – Counterfeit and deception**

“The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

People worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”” (Revelation 13:2-4)

Deception by counterfeit is a common practice in the forces which oppose the Lord. They deceive by using the very things which bless - healing, the Lord’s resurrection, eternity – and twist them into deceptions.

These forces and others have managed to get unopposed access to the environment of Iran. How?

## **The sentinels were asleep**

**Take care and be on guard for yourselves and for the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd (tend, feed, guide) the church of God which He bought with His own blood.**  
(Acts 20:28)

I was studying Charles Spurgeon and I came across these words: -

*"When a sentinel is set upon the watch, he must not come off without the commander's leave, and till he is discharged by authority. God hath set us in a watch, and we must not leave our ground till we have done all that is enjoined upon us and receive a fair discharge."*

In the prophetic environment, I sensed that the sentinels of the land were asleep, and the enemy advanced first by stealth and then by open aggression. When the sentinels woke up, the weeds were already growing among the wheat. The sentinels were called to eternal watching, but they failed in their task, for whatever reason.

The enemy never sleeps and took his chance. Now he exalts himself and boasts of eternal victory over God's people. Here is a vision of what the prophetic environment might look like – or become like.

*Everywhere the Lord looked he saw destruction. Churches, once strong were now empty, or being used to worship another god. Pastors who had exalted themselves had been brought low, and their faith found to be empty. Many who once worshipped the Lord had changed their allegiance to another god, finding it easier to surrender than fight. The heritage had been destroyed. Many young people just transferred their faith to another god or gave up altogether in despair. True prophecy was ruined. Intercessors died, and there was no one to replace them.*

*Despair ruled the nation with an iron hand. The freedoms which once were a blessing were gone. Now there was no deliverance from the burdens of guilt and sin which once had been so freely removed by the love of the Lord. Now the lands groaned under the burden of hopelessness. Now there was no escape from the fear of death.*

## Chapter 4. Rooms

As I have studied the towers and have tried to understand their character, I have used the picture of rooms. These rooms equip the intercessors for their work from the top of the tower. Teresa of Avila also did this in her book “The interior castle.” The rooms equip the intercessors for their task. What are the rooms in this tower?

### Room - Sorrow

**Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”**

(Matthew 26:38)

Intercessors in this tower have to learn to feel the real sorrow the Lord has for the land. It has to be in the emotions and not the head or the intellect. I found this very costly and others who come after me, will also find it very costly.

### Room - the cross

**And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.**

(John 12:32)

*Often, we will say I will follow you but let's not speak of the cross. When we journey without the cross, we are not disciples, we are worldly. (Pope Francis)*

In this room, intercessors must arm themselves with the power of the cross. Nothing else can give them the strength to face the sorrow and disruption they will feel as they intercede. The cross is powerful. With its power, impossible circumstances can be turned round. Strong enemies can be defeated. Huge advances can take place. If intercessors draw their strength from the cross, then anything is possible. Here are some of the themes which can be found in the cross.

\* **Release.** “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

The power of the cross is a key. It opens the prison doors and lets the prisoners out. One terrorist who had been fighting and killing for years said this: - “I have fought for decades to set my people free from tyranny. I thought violence was the way. But when I read the Bible and saw the power of the cross, I gave my life to Jesus. Now I know what true freedom is!”

\* **Breaks every curse.** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:13)

No chains are left to hold us back. Curses - old and new - are broken forever and the enemy has no further hold over any nation.

Watchman Nee tells this story. “One day the enemy came to accuse a man of many sins and failings.

But as he began to accuse and curse, the Lord came to stand beside the man. “What are you accusing me of?” he asked. “What are your curses against me?” “Not you,” said the enemy, “but that sinner who is standing beside you.” “No,” replied the Lord. “It doesn’t work like that. He is mine, so it is me you have to accuse and curse. What were you saying again?” The enemy withdrew, defeated. He knew he could not accuse the one who had shed his blood to break every curse.

\* **Opens the new way.** “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”  
(John 14:6)

The cross not only opens the prison doors, but it also leads into new pathways of healing and service. Any land can be free and become a Pentecost land where the Spirit flows in power.

\* **Makes us conquerors.** “Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:15)

A Catholic Priest came to his new Parish. As he talked to one man, suddenly a strange voice came out of the man. “We control this town,” it said. The Priest was amazed. He had never heard such a thing before. “I am going to preach the blood of the cross,” the Priest said, “And you will be defeated.” “We know,” the voice replied. “That is what we are afraid of.” By the power of the cross, we can take back the land which the enemy has stolen.

## Top of the tower - A vision of hope

*I saw the Lord, and as he moved among the people, one by one they reached out to him. “Lord,” they said “save us. We are your people. We have strayed from you. Now we need you so badly - just you. We want you not for what we can take, but because you are Lord, the only one who can save and help us.”*

*The Lord began to cry because of the state of the people. “I never wanted you to come to this,” he said. “I tried over and over again to warn you. But you would not listen.” The people cried in pain and reached out their hands for the Lord. He came, and one by one he lifted them up and placed them behind him.*

*Slowly the number behind him grew, and they began to call to the others - “Reach for the hand of the Lord. Reach for the hand of the Lord.” More and more came to him, and I saw in them a new heart - one that worshipped and did not take. But I also saw that it would take a long time for this suffering heart to regain the soul of the nation.*

*The people saw that there was hope, and there was a future, but the path to it was going to be hard, and they did not know how to take it. They were lonely and without leaders, for those who should have led them were no longer able to help, for they too had lost their way.*

## Personal note

I found the birth of this tower intensely painful, and it has not been easy to describe it. Intercessors will have to be full of pain and sorrow as they intercede for this land. It's a very tough assignment.

I hope I've managed to sketch out the framework for intercessors to enter into and explore the necessary intercession for themselves. I have to trust the Sovereign Lord to do with this whatever seems right to him.

I think in this material I have been living this vision: -

*I was in the Spirit, and I saw a column of glass, coming towards me. It was so pure that its purity frightened me. Closer and closer it came, until the purity of the column pierced my soul, and I felt so ashamed, so sinful, so unworthy. I cried out to the Lord “What is happening?” The Lord said, “Only as you become purer, as your heart becomes purer can you come closer and closer. It is going to be costly. It is going to be a joy.”*

It has been both.

# Resources

I have written two documents which might be helpful. They are called “**Deeper intercession**” and “**Deepest level of intercession.**” This material is free from the LIBRARY page of our website.

Many individual towers and other material is free to download from our website -

**[www.unshakeable-towers.org](http://www.unshakeable-towers.org)**

## **The 5 session video series**

There is also a video teaching series and videos on individual towers. Each of the videos available on YouTube feature Rev Jim Smith speaking about different aspects of the towers ministry. They last approximately 30 minutes and they are a good introduction to this work. They are linked to the chapters in the material “The towers ministry” which is available from the website.

- Video 1.** INTRODUCTION AND LIFE IN THE TOWERS
- Video 2.** THE ETERNAL & PROPHETIC FRAMEWORK OF THE TOWERS
- Video 3.** HOW TO INTERCEDE IN THE TOWERS
- Video 4.** LOOKING INTO A TOWER - ENGLAND
- Video 5.** WHEN INTERCESSORS FAIL

This material is free to watch on the towers YouTube page

**- unshakeable towers**



**Jim Smith writes - “I have been an Anglican Pastor in the UK for over 55 years, and involved in intercession for over 40 of those. and I serve also as a missionary in Ghana. Recently I have been learning about towers of intercession - special places in the world where intense intercession is needed.”**



Rev Jim is searching for individuals who are deep in the intercessory stream who be willing to hear what the Lord is saying to him about intercession.

In this this book Jim Smith lays out an outline of the main teaching on the background of the Iran tower.

*Also in this series:*

**The Towers.** Here Jim Smith explains how the towers material came into being and looks at much greater depth at what intercession is and how it might work within the towers.

**The Singapore tower.** In this material Jim Smith takes a look at what the tower in Singapore might look like.

**The England Tower.** In this material Jim Smith explores what the England tower might be like and how intercessors might enter, repair and use it.

**Blazing Fire.** In this this book Jim Smith explores what the Blazing tower might be like and what intercessors will find there.

**Ascending the hill.** Jim Smith explains how intercession develops in the heart of a Christian and what it means for them.

Visit our website for this and much more material  
and video teaching

**[www.unshakeable-towers.org](http://www.unshakeable-towers.org)**