

Call to Worship

“We are God’s people. How good it is that we have all come – women and men, young and old – to worship God who creates us; how good it is that we are gathered to meet Jesus Christ – God’s living word; how good it is that we seek together signs of the Holy Spirit, whom we cannot catch or subdue. Come, let us worship God.”

Psalm 96 1-6

Worship in the Splendor of Holiness

- 96** Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

* Invocation (Ating panawagan sa Diyos)

*We lift up our eyes to the Hills, from where does our help comes?
“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”* Psalm 124:8

* God’s Greeting (Pag-Bati sa Iglesya mula sa Diyos)

Colossians 1: 1-2

- 1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To the saints and faithful brothers^[a] in Christ at Colossae: (And now here at ZCRC)
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

* Opening Prayer

* **Song of Praise** “Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise” (Psalm 96) #187:1-2, 5-6



Scripture Texts

Joshua 21:43, 45

⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. . ⁴⁵ Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Judges 21:25

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

2 Chronicles 36:15-20

¹⁵ The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy. ¹⁷ Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸ And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹ And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels. ²⁰ He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

Psalms 78:56-72

Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God
and did not keep his testimonies,
⁵⁷ but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers;
they twisted like a deceitful bow.
⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places;
they moved him to jealousy with their idols.
⁵⁹ When God heard, he was full of wrath,
and he utterly rejected Israel.
⁶⁰ He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh,
the tent where he dwelt among mankind,
⁶¹ and delivered his power to captivity,
his glory to the hand of the foe.
⁶² He gave his people over to the sword
and vented his wrath on his heritage.
⁶³ Fire devoured their young men,

and their young women had no marriage song.
⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows made no lamentation.
⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
like a strong man shouting because of wine.
⁶⁶ And he put his adversaries to rout;
he put them to everlasting shame.
⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph;
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loves.
⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,
like the earth, which he has founded forever.
⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
⁷¹ from following the nursing ewes he brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.
⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.

Isaiah 6:4, 7-8

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

* **Song of Preparation** "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire" #376:1-4

The Church Part Six: God's Holy Nation in the Promised Land

Joshua 21:43, 45; Judges 21:25; 2 Chronicles 36:15-20; Psalm 78:56-72; Isaiah 6:4, 7-8

Rev. Nollie Malabuyo • August 6, 2023

Mga Kapatid, Mayroong isang "quote" ang isang kilalang mangangaral at theologian ng ating panahon. Na nagsabi sa wikang ingles: **"a future salvation of a generation of Jews that will fulfill all divine promises given to them by God."** At binigyang diin pa nya ito sa kanyang lecture na may mapangahas na pamagat na : **"Why Every Self-**

Respecting Calvinist Is a Premillennialist". Bakit natin nasabing mapangahas ito? Dahil itinuturo nito na ang "Israel" ay sya pa din at mananatiling "God's Chosen People" ngayon. At maging si John Calvin ay malamang na mar-react kung ito ay kanyang maririnig.

The Bible is clear that God's chosen people and nation **has always been his elect from Genesis to Revelation** from all nations, peoples, and languages, Jews and Gentiles alike. The Apostle Paul writes that **our Lord Jesus Christ has broken down the wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles** and now there is one people of God (Eph 2:14-17). And in Galatians 3:29, all true Christians are **the true children of Abraham and heirs of all the promises God gave to him**. Maging ang ating text sa Joshua 21 nabasa natin na natupad na ang lahat ng pangako ng Diyos sa mga Israelita. It says there in v45 that : **"Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass"** (v 45).

Sa katunayan , sa loob ng 40 taun sa Wilderness mula sa Egypt hanggang Canaan, ang mga israelita ay hindi naging tapat, masuwayin, at walang contentment. Sa kabila nito hinayaan pa din ng Diyos na ang ikalawang henerasyon ng mga israelita ay mag-mana ng Lupang pangako. They conquered it and settled in it, but the cycle of unbelief, judgment, restoration continued for nine centuries from the time of the conquest to their destruction by the Babylonians. **God was extremely patient with them for many, many generations**. But Israel as **God's holy nation was merely a foretaste of the church, God's holy nation throughout Biblical history. And the ultimate Promised Land for God's people is not earthly, but heavenly**.

Kaya mga kapatid, sa ika-amin na serye ng ating sermon ngayong umaga, Ipagpapatuloy po natin ang pagaaral patungkol sa Iglesya ng ating Panginoon. Na may pamagat na **God's Holy Nation in the Promised Land**, at dito po ay mayroon tayong tatlong sermon points , una, **The Holy Nation Received All of God's Promises;** ikalawa, **Yet They Tested and Rebelled Against God;** at ika-tatlo, **Still, God Has Prepared yet a Final Promised Land**.

Bago po nating i-meditate ang 3 sermons points, tayo po muna ay manalangin

Heavenly Father, open the mouth of thy servant, and fill it with thy wisdom and knowledge, that I may boldly proclaim Thy word in all its purity. Prepare our hearts to receive it, to understand it, and to preserve it. Inscribe Thy law, as thou hast promised, upon the tablet of our heart, and give us the desire and the strength to walk in the ways of thy precepts, to the praise of Thy name and to the edification of the Church. All this, gracious Father, we implore in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord- Amen

The Holy Nation Received All of God's Promises (Ang Banal na Bayan na tumanggap ng lahat ng pangako ng Diyos)

When we studied God's covenant with Abraham, we learned of God's covenant promises to our forefather. In Genesis 12:1-7, God made three promises. First, The Lord will make Abraham's descendants a great nation coming all peoples, tribes and languages on earth, so his

name will be forever known (2). Second, God will cause Abraham to be a blessing to all the families and nations of the earth (3). And third, God will give Canaan, the land on which Abraham dwelt, to his descendants (7).

Nuong unang tinawag ng Diyos si Abram, sya kasama ang kanyang ama at sambahayan sa lugar ng Haran na ngayon ay nasa timog silangan ng bansang Turkey. Ang kanyang sambahayan ay binubuo ng maraming mga lalaki at ng kani-kanilang pamilya. Sumalit kung ang mismong pamilya ni Abram ay sadyang maliit lamang, sya ang kanyang asawang si Sarah at ang pamamankin na si Lot. Bagamat may anak sya kay Hagar, ang covenant son na ibinigay ng Diyos sa kanya ay si Isaac, kaya sya ay may dalawang anak, apo na sila Jacob & Esau at ang 12 apo sa tuhod na kinilala bilang 12 tribes of Israel.

Puntahan naman po natin sa Jacob na kanyang apo kay Isaac, Nuong si Jacob at ang buong sambahayan ay nanirahan sa Egypt sa panahon ng tag-gutom, ang kanyang sambahayan ay mayroong 70 miyembro, Matapos ang 430 taun sa Ehipto, ang kanyang descendants ay lumago sa 600,000. Ang unang pangako ng Diyos kay Abraham na dumami ang kanyang lahi na sing dami ng bituin sa langit at buhangin sa tabing dagat ay pawang natupad. At nuong ang mga Israelita ay nakatakas mula sa pagka-alipin sa ehipto, sila ay nagsama-sama sa harapan ng Diyos sa Mount Sinai, at duon ipinahayag ng Diyos ang pagpapasinaya ng Israel bilang kanyang banal na bayan. Exodus 19:6-6 says. ***“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”***

In a repeating cycle of disobedience, punishment, and restoration, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the gates of the Promised Land at the River Jordan. Before they crossed the river, the LORD renewed his covenant with them, promising them that he would give the land to them, ***“a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you”*** (Deut 27:3). Tunay po na ang Diyos ay tapat at totoo sa kanyang ipinangako kay Abraham.

Therefore, after the Israelites entered Canaan, God gave them victory after victory over all the nations in the land. They met defeat only when they were disobedient to God’s commandments. The whole Book of Joshua is an account of the **conquest(pananakop)**, **division(paghahati-hati)**, and **settlement(pagsasa-ayos)** of the land God gave to them. Each of the twelve tribes were allotted their inheritance according to God’s instructions. Then, in our reading on Joshua 21, there is this summary of the LORD’s faithfulness to his promises, ***“Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass”*** (43, 45). Hindi kailanman nakalimot ang Diyos ni isang titik o salita man sa kanyang mga pangako sa kanyang bayan, Mula sa mabubuting pangako nya kay Abraham maging kay Moses, Joshua at sa lahat ng Israelita, **nananatili syang tapat.**

Yet They Tested and Rebelled Against God (Sa Kabila nito, sila ay sinubok at sila ay lumaban sa Diyos)

Sa ikalawa pong bahagi nga sermon, isa sa ating text sa Psalm 78 ating makikita ng mga mabubuting bagay na ginawa at ibinigay ng Diyos sa mga israelita habang sila ay nasa wilderness at maging duon sa lupang pangako. We remember that The LORD God performed wonders for them when they were still slaves in Egypt. When they were wandering in barren deserts for 40 years, **God provided food and drink for them, shielding them from the heat of the day by a pillar of cloud, and guiding their way through the darkness of night by a pillar of fire.** But they “still sinned” and “rebelled” against God (17, 32, 40, 56). They easily forgot how God was **loving, merciful** and **patient** with them over and over again. They were a stubborn lot.

After they settled in the Promised Land, their cycle of **rebellion, punishment, and restoration** did not end. Their depravity came to an ultimate wickedness when men of the tribe of Benjamin violated a Levite’s concubine, cut her into pieces, and sent the pieces to all Israel. So all the other tribes of Israel destroyed the tribe of Benjamin in a civil war. Therefore, at the end of the Book of Judges, we read this conclusion, *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes”* (21:25).

Matapos po ang mga Hukom, Nag appoint naman ang Diyos ng mga Hari upang mamahala sa mga tao. Subalit kaparehong kasalanan pa din ang sumira sa Israel sa ilalim nga pamamahala ng mga hari. Sa katunayan, mismong mga hari ang gumagawa ng labas sa Diyos, Leading the people into DEPRAVITY. Sa panahon ni propeta AMOS, mabababasa natin ang dami ng account ng kasamaan nagaganap. Israel had peace and prosperity, with an extremely wealthy class (6:4-6). But the rich and powerful abused and oppressed the poor (2:7; 8:6). The people committed sexual immorality, including incest (2:7; Ezk 22:11). The culture was about **corruption, greed** and **consumption**, maging ang panahon ng Sabbath ay ipinagpapalit sa pangangalakal (ch 8:5). Places of worship became places of idolatry (4:4). They even offered their children as burnt sacrifices to pagan gods (2 Kgs 23:10). Ang kanilang kinikilalang Shepherds yung mga priests and kings—sila ay nagpapataba lamang ng kanilang katawan habang ang mga flocks ay nagugutom at nagkakawala. Kung mababasa po natin ang Ezekiel 34:1-10 makikita natin ang kasamaan ng mga “priests” & “Kings” They ruled the sheep with harshness and violence.

All of these religious and social sins are familiar with us in our own nation. We have peace and prosperity that no other nation in the world enjoys, with an extremely wealthy class of movie and sports celebrities, businesspeople, and politicians. According to *Forbes Magazine*, there are over 700 billionaires in the United States, but there are about 12 percent of Americans in poverty, which means 38 million people do not have enough food on the table. (Sexual immorality is off the charts and beyond our wildest imagination.) Rich and poor alike **regard the Lord’s Day as nothing**, (wallowing in idolatry by worshiping celebrities, money, pleasures, and possessions. Children as burnt sacrifices to this idolatry? Yes, and not merely a few like the Israelites did, but over 600,000 every year, with over 63 million since 1973! The holocaust is as nothing compared to this wicked murder and idolatry.)

The prophets of the LORD warned the Israelites throughout their tenure in the Promised Land that judgment is coming to them unless they repent of their sins and turn back. But the warnings fell on deaf ears. Kaya po sa huli , dumating ang pag-hatol ng Diyos ng sakupin ng Assyria at Babilonia ang bayan ng Israel at winasak nito ang mga templo at ginawang mga alipin at itinaboy ang mga mamamayan nito.

As our nation continues to wallow in sin, ang tanung po ay , **maaubos ba ng pasensya ng Diyos sa kasamaang ito?** We now come to the last sermon point to get an answer to that question.

Still, God Has Prepared Yet a Final Promised Land (Ang Diyos pa din ang nag-handa ng tunay at ganap na Lupang pangako)

Dalawa sa mga pangako ng Diyos kay Abraham ay natupad na, Dumami ang kanyang lahi mula kay Jacob. Ibinigay din ng Diyos sa mga israelita ang lupain ng Canaan , ang lupang panagko. (the land of Milk & Honey). Papaano naman po ang ikatlong pangako na gagawin si Abraham bilang pagpapala sa lahat ng Bayan sa mundo? Basahin po natin ang Genesis 12: 2-3 (Ang Bibliya 2001)

“ 2 Gagawin kitang isang malaking bansa, ikaw ay aking pagpapalain, gagawin kong dakila ang iyong pangalan, at ikaw ay magiging isang pagpapala. 3 Pagpapalain ko ang magbibigay ng pagpapala sa iyo, at susumpain ko ang mga susumpa sa iyo; at sa pamamagitan mo ang lahat ng angkang sa lupa ay pagpapalain.”

This promise was not fulfilled until the **fullness of time when the Son of God came into the world clothed in human nature**. Paul says in Galatians 3:16, *“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring... who is Christ.”* Only through Christ will God fulfill his promises to Abraham of a multitude of descendants in all nations. **Those who are saved by faith alone in Christ alone** will come from all nations, peoples and languages. Only then will God’s promise to Abraham that **he would be a blessing to all the nations of the world be fulfilled**. Therefore, in Galatians 3:29, Paul declares, “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” All of us who are united to Christ in his death to sin and resurrection to eternal life, Jews and Gentiles alike, will receive our eternal inheritance.

Brothers & sisters, **This eternal inheritance is what the Promised Land looks forward to**. Canaan was merely a foretaste and a shadow of the heavenly land that awaits all of his people, **Ang tunay na Iglesya. Ang tunay na Israel ng Diyos (ayon sa Gal 6:16)**. Paul says in Ephesians 1:11, *“In him [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance.”* Ang mana na ito ay ang new heaven at ang new earth na inihanda ni Kristo para sa kanyang kaharian matapos syang umakyat sa langit. (na pinatotohanan sa atin ng Rev 21:1-4; John 14:2). On Judgment Day, our Lord will be seated on his throne and gather all people before him, the sheep and the goats. Then he will say to his sheep, *“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt 25:34).

Dear friends: You, the church of all true believers in Christ, are God's holy nation and treasured possession among all the peoples of the earth. You have been chosen to inherit his kingdom before the foundation of the world. Even in this sinful vale of tears full of afflictions, sufferings and persecution, we have the Holy Spirit to help us, to comfort us. This is our own pilgrimage even in this age when we see only a glimpse of your kingdom from afar, just as **Abraham saw only a glimpse of the true Promised Land while he already dwelt in Canaan.** Let us fully hope and trust in God that he will soon reveal his glorious, eternal kingdom that awaits us when Christ, our blessed hope, appears to us a second time.

Tayo po ay manalangin..

Dakila naming Diyos, salamat sa katotohanang nahayag minsan pa sa amin kalagitnaan. Kami ay inyong samahan upang ang iyong mga salitang amin narinig ngayon ay hindi mawala ng kubuluhan at ito ay maging kasangkapang mo sa paglago namin sa inyong biyaya , pananampalataya at kabanalan sa ngalan ng inyong bugtong na anak , aming Panginoong Jesus, AMEN.

Please Stand While Singing the SONG OF CONSECRATION
'Take my Life , and Let it be' #462: 1 ,4 & 6

GLORIA PATRI (UNANNOUNCED)

Benediction

1 Peter 5: 10-11

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.