

A moment of silent prayer

Pre-Service Song "O Day of Rest and Gladness" #321:1-4

\* Call to Worship Psalm 92:1-5

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,  
3 to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.  
4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.  
5 How great are your works, O Lord!  
Your thoughts are very deep

\* Invocation

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 & earth  
( Ps 24:8)

\* God's Greeting Romans 1:7

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

**Let us pray...**

**Heavenly Father, you call us together to be your holy people, and so we join to give you praise for the joy of our creation; for our redemption in Christ; for the empowerment of your Spirit. Gracious God, fill our hearts with your love and our lives with your glory as we come before you in worship and prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

\* Song of Praise "It Is Good to Sing Thy Praises"(Psalm 92) #180:1-3

## The Covenant with Abraham: All Nations Will Be Blessed

Scripture Readings: Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-14; Galatians 3:16, 26-29

Rev. Nollie Malabuyo • July 3, 2022

**D**ear Congregation of Christ: *The Christian and Islamic religions have one thing in common: both recognize Abraham as their father or patriarch. But the similarity ends there. Christianity believes in salvation by faith alone in Christ alone; Islam believes in salvation by works. Christianity believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Islam believes that Jesus is a mere man. Christianity believes that Jesus is the greatest Prophet; Islam affirms that Mohammed is the greatest prophet. Christianity believes in the Trinitarian God; Islam believes in one God in one Person. Lastly, Christianity—and the Jewish religion— recognize that Isaac is Abraham's covenant son from whom Jews descended, while Islam teaches that Ishmael, Abraham's son by his servant Hagar, is the covenant son from whom Arabs descended.*

*We continue this morning our study of God's covenants with man. We began with God's covenant of works with Adam in which God commanded him not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam disobeyed this one commandment, plunging the whole human race into sin because he is the covenant head of all mankind. Then, we studied God's two part covenant with Noah, a covenant of grace. The first part is called special grace, because God chose to save Noah and his family in an ark from the great flood that God sent to destroy the wicked human race. The second part is called common grace, because God promised Noah that he would uphold his whole creation—including all mankind—until he purges it again by fire when Christ returns from heaven on Judgment Day. The rainbow is the sign of this covenant of common grace.*

*Within these two covenants, we find snippets of God's plan of salvation for his chosen people in our Lord Jesus Christ. After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God slaughtered an animal to clothe their nakedness. Then, he cursed Satan the ancient serpent, saying that the Seed of the woman would crush his head even after the serpent wounds his heel. This Seed is Christ who was "wounded" on the cross as the bloody once for all Sacrifice for the sins of his people, but who rose from the grave and now lives forever. The ark that saved Noah's family from the flood is the covenant sign, a picture of Christ saving his people from their sins. And the rainbow in the clouds is also covenant sign of God's common grace to all mankind.*

*Continuing this study, we come today to God's covenant with Abraham. Again, we read snippets of this covenant in three main portions in Genesis: Chapters 12, 15 and 17.*

*In Chapter 12, God reveals his covenant of grace to Abram, a pagan man in a pagan land, who responded in faith. In Chapter 15, the LORD makes an oath to Abram that he himself would die if he broke his covenant promises. And in Chapter 17, God reveals his covenant provisions and the covenant sign to Abraham. -----*

*So, our theme today is, "The Covenant with Abraham: 'All Nations Will Be Blessed,'" under three headings. "The Father of a Multitude of Nations", "You and Your Offspring After You", "Abraham Believed God, and It Was Counted to Him as Righteousness"*

Lets go to God in prayer...

**Blessed Lord, who has caused Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that through the comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **"The Father of a Multitude of Nations" (Ama ng lahat ng mga Bansa)**

Sa aklat ng Genesis, Tinawag ng Diyos si ABRAM na naninirahan sa UR ng mga Kaldeo (Ur of the Chaldeans) . Sa tatlong verses na ating binasa kanina sa Gen 12, makikita natin ang fourfold promises ng Diyos kay Abram. **Una**, ang lahi ni Abram ay magiging isang dakilang bayan. **Ikalawa**, Ang kanyang pangalan ay magiging dakila hindi lamang sa kanyang sariling bayan , maging sa lahat ng mga bansa. **Ikatlo**, lahat ng tao ay pagpapalain o isusumpa batay sa kanilang pagtrato sa angkan o sa lahi ni Abram. At **ikaapat**, lahat ng mga bansa at sambahayan sa lupa ay pagpapalain sa pamamagitan nya.

Tinupad ng Diyos ang unang tatlong pangako nuong panahon ng lumang tipan, subalit hindi sa kalagayang lubos na itong natupad, dahil lahat ng apat sa kanyang mga pangako ay pawang nagpatuloy pa din at nakatak dang matupad matapos ang kamatayan at pagkabuhay na mag-uli ni Kristo. Ang **unang** pangako ng isang dakilang bansa ay na fulfilled sa kanyang angkan, tinatawag na mga Hebreo. Ang kanyang covenant son na si Isaac ay nagka-anak din ng isang covenant son na si Jacob, na syang nagdala ng buo nyang sambahayan ng 70 katao mula sa Canaan papunta sa Egypt dahil sa famine o taggutom. Matapos ang 400 na taon sa Ehipto, ang lahi ni Jacob ay dumami ng 600,000 lalaki kasama ang kani-kanilang pamilya, sila ang bayan na lumisan sa Ehipto at naibalik sa lupang pangako sa Canaan.

**Ikalawa**, Si Abraham ay kinikilala ngayon bilang "ama" ng lahat ng mga Hudyo at maging ng mga Kristyano (na ating ipaliliwanag mamya). Sa lumang tipan, ang **ikatlong** pangako ay natupad ng Diyos nang kanyang wasakin ang mga bansa na sumakop sa mga Israelita, mula sa Egypt followed by the Canaanites, Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians and Greeks. Sa bagong tipan naman , nakita natin ang kanyang pag-parusa sa mga Romano at sa huli, wawasakin ng Diyos ang lahat ng mga bansa na lumalaban, umuusig at pumapatay sa kanyang mga pinili. Gayunpaman, ang **ika-apat** na pangako din ay matutupad sa pamamagitan ng pagpapahayag ng Ebanghelyo ng kaligtasan sa pamamagitan lamang ng Pananampalataya kay Kristo. Sa gayong paraan ayon sa

Matthew 28:19 – *"Kayat bumayo kayo, gawin ninyong alagad ang mga tao sa labat ng mga bansa"*. Ang Diyos mga kapatid ay totoo sa kanyang mga salita at mga ipinangako.

Sa Genesis 15, ating mababasa na matanda na si Abram, subalit ang covenant son na ipinangako ng Diyos ay hindi pa isinisilang. Muli, ang Diyos ay nagpa-hayag kay Abram ng isang assurance na ang kanyang lahi ay magiging sing-dami ng mga bituin sa langit. And Abraham *"believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness"* (verse 6)

Pansinin din po natin ang verse 17 ang kataka-takang wika. *"When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces."*

Ang mga piraso na ito po ay mga hayop na iniutos ng Diyos kay Abram upang katayin, pagputul-putolin ay ilatag ng dalawang halera.

At sa gabing iyun, isang sisidlan o palayok na umuusok at isang tanglaw(o torch) na nagniningas ang dumaan sa pagitan ng mga pira-pirasong hayop. Ito ay ang Diyos mismo na dumaan sa madugo at kinatay na mga hayop, pagpapatotoo ng pagtupad ng Diyos sa kanyang mga pangako kay Abraham... a confirmation of God's vow that he himself will be cursed and die if he did not fulfill his promises to Abraham.

Kaya nga po sa Genesis 17, ng si Abraham ay 99 na taong gulang, muling nagpakita ang Diyos sa kanya at muling inulit ang kanyang "Covenant Promise" : *"Behold my covenant is with you and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations"*.(verse 4)

### **"You and Your Offspring After You" (Ikaw at ang iyong supling na kasunod mo)**

Dahil si Abram ay magiging ama ng lahat ng mga bansa, Binago ng Diyos ang kanyang pangalan mula ABRAM at naging ABRAHAM. Since, Abram means **"exalted father,"** while Abraham means **"father of a multitude."** Hindi lamang sya magkakaroon ng supling at kaapo-apuhan, sya din ay magiging ama ng lahat ng mga bansa.

The genealogies of Genesis tell us that the Midianites, Ishmaelites, Edomites and Israelites, and all their descendants who formed many other nations, were all descendants of Abraham. Again, God fulfilled this promise in the Old Testament, and will be fulfilling this promise until the end of the world.

May dalawa pang mahalagang bagay na sinabi ang Diyos kay Abraham sa Genesis 17. Una, kanyang ipingako na *"to be God to you and to your offspring after you (v7)... and I will be their God (v8)."* Throughout sa kasaysayan, ang mga Hebreo (na tinawag ding **Jews** kalaunan)sila ay Sumasamba sa Diyos, subalit kinalaunan sila ay sumamba na rin sa ibat-ibang diyos. Sa kabila nito, nanatili ang pag-iingat at pag-bibigay ng Diyos sa kanila, hanggang sa pahintulutan nya na sila ay masakop ng Babilonia ang muling gawing alipin. Matapos nito sila ay nakalaya at nabalik sa Canaan.

This is a partial fulfillment of the other promise God revealed to Abraham, *"And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession"* (verse 8). Our Lord Jesus Christ therefore was born in the Promised Land.

May isang aspeto sa Genesis 17 ang hindi nababasa sa chapters 12 & 15, Ito po ay ang "Tanda" or the sign of the Covenant.

God says to Abraham, *"This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised... and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you"* (verse 10). Gaya ng mga una na nating natalakay, Lahat ng mga covenant ng Diyos sa tao ay mayrong kalakip na "Tanda". Kay Adan ang tanda ay ang "Tree of Life". Kay Noah ay ang Ark at ang Bahaghari. Ang mga tanda na ito ay para sa mga pangulo ng kasunduan (sila Adam, Noah at Abraham) at maging sa kanilang Covenant children.

Pansinin po natin na ang tanda ng kasunduan ng pagtutuli ay ibinigay kay Abraham at sa kanyang anak at sambahayan na lalaki. At ang parusa sa hindi pagtupad dito ay mabigat: *"they shall be cut-off from his people"* (according to Genesis 17:14 and Exodus 4:24-26) na nangangahulugang sinumpang kamatayan.

This covenant sign has been a bone of contention between Presbyterians and Baptists since the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Sadly, this contention—**which is about infant baptism**—will never be resolved until we are all in glory. We who are Presbyterians believe that there is **continuity between Old Testament circumcision and New Testament baptism**. And if there is continuity, **water baptism should be administered to infants**, since God commanded Israelites to circumcise their children when they were eight days old.

Paul makes this connection clear in Colossians 2:11–12, *"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead."* Here, Paul refers to circumcision and baptism both actually and figuratively. Circumcision signifies the cutting off of our sins, while water baptism is a sign and seal of the washing away of sins. Paul also refers to the figurative circumcision of Christ who was "cut off" from his people when he was crucified on the cross, as Isaiah 53:8 says, *"he was cut off out of the land of the living."*

Kaya po sa Westminster Confession of Faith article 28 at sa ating Liturgical forms, matututunan natin na hindi lamang ang mga "Professing Adults" kundi maging ang mga sanggol ng isa o parehong nananampalatayang magulang ay dapat mabautismuhan. That also, it is "a great sin to contemn [criticize] or neglect this ordinance." It refers back to the penalty of cutting off from the people—death—those who neglect the sign of circumcision.

Mga kapatid , marami pa po ang mga ibat ibang arguments kapag pag uusapan ang infant baptism, subalit hindi na po muna natin ito tatalakayin ngayon. Kaya po sa pang-huling sermon point..

## “Abraham Believed God, and It Was Counted to Him as Righteousness”

(Sumampalataya sya sa Panginoon, at ito ay ibinilang na katwiran sa kanya) **ang Biblia 2001**

Genesis 15:6 is quoted by the Apostle Paul in Romans 4:3 as he was explaining salvation by **faith alone in Christ alone, and not by works**. He says that if Abraham was saved by his good works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. If he was saved by his good works, then he would never be saved because all mankind is sinful, excepting our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, Paul says, “*And to the one who does not work **but believes** in him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted as righteousness.**”*

Kung hindi sa mabubuting gawa, papaano ang isang tao ay mapapawalang –sala o aariing ganap? Sabi ni Apostol Pablo sa Eph 2:8-9

(Eph 2:8-9). “*Sapagkat sa biyaya kayo'y naligtas sa pamamagitan ng pananampalataya, at ito'y hindi sa pamamagitan ng inyong sarili, ito'y kaloob ng Diyos; hindi sa pamamagitan ng mga gawa, upang ang sinuman ay huwag magmalaki.*” Sa pamamagitan ng Pananampalataya lamang, Kay Kristo lamang kaya ang tao ay naligtas. This is the true gospel that is still being preached to all nations.

Sa pamamagitan ng paghahayag ng Ebanghelyo , ang kalangitan ay magkakaroon ng napakaraming tao na hindi mabibilang ng sino man, mula sa bawat bansa, sa lahat ng lipi, mga bayan at mga wika...at duon na sumasamba sa Diyos. (ayon sa Revelation 7:9). Ipinaliwanag din ni Apostol Pablo sa Galatians 3:26-27 “*Sapagkat kay Kristo Jesus, kayong lahat ay mga anak ng Diyos sa pamamagitan ng pananampalataya , sapagkat ang lahat na sa inyo na binautismuhan kay Kristo ay ibinibis si Kristo*” . At sinabi nya na ang lahat ng mananampalataya ay kaisa kay Kristo, Ibig pong sabihin, lahat ng mananampalataya ay tatayo sa harap ng Diyos ng walang pagtatangi, “*Walang Judio o Griyego, walang alipin o Malaya, walang lalaki o babae, sapagkat kayong lahat ay iisa kay Kristo Jesus.*” (verse 28)

At panghuli, sa verse 29, inihambing ni Pablo ang descendants ni Abraham at ang mananampalataya kay Kristo , ang sabi po “at kung kayo ay kay Kristo, kayo nga’y mga binhi ni Abraham, **mga tagapagmana ayon sa panagako**” *..if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.*” All true Christians, Jews or non-Jews, are Abraham’s covenant children who are heirs of God’s promises to Abraham.

**Therefore, the complete fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to Abraham of a multitude of children is the SALVATION of a multitude of true Christians in all nations.** Paul also explains how this is being fulfilled earlier in Galatians 3:16, “*Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring.* It does not say, ‘And to **offsprings**, referring to many, but referring to **one**, ‘And to your **offspring**,’ **WALANG IBA KUNDI SI KRISTO.**” Abraham’s **“Offspring”** is Christ, who fulfilled all the laws of God all the way to his death on the cross. **And by his sacrifice, Abraham’s “offsprings”—not only Jews, but also non-Jews—are being saved.**

CRC IMUS, mga magulang at kapatid, ang huling pangako ng Diyos kay Abraham na patuloy nyang tinutupad **ay ang lupang pangako**, ang lupain ng **Canaan**, ang lupa kung

Zsaan magiging **dayuhan** ang kanyang bayan.(Genesis 17:8) Tinupad nya ito sa panahon ng mga Israelita nang si Joshua ay nanguna sa kanilang kapahingahan sa lupang panagako.

However, this too is still **not fully fulfilled**. As Hebrews 4:8-11 explains, Joshua did not fulfill this perfect rest that God promised. Therefore, there still remains a **rest** that awaits Abraham's children. He exhorts us to **rest** from our good works so we may enter that **eternal Sabbath rest** in our heavenly dwelling-place. **It will not be a temporary, earthly land of our sojournings, brothers & sisters, but an eternal new heaven and new earth.** On that day and in that place, God will be our God and we will be his people, all of us dwelling together with God forever. –

Let us pray...

**Our merciful God, who is pleased to condescend to speak to us through Your Word, grant us all grace that we may not be mere hearers of Your Word, but doers also. Give us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may believe what has been proclaimed to us. May we bring glory and honor to Your name in all that we do, as You conform us to the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**All of this, gracious Father, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our SAVIOR -Amen**

\* Song of Consecration "I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace" #378:1-4

\* Doxology (unannounced) "Gloria Patri" #491

\* Benediction Jude 24

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 2 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.