

MOPELOLA OYENIRAN

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# **SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2023**

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES I

#### **TEXT: MATHEW 22:29**

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. KJV

Welcome to 2023! It's a year that you should recognize God as your exceeding joy (Psalms 43:4); by whom all things consists and in whom all things stand. In respect to this revelation of the character and image of God, it is crucial for us to learn of him in his words. For this month, the Holy spirit will bear us on his wings and teach us God's words as we glean on the understanding of the scriptures. I believe that you are ready as I am!

The Sadducees put before Jesus a question, with the hope to establish their understanding about the word of God contrary to what Jesus preaches or believes. The question was on resurrection. The Sadducees believed that there is no resurrection of the dead. Thus, they asked Jesus; "Moses in the law commanded that when a man married a woman and they bear no children, the brother is expected to take her into his bosom as his wife in order to bear children after his late brother. Now, there was a woman whose husband died, and seven brothers has had her to bear children to their brother's name. Since the seven had her already; in the resurrection whose wife will she be?" (Mathew 22:23-28)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29 KJV

He said, their confusion and lack of understanding is because they are deficient in the knowledge of the scripture and also, they do not know the power of God. Then, he went further to explain the power of God in resurrection to them through his knowledge of the scriptures. He told them that there is no marriage in resurrection, men are raised as angels. And God is the God of the living and not of the dead, because the believer is one with God either he is alive or dead (Mathew 22:30-32 & Romans 14:7-9).

We can safely say that the scripture consists of the knowledge of God's word as to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, it is important that we have a thorough understanding of the scripture as pointed out by Jesus, from where he explained resurrection, and from where the power of God is learned. Be ready to learn of God, for the scripture is God's word.

## **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father, for a new year. I receive the strength, wisdom, knowledge and understanding needed to walk through this year in peace. My heart rest in the scriptures, where the knowledge of God's word and the power of God is revealed in Jesus' name. Amen



# **MONDAY, 2ND JANUARY 2023**

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES II

## **TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:15**

and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. KJV

Yesterday, we set out to learn of God's word as defined in the scriptures. Jesus' statement established that the knowledge of God's word is found in the scripture, and when a man lacks this knowledge, he is liable to misinterpret the word of God and coordinate his affairs in lack of understanding. His statement also affirm that the scripture is God's power as touching resurrection.

Our text is the writings of Apostle Paul to Timothy, his son in the faith. He had earlier encouraged him in the ministry and gave him certain instructions. From his affirmation of Timothy's knowledge, He made this statement: "from a child, Timothy has known the holy scripture which is able to make him wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus".

Two points must be drawn from Apostle Paul's assertion about Timothy. First, from a child doesn't connect "from baby or cradle"; He is simply saying from a child "as to when he got born again". According to 1Peter 2:2, one who is born again, is considered a newborn baby. So, from this point, he or she is expected to grow by learning God's word. Thus, Apostle Paul was saying that from Timothy's transformation, he has begun to learn the holy scripture.

The second point is his definition of the knowledge that the holy scripture gives. He said "you have known the holy scripture which is **able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**. Therefore, The Holy Scripture gives the wisdom of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. In the scripture is the knowledge of salvation revealed. Aside this, it is also affirmed that salvation is only gotten through faith in Christ Jesus.

This makes it important for you to receive the knowledge of the scripture. It will enable you to understand that salvation is through faith in Christ Jesus. We are still left with the question of what the scripture entails?

Follow closely, there is so much to learn. God's word will be made bare to our heart in Christ. Amen

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. The entrance of your word gives light, and it gives understanding to the simple. I receive light and understanding of your word. Nothing is hidden to my inner eyes and heart. There is spiritual knowledge given unto me by the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# **TUESDAY, 3RD JANUARY 2023**

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES III

# **TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:16**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: KJV

Here, the source of the scriptures is unveiled to our hearts. All scriptures is given by the inspiration of God. The scriptures are not mere scripts written from personal human knowledge. They are writings put together by men who were inspired by God. Which means, men wrote the scriptures under God's influence and guidance. It takes the invisible hands of God upon the life of human who are transformed to write the scriptures.

It also means that the weaknesses, frailty, and imperfection of these men do not stop God from inspiring them to write. The scripture is given by the inspiration of God. It is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Let's read other translation to see the beauty of what the scriptures is capable of doing.

All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; 2 Timothy 3:16 AMP

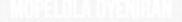
All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16 NLT

Don't lose this understanding. All scriptures are God breathed. It's not an afterthought. They are God's words. And the very element that builds our life as God's children in doctrine, reproof, rebuke, correction, and instruction. The scriptures are the content that nurture the believer into growth and maturity. Remember Apostle Paul's comment about Timothy; that he has known the holy scripture which gave him the knowledge of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. With this statement, he pointed his heart to his starting point in God's love; his word and the truth that his growth, even before he became a Pastor has been orchestrated by God's word which is embedded in the scriptures.

We will find out about what the scriptures consist of. Stay with this study. You will be glad you did.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. My life receives direction and correction from your word. I am not without a tutor. God's word is my teacher. It instructs me in the way of life now and ever. Amen



# WEDNESDAY, 4TH JANUARY 2023

**TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES IV** 

**TEXT: 2TIMOTHY 3:17** 

that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. KJV

Yesterday, we learned from God's word that the scripture is inspired by God, though, written by men. It is not a man's brilliant idea, but God's words put together by men, under his influence, and power. The scripture has its basis in God, He is the source. It is given for doctrine, for reproof, rebuke, correction and instruction in righteousness.

Therefore, the scripture has a purpose to fulfil. It is not to satisfy the desire of any man but to equip men for life and godliness. This was revealed in our main text that says: (by the scripture), the man of God (which includes everyone who believes in Jesus) may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. This is simply saying, that by the knowledge of the scriptures, believers are build up unto perfection and furnished for every good work.

Invariably, this connotes that without the scripture, believers have no resource for growth. There will be a lack of furnishing unto good works (God's work on earth) without the scriptures. This, further establish the importance of the scripture. We are still in the quest to find out what constitute the scriptures. Yes, we know that it is God's word but is that all about it. We will find out.

1Timothy 6:11 identify certain deeds that the believer will be empowered with through the knowledge of the scriptures. It says: "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

Earlier in that chapter, are different instructions to Timothy as a Pastor on how to coordinate his affairs and to lead his flocks on the right path. Towards the end, specifically from verse three downwards, Apostle Paul instructed him on the need to walk in godliness with contentment and not follow the love of money. With this understanding, he told him to flee the characters that are against God's will and follow righteousness and components qualities, which are exalted in the scriptures.

The scripture is God's inspiration to guide all his children in his will. Stay with this study.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. For your will is to make me perfect, thoroughly furnished and prepared unto every good works. I receive your plans and purposes for me in Christ Jesus. And I do as you bid me; knowing that the scriptures are full of godliness and righteousness. Amen



# THURSDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES V

**TEXT: JOHN 5:39** 

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. KJV

The text above was Jesus' response to the Pharisees who were against his action towards the man at the pool of Bethesda. He healed him on the Sabbath day contrary to the Jewish rules. They sort to put him to death and questioned his good deeds.

Jesus responded with revelations about himself, his relationship with the Father, the will of God on earth and the efficacy of his resurrection. He also mentioned about the ministry of John the Baptist, as his fore runner and his identity was the message of John's ministry. If they truly believe in his message of repentance, which specifically pointed out the coming of one whose shoes, he is not worthy to unloose, they would have believed in him and his words. (John 1:15&26)

He then told them how they search the scripture, looking for eternal life but the scripture testifies of Him, as the one who is the author of eternal life. From this background, we can affirm that the message of the scripture is eternal life which is found in the person of Jesus.

This means that when a man learns from the scripture, what he or she must receive as God's words are revelations on Jesus Christ, who is eternal life. There might be many other stories, parables, illustrations, acts and drama alongside, but it is important not to lose sight of the main message from which every other thing springs. It is Christ, the resurrection and life.

The scripture testifies of Christ Jesus, the Messiah. He is the saviour of the world and eternal life. Don't get carried away by every other story, used by the writer under the inspiration of God to communicate Jesus and his work, which is the Salvation of men. That which you must receive, with all readiness of mind, from the knowledge of the scripture, is Christ, the life eternal.

Stay with this study. We are on a joyous path.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Jesus. The scripture reveals your only son Jesus Christ and your work of eternal life in Him. I do not lose sight of the message. I stay focused and receive wisdom from your spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# FRIDAY, 6TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES VI

**TEXT: LUKE 24:27** 

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. KJV

Yesterday we established that the scripture contains the revelation and knowledge of Christ. While there are many stories, illustrations, parables, and the usage of the journey of men therein, the message is all about Christ. This understanding should be the focus of the child of God. There in, is eternal life!

A good study of Luke 24 reveals the incidence that took place on the resurrection day. Jesus' body was missing at the sepulcher and the angel delivered the message of his resurrection to the women who brought spices for his purification. The women reported their encounter with the angel to the disciples, but they found it hard to believe. The same day, in the evening, two of the disciples were on their way to a community called Emmaus. Jesus joined himself to them in a conversation. They didn't recognise him because their face was holden of him. Their conversation continued, and when Jesus perceived the depth of their ignorance about all that took place, he rebuked them saying.

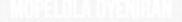
...O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27 KJV

He called them fools and categorize their lack of understanding as being slow of heart to believe all that the prophet has spoken. This means that the prophets prophesied about Christ. And not just that, because Jesus understood the intensity of the message of the scripture as the revelation of his death and resurrection, he began from Moses (which are the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leveticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), and all the prophets (the books written by prophets which are from Isaiah to Malachai) and also, (we have the book of Kings, Judges and the writings which is Psalms); he opened (expounded unto them) the things concerning himself.

This also affirm that not all the things written in the scriptures are concerning Christ, his death and resurrection. He simply taught them and opened their understanding to all that concerns him in the scriptures. The scripture consists of the books which we referred to as old testaments. Stay with this study.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father, I am not deficient of the knowledge of your word. I receive understanding in Jesus' name. Amen



## **SATURDAY, 7TH JANUARY 2023**

# TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES VII

**TEXT: LUKE 24:27** 

Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. NLT

I love the manner at which the New living translation render the verse above. The word 'explain' is our focus. Jesus explained in all the scriptures to the two disciples he met on the road to Emmaus, the things concerning himself.

This debunk the theory of many, who believes that the scriptures cannot be understood, it is hidden and must not be explained. If Jesus could explain to his disciples the things written concerning him in the Old Testament, then it means that his desire is that we explain the scriptures and learn of his character from it. We should be able to bring out the things concerning Christ Jesus therein and the ones that are only used to communicate stories in line with the message of salvation.

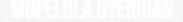
This ability will only come through study. It's not an impartation. You can't get it by running around and not giving attention to God's word. It won't be acquired through the attitude to just scan through God's word or your desire to love certain short verses. It won't come by an overly dependent nature towards a particular theme of the Bible. Your desire must be to see Christ in the scriptures. All that communicates the truth of his death and resurrection. That's the message of the scriptures.

All the books, beginning from Moses (which is Genesis) to the Prophets (starting from Isaiah), to the book of King's and Judges (which includes Esther, Ruth) and the writings (which are Psalms and Proverbs), have in them the message of Christ. Don't be familiar with the stories without seeing the revelation of Christ in it.

For Example: The Exodus of the children of Israel, communicate the deliverance from the rulership of sin, in which Pharaoh represent the God of this world (in the place of the devil). So, when you read Romans 9:17, which talked about how God raised Pharaoh to show his power in him. It simply establishes the dominance of the grace of God over the power of the devil. The scriptures have a vital message: God's salvation from sin through Christ' death and resurrection. Stay with this study!

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. The entrance of your word gives light and understanding to the simple. I ask that you open the eyes of my understanding and give me the willing heart to learn your words through my personal study, and teachers whom you have equipped with the ability to expound your words in simplicity. I am willing to learn in Jesus' name. Amen



# SUNDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES VIII

## **TEXT: LUKE 24:44**

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. KJV

At the later part of Luke 24; after the two disciples realized that it was Jesus who had been with them, they went to Jerusalem and rehearsed their encounter to the other disciples. From verse thirty and six, Jesus appeared to the twelve disciples. He stood in their midst and saluted them saying **Peace be unto you**.

They were terrified, they thought he was a spirit. He asked them to touch him and behold the hole in his hands, and legs, as a Spirit do not have flesh and blood. He took meat with them and reaffirmed that his death and resurrection are in line with all he told them, declaring that he will be crucified. And it is also the fulfillment of all that was written in the law of Moses and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning him. (Luke 36-44)

In verse 45; he did something significant to them. **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures** Luke 24:45 KJV

This means that the disciples understanding was closed. Regardless of the time he spent with them, and his consistent witness about his death and resurrection before it took place, they didn't understand a thing at all!

Their lack of understanding informed their response after his death. They expect to meet his corpse at the sepulcher. Jesus opened their understanding to understand the scripture. He did the same thing which he did to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. He took them through Genesis to Malachi. What a deep study and exposition of God's word.

Since Jesus isn't lazy to do this, we have no excuse to scan the word of God and believe we will find something substantial. The scripture must be studied, explained, and understood. This was the revelation Apostle Paul laid hold on, which informed his writings and his prayers in the Epistles. Ephesians 1:17-23 is the proper prayer for light and understanding. Jesus opened the understanding of the disciples. Your understanding must be opened. Let us pray:

# **PRAYER**

Father, we ask that you give unto us spiritual wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you, that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened. We receive understanding and knowledge of your words, the scriptures come alive to us, and we see Christ as he is written in Jesus' name. Amen



# **MONDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2023**

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES IX

## **TEXT: ROMANS 15:4**

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. KJV

Here, we see two characteristics embedded in the scriptures. They are not just mere stories that seems vague and inapplicable. They communicate the message of Christ which is salvation and deliverance from sin. These characteristics are Patience and comfort. Which means the scripture teaches patience and equip the believer with comfort.

Therefore, it is biblically correct to receive the virtue of patience and be comforted through the study of the books of the scriptures. I believe we should study the basis of the text in Romans 15:4.

When you read from verse 1, Apostle Paul gave instruction that believers who are strong spiritually, are not expected to disdain those who are not strong. But to bear their weakness in order not to please themselves but others. He said this character is good for edification. It hinders a superior mindset and avoids division.

Apostle Paul established the authenticity of his instruction from Jesus' lifestyle. In verse three, he said; For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, the reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. (Romans 15:3)

So, because Christ didn't live to please himself, believers also should not live for their own selves, but should bear the reproaches of others. Apostle Paul quoted from Psalms 69:9 which is the writing of the scripture. This shows how the knowledge of the scriptures can equip the believer in applying biblical principle to his character.

Therefore, we are expected to learn from the scriptures. But how can we learn from what we didn't study or understand? Thus, you cannot afford to have a passive relationship with God's word. The Old Testament, which is the scripture, communicate the truth about Christ. Jesus taught using the Old Testament even Apostle Paul. The New Testament came from the interpretation of the old. They aren't different. The Gospels and Epistles which make up the New Testament are written from the knowledge of the Old Testament (the scriptures). You must learn the scriptures rightly. Be blessed!

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I give my heart to the learning of God's word. I come against every spirit of lukewarmness, tiredness and laxity in the name of Jesus. I walk in the light of God's word as I am in the light. Amen



# **TUESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2023**

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES X

# **TEXT: ROMANS 1:1**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, KJV

(which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures) Romans 1:2 KJV

Apostle Paul introduced himself and the ministry committed to his hands with the revelation of God's word. He identified himself as one who was called to be an Apostle, separated to preach the gospel. He established that the gospel was given as a promise through the prophets in the holy scripture. His understanding about the gospel continued has he revealed the focus of the gospel in these two verses below:

(The gospel is) concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: Romans 1:3-4 KJV

Apostle Paul pointed to the knowledge of his calling, and ministry as the truth of the gospel given as a promise through the prophets. They spoke about Jesus Christ as the Son of David in the flesh, who is the son of God by the working of God's spirit. Therefore, the prophets spoke about the gospel. Their prophecies about David's Kingdom and identification about Jesus as the son of David, is simply the manner at which they communicated the gospel.

Through the knowledge of the scriptures, Apostle Paul recognised and established the gospel of Christ as the words of promise prophesied by the prophets. Thus, in the scriptures we will find the core message to be about the kingdom of Christ. As we have learned so far that the message of the scripture is one: Christ is the center and salvation is the message.

The Old Testament as it were, are the bedrock for the preaching of the gospel. Galatians 3:8 record the truth that the gospel was preached to Abraham. How was the gospel preached to Abraham when Jesus Christ has not died and resurrected? The word of the gospel to Abraham was in the promise of God to him: "In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed". This statement of promise was the gospel preached to Abraham. Salvation is to have all nations to be blessed and we learnt of Abraham as the Father of faith, whose relationship with God can be likened to the picture of God's relationship with man in giving his only begotten son for our sin.

This was what the sacrifice of Isaac signified. God's obedience typified by Abraham's faith and obedience. The scripture has a story, and it is salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Saviour for the knowledge of your word. I receive understanding of your words, there is no covering to the revelation of your words to my heart in Jesus' name. Amen

# WEDNESDAY, 11TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: THE SCRIPTURES XI

# **TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 15:3**

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; KJV

In this passage, Apostle Paul did not fail to start with the knowledge in the message of the gospel, which he preached to the Gentile nations. Speaking to the church in Corinth, he reaffirmed that the gospel he declared unto them was anchored on Christ' death, which is according to the scripture. Also, the truth that his resurrection was according to the scripture. This means that the scripture as we have seen so far, revealed that Christ will die and resurrect.

Apostle Paul brings to the consciousness of the people of God that Christ' death and resurrection is in accordance with what is been prophesied and written in the scripture. This is the message of the gospel. Therefore, the New Testament is the fulfillment or the manifestation of all that the Old Testament spoke about. They aren't different, separate, or anchored on a segregated notion. The New Testament is the fulfillment, and the Old Testament is where the message resides. Without the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, we can't have the new.

The Old Testament gave face to the New Testament. It isn't referred to as old, to mean something that should be relegated, but as the message about the future or fulfillment to come. Christ has been the message. God's work on earth with men, against sin and death is the revelation, and it started right from Genesis.

As a child of God, you will do well to understand this truth and approach God's words put together in sixty and six books as one message. God's love in promise, prophecies, and stories. Christ, the fulfillment, and human manifestation of God. The Church, as the body of Christ that establish the kingdom of God on earth, and eternity over the works of the enemy. There is no confusion. Christ died for our sin according to the scripture and he rose from the dead as written in Psalms 16:7-11. His soul was not left in hell, and he didn't see corruption.

This message was communicated by Apostle Peter in Acts 2:14-41. He established the outpour of the promise of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as the fulfillment of God's promise prophesied by the prophet Joel, which came to pass through the reality of the resurrection of Christ as prophesied by David in the book of Psalms. David being a prophet of God saw the resurrection of Christ and spoke of it, documented in his writings. The message is one. Christ' death and resurrection.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. My eyes are opened, my understanding is broadening, and my knowledge is refined to receive the message of the scripture as holy and reverend in Jesus' name. Amen



# THURSDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS I

**TEXT: 2PETER 1:20** 

knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. KJV

We have duly established that the prophet played a major role in the scriptures. Their prophecies and writings, all together, are the books of the scripture. The message is centered on the gospel.

With this understanding, Apostle Peter, like Apostle Paul, also geared the consciousness of his audience to the prophecies of the scripture as the truth of God's word which must be studied, learned, act upon, revered, and uphold. From verse 12, he began to share with them as one of the disciples who was involved in Jesus' earthly ministry; he confirmed their experience on the Holy mount with the words spoken from heaven, to affirm that Jesus is the son of God, whom the whole world must listen to. (Mathew 17:6)

He assured that this experience is a strong standpoint to their faith in Christ and their belief in him as the son of God. Regardless, he said there is a surer word of prophecy which everyone must receive. Though, without a significant experience like theirs, the word of prophecy came by God's hand on men. They spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Let's read:

We have also a surer word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:19-21 KJV

His writing was a witness to the truth that no prophet or prophecy of the scripture is by men's will. But holy men of God, who were moved by the Holy Ghost, spoke out God's word which is the truth. No one must disregard the prophecies of the prophet. It all came to pass. As we can testify to their fulfillment haven studied the New Testament.

God is the same. He is the God of the scripture, with the New Testament and the letters written to the church by the Apostles after the resurrection of Christ. Every precept spoken as conduct, doctrine, fellowship, worship, and conversation with God in the New Testament has its basis from the scripture. Your relationship with God is to know his words and prophecies of the prophets.

# **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I receive with meekness the engrafted word which can save my soul. My heart is commended to God and the word of his grace in Jesus' name. Amen



# FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS II

# TEXT: 1PETER 1:10

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: KJV

We learned that none of the prophets prophesied at their will. But each spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Don't envisage a drama like attitude with the word "moved". It simply means that they were inspired by the Holy Ghost. Their prophecies were God breathed and not just their will or conduct.

In the same light, Apostle Peter revealed the truth that salvation was the prophet's main message. He said they enquired and searched diligently about this. They prophesied of God's grace that is to come. And we know that God's grace or Grace is a personality. It referred to the person of Christ. (Titus 2:11 & John 1:17)

The prophets foresaw the grace of God that we now receive and enjoy in salvation through the gospel. They saw it and spoke about it. Apostle Pater mentioned that the Spirit of Christ was in them doing this great work. Let's read.

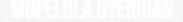
Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ**, **which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow**. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, which things the angels desire to investigate. 1Peter 1:10-12 KJV

They saw the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. They spoke about it and understood that it won't happen in their time but for us, which is the message of the gospel; confirmed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is God's wisdom in action. God appointed some to behold what is to come and make other partakers of its manifestation. Yet, these all died in faith. No wonder their actions as we see in Abraham was counted as righteousness. Such that there is no disparity between them and the new creation man.

Hebrews chapter eleven gave an account of men of faith and their exploit of faith. It ends with the verdict that they had a good report, but the promise is that without us, the exploit of faith hasn't come to perfection. Glory to God!

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father for the faith life. It's indeed the best of God to men. I am grateful for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen



# **SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS III

## TEXT: ISAIAH 11:1

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: KJV

We have learned that the prophecies of the prophets are by the inspiration of God. The scriptures consist of various prophecies and the writings are messages about Christ Jesus, and salvation through faith in Him. One of such prophecies, spoken, and documented by Isaiah the prophet is found in chapter eleven through verse 1-10.

This prophecy introduces Christ Jesus as a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch which shall grow from its roots. Basically, this pointed to the earthly genealogy of Jesus. He will come from the family of Jesse. And by records, Jesse is the Father of David, the king. (Mathew 1:1-17 & 1Samuel 16:1) Ultimately, Jesus' earthly image is from David, the King. Such that He was largely referred to as Jesus, the son of David. We have the record of Blind Bartimaeus the Son of Timaeus, who referred to him through that identity. (Mark 10:46-49 & Luke 18:38)

This prophecy came years before Jesus was born. The prophecy didn't stop at his earthly identity, it gave the details in summary of his spiritual position and ministry. Let's read Isaiah 11:2; and the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

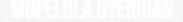
Specifically, Jesus' ministry is to be anchored and sustained by the Spirit of God. The seven descriptions of the power and expression of the Holy Spirit was expressed as all that will rest upon the branch that will grow out of the root of Jesse. Jesus has the fullness of God's Spirit. We can safely establish Apostle Peter's statement about God's anointing upon Jesus of Nazareth as he spoke in Acts 10:38. He says.

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Apostle Peter must have spoken from his understanding of the prophecy of the prophets, as we learned from his letter to the church in 2Peter 1:16-21. He established that though they witness Jesus' earthly ministry, but the prophecies of the prophets are the foundation of his works and message of salvation.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I believe in the surer word of prophecy, knowing that they are the bedrock of your will, power, and grace to men. I receive this words in perfect understanding, giving glory to the name of the Lord most high. Amen



# **SUNDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS IV

## TEXT: ISAIAH 11:3

and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: KJV

The beauty of the prophecies of the prophets are the details given such that confusion is not found. Like an order, it started with Jesus' birth, then to his spiritual reality which is the real deal; then it continued from verse three through five to define the characteristics that Jesus will possess to fulfil the will of God in salvation.

Let's read verse four and five, it says; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. Isaiah 11:4-5 KJV

A careful reading will reveal the nature of prophecies, which are most times not spoken or given in direct utterance, that can be easily decode. They include the use of words with a deeper meaning than the exact adjectives been used.

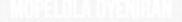
We read phrases like: "the meek of the earth", "smite the earth with rod of his mouth", "with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked" and "girdle of his loins with girdle of his reins". These phrases are short sentences that has a distinct meaning and must be studied to get the exact interpretation of what message they are meant to deliver.

Invariably, the earth is not referring to land but people and nations. Rod of his mouth is not a stick but 'the word of God', while the breath of his lips refers to 'the Spirit of God'. The picture these phrases depicts when it is put together in a message, just as it is written, is to communicate the Lordship of Christ over the nations and his eternal deliverance that he will wrought on behalf of the nation, as He had delivered us from the power of darkness.

It is his eternal power to slay the wicked (who is the devil) and wrought victory through his resurrection from the dead. You must realise the intentionality, and precision of God's word, with the aim that all who study must interpret accurately to understand what has been written down as prophecies. You can't be casual with God's words. It requires diligence in study.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I am intentional about God's words, and I give my heart to understanding. I am not proud to be taught, neither am I arrogant to receive clarity by men through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# **MONDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS V

# TEXT: ISAIAH 11:10

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. KJV

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters covers the sea (Isaiah 11:9b) is one of the prophecies given alongside the manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth in Christ. This pointed to the harvest of the earth and the knowledge of salvation (which is the glory of the Lord) will be made known through Christ, and no one will be excluded from salvation.

This prophecy was supported by a corresponding prophecy in verse ten. It referred to the truth that the root of Jesse will be an ensign for the people and the Gentiles will seek safety in Him. This corroborates what has been earlier said by the prophet as the knowledge of the glory of God sweeping the earth. Bringing both Jews and Gentiles before God to receive salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

Right from the Old Testament, the reality that the Gentiles will be saved was prophesied. When Apostle Paul testified that his ministry is to the Gentiles, the earlier Apostles agreed because they knew the prophecy that spoke about the root of Jesse in whom the Gentiles will seek and find their rest.

Without confusion, Apostle Paul kept referring to his ministry and assignment to the Gentiles, and his commitment to it without fail. One of such introduction and definition of his ministry is found in Galatians 2:1-9. Specifically, in verse 7-9, he established in his statement that the gospel of the uncircumcision (the Gentiles) was committed to his hands and as God worked effectually in Apostle Peter to preach to the Jews (who are the circumcision), the same God is at work in him. Let's read verse 8 & 9,

(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) and when James, Cephas (Peter), and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. KJV

Salvation is peace on earth. Hallelujah!

# **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father, for salvation by grace through faith. By which I am counted worthy of eternal life. This is your peace and righteousness. Amen



## TUESDAY, 17TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS VI

## **TEXT: JEREMIAH 23:5**

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

We can explore the same description of Jesus' ministry as we learned via Prophet Isaiah through the prophecy of Jeremiah the servant of the Lord. He also prophesied about the days to come, where a righteous Branch will be raised unto David, the man after God's heart, who is to fulfil all his counsel. (Acts 13:22)

The Branch was described as a King, whose reign will prosper, and He is to execute judgement and justice. You will agree with me that though, the prophecies were given by different prophets, but the message was the same.

The prophecy continued to the next verse: In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Jeremiah 23:6 KJV

The name of the Branch will be the Lord our righteousness. This name speaks volume of Christ' kingdom and God's reign. Righteousness is the essence of salvation. Salvation is God's righteousness given freely to unrighteous men. We referred to this as the Grace of God.

If you can recall, last month, we learned about two kinds of righteousness. One that is of the law by which no man can be justified, because by the law, is the knowledge of sin. Thus, under the law every mouth is stopped, and every man is condemned before God. It is written "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:9-20 & 23)

But there is a righteousness which is of God. It is described in Romans 3:21-22; "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all of them that believe: for there is no difference:" KJV

Read the first two lines in the text above carefully, you will realise that this righteousness was witnessed (spoken and testified) by the law and the prophets. That is, the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ is the message of the prophets. Which we have studied to be accurate according to Jeremiah 23:6 "... His name shall be called the Lord our Righteousness"

#### **PRAYER**

In the name of Jesus, I am the blessed one, whose sin is forgiven and whose transgression is covered. I trust in the righteousness of Jesus since I have believed in Him, who died for me and was raised for my Justification. He is my righteousness. Amen



# WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS VII

## **TEXT: JEREMIAH 23:6**

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE Lord OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. KJV

Through the understanding gotten from the message of the scriptures, we have realised that God's RIGHTEOUSNESS is not just a New Testament truth, but the foundation of the Old Testament messages. It was spoken by the prophet as a promise, which we have its fulfillment in Christ Jesus.

I will like us to study Romans 3:21-23 critically. It says "But now **the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets**; even the \*righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ\* unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: KJV

The righteousness of the law is manifested. This righteousness was witnessed by the law and the prophets. It is the righteousness of God that is to be received through **faith in Christ Jesus**. This explanation is so beautiful. The definition of the Lord as our Righteousness stated in Jeremiah 23:6 became a reality in Christ Jesus. In him God's righteousness was manifested.

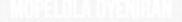
The phrase "being witnessed by the law and the prophet" simply refer to the truth that God's righteousness isn't just manifesting in Christ out of nowhere. The prophet spoke and wrote about it. They received this revelation and gave the prophecy as God inspired them. Therefore, just as they spoke about the days when Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely with the name "The Lord our RIGHTEOUSNESS"; the fulfillment of God as our righteousness is now largely manifested in Christ Jesus.

This righteousness is received not by the law but by faith in Christ Jesus. Through him, the righteousness of God, which isn't hinge of man's ability to receive God's approval but God's ability to provide for man's fault, while he approves him because of his name sake is made manifested. God now become the justifier of all who believes in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah the prophet spoke about the beauty of God's righteousness as He who blot out your transgression for his name's sake, with the promise that your iniquities, he won't remember anymore (Isaiah 43:25). The Bible has a central message, God's righteousness towards his creation. Have you received his righteousness, pray with me:

#### **PRAYER**

I come to you today God of righteousness and grace. I place my faith in Jesus who died for my sin and that of the world, and was raised for my justification, that I might receive God's righteousness and be saved eternally. Today, my sins are forgiven, and I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. Amen



# THURSDAY, 19TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS VIII

## **TEXT: ROMANS 4:3**

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. KJV

The righteousness of God that is bestowed upon any man who has faith in him, is not just a New Testament reality. God has always been a righteous one and Faith is his environment of relationship with men. We can truly learn of this through Abraham's walk with God.

In Genesis 15:1-6, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. The Lord gave himself to Abram as his shield and exceeding great reward. Abram was concerned about his childlessness, but the Lord opened his understanding to his word of promise to him in verse five:

"And he brought him forth abroad, and said, look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be Genesis 15:5. Abraham believed, and God counted his trust to make him a Father of many nations, and his seed as the starts of the heaven, as righteousness.

Abraham became a righteous man, not because of anything good that he has done but because God gave him his word and he believed, even when as at that time he has no seed. It is also important to note that, the promise of God to him is the Gospel. God preached the gospel to Abraham in a simple sentence: 'In your SEED shall all the nations of the earth be blessed' (Genesis 12:3, Galatians 3:8)

The message is the same, it hasn't change. 'In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed", "I will make you a Father of many nations", "I will make your seed as the stars of the heaven". God preached the good news to Abraham; he believed in the word of God and righteousness was bestowed on him on the account of God's grace.

In Christ, everyman is Abraham's seed and heirs of God's righteousness. It has always been of faith and by grace. Therefore, God's righteousness which was the description of Jesus' kingdom, spoken by the prophet Isaiah and Jeremiah respectively, has been in inception since Abraham. The promise of God to him, which is the gospel, was given by the righteousness of faith. God is our righteousness, and He will always be! Have you received his righteousness? Pray with me:

#### PRAYER

Dear Father of righteousness and grace, I come under your goodness expressed in Christ' death and resurrection. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and was raised for my justification. I confess him as my Lord and saviour. My sins are forgiven eternally, and I am saved. Amen



# FRIDAY, 20TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS IX

# TEXT: PSALMS 32:1

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. KJV

The righteousness of God has a voice with a definite message. The writings of David, the King as a Prophet of God, documented as Psalms are largely centered on the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

In order to firmly establish Abraham's faith in God, which was counted to him as righteousness, Apostle Paul quoted the Psalm above as a basis for God's righteousness, which is not of works but of Grace. He said in Romans 4:6 that David described the blessedness of the man whom God impute righteousness without works in his prophecy found in the thirty second chapter of Psalms, saying:

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute  $\sin$ . Romans 4:6-8 KJV

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile. Psalm 32:1-2 KJV

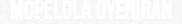
David isn't just a King of Israel, he is also God's prophet and along with other servants of God, He also, saw the vision of God and prophesied of God's righteousness as the blessedness of God towards men.

How beautiful is the scriptures, when it is clearly seen, understood, and explained in the light of Christ. There is so much embedded in God's word but with a central focus, which is salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. You mustn't lose touch of this lens. Through it, you will be able to interpret God's words appropriately, without exonerating one aspect of God's word above the other.

There is the grace of God and his absolute blessedness that requires not work but faith. Have you place your faith in Christ Jesus, the propitiation for your sin? Pray with me:

# **PRAYER**

Today, I believe in Jesus' death for my sins and his resurrection for my justification. I receive God's righteousness and eternal forgiveness. I am saved and blessed with faithful Abraham. Amen



# SATURDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS X

## **TEXT: ISAIAH 42:1**

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. KJV

When you come across this passage, the question that will be on your mind is, who is prophet Isaiah referring to, himself or another person? Most writings appear vague and needs proper interpretation to understand the prophet's message.

This chapter is strictly directed to the servant ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one in whom God has elected, in whom his soul delighted, and He has poured the fullness of his Spirit on him. He is not only to be a Lord to the Jews but also to the Gentiles. How do I come about this interpretation?

Mathew 3:16-17 record the coming upon of the Holy Spirit on Jesus after he was baptized by John in the desert. The voice of affirmation came and referred to him "as his beloved son in whom he is well pleased". Also, in Luke 9:35 at the mount of transfiguration, the cloud covered the three disciples who were with Jesus, they saw the vision of Elijah and Moses with Him. The voice also, referred to Jesus as "his well-beloved son and instructed that they should hear him".

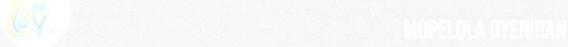
With a vital and distinct expression, God revealed from heaven that Jesus is his son, whom he has appointed as the servant to the world. This was ushered in by the ever-abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. This truth corroborates with a previous prophecy by prophet Isaiah in chapter eleven and verse two as we have earlier studied. "He said the branch from the root of Jesse has the spirit of God upon him, which is the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord".

Christ Jesus is that servant of God, whom the Lord baptized with his spirit to bring forth judgement to the Gentiles. The prophecies of the prophets are wholly the messages of God's work on earth. It is all about Christ' kingdom and his authority. They spoke by the inspiration of God with details on salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Without the prophecy of the prophets, there is absolutely nothing to have as the New Testament. God is the same throughout the Bible. He did just one work for all time till generations to come. His work is over all the earth. What he will do, has done and he's doing, he spoke through the prophets as prophecies. We have the responsibility to study and interpret his will appropriately.

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I read the scripture in the light of your will on earth and in the person of Christ. Amen



# SUNDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XI

**TEXT: 1PETER 2:4** 

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, KJV

Apostle Peter understood the words spoken by the prophet as we learned yesterday in Isaiah 42:1. In his description of the ministry of Christ in salvation, he referred to him as a **Living corner stone**, who is disallowed by men but chosen of God and precious.

We have the record of Jesus' earthly ministry and the rejection he faced from his own kindred. They despised him and referred to him as the Son of Joseph the carpenter. They couldn't relate with his spiritual identity as written in their law and prophesied by the prophets. They knew about the coming Messiah but couldn't accept that it was Jesus. Thus, they disallowed him in their actions and words. But He is the one chosen of God and he's his precious one.

And because of Jesus' work of redemption for us, we have also become a living stone as described in 1Peter 2:5: "ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." KJV

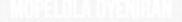
We are God's spiritual house; his holy priesthood and we are accepted to offer up spiritual sacrifices which is acceptable before God because of Christ Jesus. He is the chosen one and we are chosen in him. His servant ministry is what has been bestowed upon us and we are now God's children, his servant, to do his will on earth.

1Peter 2:6 says: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: And he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. KJV. This text is found in Isaiah 28:16, as an affirmation to the truth that all who believed in Jesus, the chief corner stone in Zion cannot be put to shame. Just as Romans 10:14 says "as many that call upon the name of the Lord shall not be ashamed".

This referred to calling unto God for salvation, which is by believing Christ' death and confessing his name. The honour of God rests upon all who call upon his name to be saved. Christ Jesus has perfected the work of redemption as God's servant and we receive this deliverance by faith and become God's child and servant, doing his will on earth. Hallelujah!

#### **PRAYER**

Thank you, Father. I am yours as you have chosen me in Christ Jesus. I serve the Lord Jesus and I make no provision for the flesh. I am built up a spiritual house with others and offer up spiritual sacrifices which is acceptable to God by Christ Jesus. Amen



# MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XII

## **TEXT: ISAIAH 42:2**

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. KJV

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Isaiah 42:3-4 KJV

We already established the ministry of Jesus as God's servant on earth and him in whom the Lord is pleased to pour the fullness of his spirit, to bring judgement to the Gentiles. By prophecy, Jesus' ministry was solidified as a fortified deliverance to the nation's that are not primarily the inheritors of God's promises in Abraham. These nations are put together under one umbrella as Gentiles. The goal is to have all nations, both Jews and Gentiles become God's people, in whom his desires is expressed on earth. This corroborates the ministry of Jesus before death and after death, the reality that salvation is opened to all men became the message of the gospel.

Mathew 12:9-21, records Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees, who believed according to the law of Moses, that no work must be done on the Sabbath days. Jesus acted contrary to this belief. He healed a man with a withered hand, and this made the council to plot how they might put him to death. According to Jesus, it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath. Healing is a well doing act, that should be upheld on the Sabbath days.

When Jesus knew their plans, he withdrew himself from the public, yet many followed him, desiring to be healed. He healed them all but gave them the instructions not to make him known. The diversity of good works that characterizes Jesus' earthly ministry was stated as the fulfillment of prophecy given by the prophet Isaiah which we have in our text above (Isaiah 42:24).

Jesus walked in doing good majorly by healing and performing diverse miracle with no intention to use it as publicity. He won't want his voice to be heard in the street, he won't strive nor cry yet, he will bring victory to the Gentiles. Judging in righteousness and doing well.

There was no disparity in his ministry, he healed all, regardless of their identity. He showed oneness in the manifestation of God's goodness. This is the message of the gospel. God who is good to all and he's near to all who call upon his name by faith through Christ Jesus. Are you saved? Pray with me

# **PRAYER**

Today, I come before the only living God, who is full of mercy, grace and truth. I believed you gave your only begotten son Jesus to death for my sins, and you raised him up for my justification. I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour and I receive forgiveness of sins, now and ever. Amen



# **TUESDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2023**

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XIII

## **TEXT: ISAIAH 42:5**

Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: KJV

I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.

It is important that we grasp the fullness of God's will in Christ Jesus. The prophets played a vital role in communicating the eternal mindset of God to the world at large. Truly, Israel was God's chosen nation, and people but He had a vision at heart, which only started with a people. God's will is upon all and through one man (Abraham), he is to reach the world.

Jesus is that seed of Abraham in whom the nation of the world is blessed. Thus, with the hand of the Lord on the prophet Isaiah, he established that God who made the heavens and the earth has given Christ as a covenant to the people, for a light to the Gentiles. Jesus is to do certain work on the Gentile nations, as a light;

to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. Isaiah 42:7 KJV

The text above is all that encompassed Jesus' ministry. This is not just performing miracle in opening the eyes of the blind, but salvation. He who is not saved, is blind, sits in darkness, a prisoner and in prison. Such needs deliverance out of darkness into God's marvelous light. These adjectives are used to connotes salvation from sin. Therefore, Jesus was given as a covenant to the Gentiles, to bring light to all who are in darkness. To bring deliverance to the captives and open the prison doors.

His ministry is the same message committed to the hands of all who are now saved. The work continues. We preach Christ crucified, to deliver all who are yet in darkness. And we preach Christ, the light of the world, to cause light to shine in darkness. You can't remain in your sins, come out of the prison today and be saved. Pray with me:

#### **PRAYER**

Today, I confess Jesus as my Lord, and saviour as I believe that he died for my sins and was raised by the power of God for my justification. My sins are forgiven, and I receive eternal life. I am saved, filled with the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XIV

TEXT: LUKE 2:30

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, KJV

There are specific activities and prophecies that occurred during Jesus' birth. There were several prophecies that was documented which agreed with the prophecies given by the prophets of old. One of such utterances and confirmation was spoken by a man called Simeon.

When the child, Jesus, was brought to the temple at his dedication, the man Simeon, who was just and devout, had the accurate understanding of the writings in the prophets, he waited for the consolation of Israel. It was revealed to him by the Holy ghost that he should not see death till he has seen the Lord Christ. (Luke 2:22-26)

He came by the direction of the Holy Spirit to the temple on the day Jesus was brought in to be dedicated, he took the child from his mother's hands and said.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, And the glory of thy people Israel. Luke 2:29-32 KJV

He identified Jesus as Salvation, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of his people, Israel. We can safely discern that his words were the same with the prophet Isaiah's prophecy. He must have identified Jesus' ministry and God's desire towards all men through the many prophecies given by the prophets in the scriptures.

The believer must understand with clarity the truth that God's will in salvation has been from the beginning. The Old Testament laid the foundation of God's mercies and everlasting salvation which we have its fulfillment to all men in Christ. Christ is the end of another new beginning. Hallelujah! In him, the nations of the world can testify to a one and only true God whose dwelling is in the heart of men and who seeks to be worshipped by his creatures.

Jesus is God in human flesh and through him is light unleashed to the world of men. Do you believe in his work on earth? Pray with me

# **PRAYER**

Today, I believe with my heart, that Jesus is the son of God. The one who died for my sins and was raised by the power of God for my justification to life. I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour and my sins are forgiven in him. I receive eternal life by faith, and I am redeemed till eternity. Amen



# THURSDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XV

# **TEXT: ACTS 13:41**

Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: For I work a work in your days, A work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you. KJV

There is beauty in understanding God's words as spoken by the mouth of his Holy apostles and prophets. Acts chapter fourteen from verse fourteen gave us an account of Apostle Paul's persuasion before the people of God in the synagogue at Antioch.

They read the book of the laws and prophets and had a routine to call on anyone who has an exhortation from the Lord to speak to the people. Apostle Paul stood up and gave an interpretation of the words of the prophet they read earlier. (Acts 13:14-16) He took them through Israel's journey from Egypt to the promised land. He expounded God's dealing with the people, which cut across David, the one whom God promised to raise a saviour through his seed as he promised Abraham from the beginning. (Acts 13:22-23)

He established that the death of Jesus was fulfilled as prophesied by the prophets and he was raised by the power of God even as declared by the writings of David in Psalms 2:6. With all these convictions, he emphasized that God's promise to them is the resurrection of Jesus, who is the saviour. God fulfilled his promises to them and invariably to the world at large.

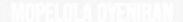
He spoke to them that salvation is the work that God spoke through Habakkuk the prophet, saying; Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you. Habakkuk 1:5 KJV

Prophet Habakkuk gave this prophecy to testify that God will do a work which the children of Israel might find it hard to believe, though many will speak to them of it. And we can testify to their indignation regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus. Though, they read the books of the law and prophet in the synagogue yet, they didn't recognise the saviour, whom they put to death.

This marvelous work has come to us, nations who are not of Israel. This work is unto us and to all nations at large. That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and was raised from the dead according to the scriptures. In him we have redemption even the forgiveness of our sins. Do you recognise God's work? It is the salvation of your soul; pray with me:

#### **PRAYER**

Today, I come before the only living God, who gives grace and glory. I receive redemption and forgiveness of sins in Christ Jesus, as I confess with my mouth that He is my Lord and saviour and believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead. My sins are forgiven. I am saved and born again. Filled with the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# FRIDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2023

#### TOPIC: THE PROPHECIES OF THE PROPHETS XVI

# **TEXT: ACTS 13:47**

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. KJV

After Apostle Paul's persuasion towards the people, they departed and gathered again to hear of him the next sabbath. Surprisingly, the Gentiles who gathered to listened to God's word at the synagogue outnumbered the Jews, who were supposed to be the primary beneficiaries of salvation because, the promise of the savior, Jesus, was given to their Fathers.

They were filled with envy and began to disapprove all that Apostle Paul had said. This didn't hinder him and his partner Barnabas from speaking and sharing the truth of God's word. They wax bold and testified to the Gentiles that the promise of God in salvation, is not only for the stock of Israel, but God through his prophet also spoke about the Gentiles as a beneficiary. (Acts 13:45)

He said; For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, That thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. Acts 13:47 KJV

The Gentiles were glad and glorified the words of the Lord. The message hasn't change. Till this day, salvation is for us, who became the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. And it is open to as many as possible who will place their faith in God through Christ' death and resurrection.

The declaration of the truth that salvation is a light to lighten the Gentiles was the same identification spoken by the prophet to define the earthly ministry of Jesus in Luke 2:32. This prophecy is also found in Isaiah 49:6. By now, your understanding of the writings in the books of the prophets should have become enlightened. With no confusion at all, knowing that they spoke largely about salvation in Christ. They spoke of the Kingdom of God and Christ as the king. His reign on earth and our salvation in Him.

Amidst, many other instructions, found in the books of the scriptures, God's desire to save the world was communicated without reservation. We must know this and acknowledge the truth of the scriptures. It will shape our understanding of God and enable us to become a partner with God on earth, to save others through the power of the Holy spirit. Are you saved? Pray with me:

#### **PRAYER**

This day, I open my heart to the saviour of the world, Jesus Christ. Who was delivered for my offenses and raised for my justification. I confess him as my Lord and saviour and believe in my heart that he died for my sins. My sins are forgiven, and I receive eternal life, now and ever. Amen



# SATURDAY, 28TH JANUARY 2023

**TOPIC: JESUS, OUR PEACE I** 

## **TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:11**

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; KJV

that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Ephesians 2:12-14 KJV

From the beginning of this study, we step out to establish that the New Testament are subset of the Old Testament. They are not different in the sense of disparity or message of truth. But are the fruits of God's promises fulfilled as spoken by prophets in the scriptures which we referred to as the Old Testament.

The book of Ephesians is called letters or Epistles, written by the Apostles who after Christ became God's light to continue the mandate of Christ on earth. Apostle Paul played a major role in writing to the church of God, which are congregation of people, who were saved through the preaching of the gospel and baptism of the Holy spirit.

Most of these churches are established in Gentile nations. Therefore, the writings of Apostle Paul carried the message of Gentiles as a major partaker in salvation by faith in Christ. He wrote from the prophecies of the prophets and revealed to the people the truth that God had the nations of the world at heart when he called Abraham and blessed him with the blessing of all nation.

He said, the circumcision is of faith, and through Christ death, we are made nigh to God for Jesus Christ is our peace, and by his death, he has broken the wall of partition between the Jews and Gentiles nation. There is no segregation. Salvation is for all men! Are you saved? Pray with me;

#### **PRAYER**

Today, I come before God, whose promises are Yeah and Amen in Christ. I believe with my heart that God gave his only begotten son to death for my sins and raised him up by his power for my justification. I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour. My sins are forgiven, I receive eternal life and filled with the Holy spirit. I am eternally saved. Amen



# SUNDAY, 29TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: JESUS. OUR PEACE II

# **TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:15**

having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; KJV

Jesus' death ended the law of commandments that are contained in ordinances, which stood as an enemy because the children of Israel were unable to do without breaking any of them. They were constantly under its condemnation, though the law was given to keep them far from evil. They needed a savior to bear their burden and put an end to their incapacities.

Jesus bridge the gap. Which became the route of salvation not just for the Jews but for the Gentiles as well. He became the peace for the Jews and the Gentiles by making a new way to salvation, which is by faith. Thus, everyone both Jews and Gentiles must come to God by faith through his grace and mercy in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:17-18 says; and (Jesus) came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Peace is the message of salvation. It was preached to both Jews and Gentiles. Those who are far and near, establishing that access to God is by one Spirit. Everyone is to come through one way to the Father.

Are you agitating and contemplating if salvation is as true as it is being testified. I want to assure you that salvation is God's work on earth. The world as it stands has only one hope, that is salvation from sin and death.

Man must turn to God, who made him in order to find rest for his soul. God loves you and desires that you draw nigh to him by faith. He will abundantly pardon and cleanse you from all sins. It is He who blot out your transgression for his sake. His arms are wide open to receive you, even now, his love for you remain the same. Be persuaded!

#### **PRAYER**

Unto God who fashion me, I have come. I open my heart to receive grace and mercy. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and was raised from the dead for my justification unto life. I confess him as my lord and saviour. My sins are forgiven, I am redeemed, saved and blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's hand is upon my life to defend and direct my path now and ever. Amen



# MONDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: JESUS. OUR PEACE III

**TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:19** 

For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; KJV

Jesus is the message of God to every man on earth. The desire of God is for men to be in union with him, with the knowledge that he is the only living God from whom all things comes, and in whom all things consist. By reason of rebellion, the heart of men seeks to know God out of his preordained will. Therefore, Christ Jesus, was given to call rebellious mind back to God who is their creator and Father.

We have learnt how that the prophecies of the prophets are inspired messages that points to salvation of both the Jews and Gentiles by faith in Christ Jesus. All that happened to the children of Israel was not just a present experience in their lives but a spiritual tangent to speak of men's rebellion, and God's love to bring men back to himself, with a sustainable relationship by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God through the death of Jesus on the cross, made peace with all things and reconcile every man to himself. Colossians 1:20-22 says;

and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: KJV

You who are enemies in your minds by wicked works (This is the state of every man who haven't receive the reconciliation of God in Christ Jesus) The one who haven't received God's peace in Christ Jesus, is still an enemy of God. Such heart is rebellious because it has not submitted to salvation.

Man is presented to God as holy, unblameable and unreproveable when he is found in Christ Jesus, the peace of God. You have no excuse to remain in the state of rebellion and unsubmissive to God's will on earth. Salvation is God's will for all men.

# **PRAYER**

Today, I believe with my heart that Christ died for my sins and was raised by the power of God for my Justification. In him I have peace with God. My sins are forgiven, and I am now saved. I have eternal life and fill with the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen



# TUESDAY, 31ST JANUARY 2023

TOPIC: JESUS. OUR PEACE IV

**TEXT: COLOSSIANS 2:9** 

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. KJV

Jesus is God in human flesh. He bore the same human frame with men who were rebellious in their hearts to his will, in order to put an end to the enemy who is behind the rebellious acts and works.

Hebrews 2:14 says: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; KJV

He destroyed the devil, the adversary of man, the root cause of rebellion and the one who uses fear and death as the reward for man's rebellion towards God. Since, Jesus' death is to put an end to death for men, this means that physical death isn't the big deal but spiritual death which is an eternal separation from God.

God not willing to be eternally separated from us, he came in the flesh as Christ Jesus to enact peace and reconcile everything in heaven and earth to himself. This he started in a people called sons of Jacob (Israel) and reveal his acts with them as a message for all men.

Colossians 2:11-14 reveal that circumcision which made Israel a people of God, is now perfected for all men in Christ' death and all that was written down in the law which was against all other nations of the world, was removed through the death on the cross, in order to have all men come to God by faith in Him, who died for them and rose again.

Therefore, you become a child of God by faith in Jesus and receive his peace. God is ready to receive you into the family of faith, are you willing to accept forgiveness of sins by faith in Christ Jesus? Pray with me

#### **PRAYER**

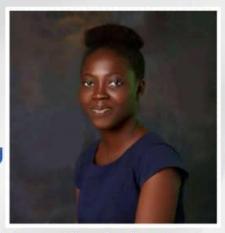
Today, I believe that Jesus died for my sins and was raised by the power of God for my justification. My sins are forgiven, and I receive eternal life. Therefore, I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour. I am filled with the Spirit of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Amen



His Voice Daily Devotional is God's voice reaching you daily through His words.

# **ABOUT AUTHOR**

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