

Your future..... **YOUR CHOICE!**



 **40 Day** PRAYER FOCUS 2022

Pray for AFRICA



**Prayer is the most effective and fruitful
use of time.**

- Hennie Viljoen -



Your future – Your choice

(Christians' involvement in the coming of the Kingdom and the government of the country)

40 Day Prayer Focus on Agriculture 1 September – 10 October 2022 and for all future elections

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*God's Kingdom must become visible everywhere –
in agriculture and in politics.*

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AMOS AGRIMIN

dedicates this Prayer Focus to everyone who has
for decades campaigned for:

*Truth and Reconciliation
Unity and Cooperation
Justice and Righteousness
Love and Care
Peace and Prosperity*

*Many have paid dearly for their contributions.
Thank you.*

*We are living in Kingdom Times. God has shown His love for us by
giving us Jesus Christ as King. Let us strive for the coming of His
Kingdom in the government and management of every country in Africa.*

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Foreword

Governments can be a **blessing** or a **curse** for a country and its people. Many things determine the effect government has on a country. The question is:

- ✓ How knowledgeable or foolish are they?
- ✓ How skillful or inept are they?
- ✓ How biased or impartial are they?
- ✓ How honest or corrupt are they?
- ✓ How experienced or inexperienced are they?
- ✓ How teachable or stubborn are they?
- ✓ How content or greedy are they?
- ✓ What are the convictions that determine their decisions and behaviour (Proverbs 4:23)?
- ✓ Can they solve problems effectively and wisely capitalize on opportunities?
- ✓ Do they consider the most beneficial plans for the country in the long-term or do they only consider their own immediate needs and winning enough votes to stay in power?
- ✓ Have they been anointed by the Spirit of God and equipped to govern? Or were they merely chosen and appointed by people?

This is not only true of governments. The same questions must be asked of the citizens of a country:

- ✓ How governable or ungovernable do they make the country?
- ✓ How involved or apathetic are they regarding politics and matters of national interest?

Politics has a big and direct influence on agriculture. Consider things such as:

- ✓ Economic structures and political ideologies
- ✓ Agricultural policy
- ✓ Food security
- ✓ Ownership of land
- ✓ Water rights
- ✓ Fuel prices and electricity supply
- ✓ Transport and infrastructure such as roads and railways
- ✓ Rural development
- ✓ Labour legislation and job creation (especially in rural areas)
- ✓ Imports and exports
- ✓ Taxation, VAT, Land and Capital gains tax, etcetera
- ✓ The management of disaster relief funds and conservation areas
- ✓ Mineral rights and mining rights



The list is long. Government, civil service and politics are ALL concerned with agriculture. Rural and farming communities cannot afford to be apathetic about things that will affect their future and the lives of their children. Everyone must know and understand: **Your future, your choice!**

Governments have a lot of power and influence on the country and all its people. If this power falls into the wrong hands **darkness will descend!** Literally and figuratively! I received a video clip on WhatsApp in which a speaker from Africa (unfortunately I don't know his name or nationality) asks:

What is the difference between the ordinary thief and the political thief?

- 1. The ordinary thief steals your money, your bag, your watch, and your jewellery. But the political thief steals your future, your career, your education, your health and your business.*
- 2. The hilarious part is that the ordinary thief will choose whom to rob. But you are the one who chooses the political thief to rob you. Because we choose them, we vote for them!*
- 3. We blindly say we are not blind. Who is deceiving who? The ridiculous part of the whole issue is that we will fight to defend and protect our belongings from the ordinary thief. But we fight each other to defend and protect the political thief. Is that not what we do? Thugs will be fighting themselves to protect those that are stealing our career, stealing our joy, stealing our health, stealing our success.*

What a shame! What a travesty!

This emphasises the danger of passive citizens mindlessly ticking a box and putting people like these in positions of power – people who rob us all of a good and prosperous future.

Study the Word! Pray! Get involved! Your future, your choice!

Hennie Viljoen



10 October – Barefoot Day

At AMOS, 10 October is **Barefoot Day**. God regularly commands His prophets to do something unusual to make a specific message clear to His people. (E.g. Ezekiel 3:24; 4:1-4; 4:10-11; 5:1; 12:2-3; 12:18; 21:6; 24:15-16; 37:15-19; Jeremiah 13:1-14; 16:1-4; 27:1-2; 32:1-44; Hosea 3.)

The aim of Barefoot Day is to remind all of us that we are on holy ground, God's land, and that we live and farm in His presence. God's presence in the burning bush made the ground on which Moses was standing holy. Therefore he took off his shoes (Exodus 3). Christ came to Earth and was called Emmanuel, which means: *God is with us* (Matthew 1:23). He also reconciled the world and made it holy through His sacrifice and presence (Colossians 1:19-20). He is with us every day until the end of time (Matthew 28:20). **We now live and farm daily on holy ground in God's presence.** Being aware of that all day is life changing. With my soft, sensitive, bare feet, I think carefully about where I walk, and I tread carefully. I do not rush thoughtlessly through the day. The same applies to my life in God's presence. It helps me to avoid sin (thorns and sharp stones), and is a great comfort and encouragement. He is here with me to carry, help, and protect me (according to Joshua 1:9; 2 Chronicles 16:9 and Matthew 28:20).

This is also a special opportunity to testify. People are bound to ask you: *Why are you walking around barefoot?* This will give you an opportunity to testify according to the Scripture verses above. **Barefoot Day** is an opportunity to encourage people and to show them that they are in God's presence not only in church on Sundays, but everywhere and always.



Remember to farm
barefoot on **10 October!**
Keep up the momentum!



How to use the Prayer Focus

Keep the following in mind:

1. Plan and organise

Now is the ideal time for Christians of all cultures, churches, social and party politics to take hands and pray together. Use existing prayer meetings and create new opportunities to pray together

Promote the *40 Day Prayer Focus on Agriculture* as widely as possible. Send the e-mail and WhatsApp to family and friends, political parties and candidates, church and community organisations. Put the content on your Facebook. Use local newspapers and radio stations. Refer friends to AMOS' homepage: www.amosafrica.net.

2. Read the Scriptures

Read the Scriptures at the top of every chapter. You will lose out on blessings and growth if you only read the message. Remember, the most important thing is to give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to speak through the Word.

3. Confess sin

Although it's not mentioned specifically in every chapter, it's extremely important to pay attention to the four issues mentioned in **2 Chronicles 7:14**:

- Let the Holy Spirit lead you to repentance;
- Pray and confess any sins the Holy Spirit convicts you of;
- Ask what the will of the Lord is and obey it;
- Turn away from your evil ways. Turn your back on everything that the Word says God does not approve of.

When Christians do this God *will* heal their land!

4. Prayer guidelines

The prayer guidelines are just that - guidelines. Read and think about the chapter for each day. Pray about everything that the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

There is a list of Scriptures about which to keep praying at the end of the 40 daily portions. Do not stop praying for government.



5. Cultivate the discipline of fasting and obedience

There are a number of books about fasting and prayer. Read them at your leisure. The 40 Day Prayer Focus is an ideal opportunity to sharpen your self-control and discipline. Eat and drink nothing for three days as Esther did (Esther 4:16), or just eat vegetables and drink water like Daniel and his friends. Alternatively, stop eating meat and drinking wine for 21 days. Stop using lotions and perfume (Daniel 1:12 and 10:2-3). You could also fast for 40 days like Jesus (Matthew 4).

There are many powerful messages on YouTube. Listen to ***“The secret power of fasting”***, a teaching by **Derek Prince**. It can, and will, radically change your life and your relationship with God.

We need to learn to give up more than food, TV, etc. from time to time. We must learn to **give up our sins and disobedience permanently**. We must fast from our evil deeds and break bad habits. Crucify the self: *I want! I think! I feel!* It is not about you and me, but about **God’s Word, God’s Will, and God’s Way** for you and me and our country.

Keep praying!



PART 1

WE ARE LIVING IN KINGDOM TIMES!

It is the beginning of the 21st century. What should we be doing at this time in history?

In 1 Chronicles 10 we read about King Saul's death. In chapter 11 and 12 we read that David, who reigned only in Hebron (2 Samuel 5:3-5; 1 Chronicles 11:1), captured Jerusalem.

David became king in Saul's place as God had promised through Samuel (1 Chronicles 11:2-3 and 10). David was on the throne! He grew in strength because God was with him (1 Chronicles 11:9).

In chapter 12 we read about all the people who joined David at Ziklag. We read about the armed men who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him according to the will of the Lord (1 Chronicles 12:23).

There was also a contingent of men from the tribe of Issachar. It is said that they were "... *men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do* ..." (1 Chronicles 12:32). They understood the implications of having a new king. They understood what the people had to do under his leadership. They understood their **CALLING** for a specific **TIME** in a specific **KINGDOM**!

According to God's promise, Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, is on the throne now and for eternity (Acts 2:29-36). We are living in the time of the reign of Jesus Christ! What is our calling in this Kingdom and at this time? What should we do?



Day 1

Understand the time in which we are living: Christ is on the throne!

Read: Daniel 2:34-35; Luke 1:31-33; Ephesians 1:10; 1 Chronicles 12:32

Jesus was born at the exact time the prophet Daniel prophesied 490 years earlier. Therefore, Simeon and Anna looked forward to the birth of Jesus with great expectation (Luke 2:25-40). This is also how John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:29-34).

We are living in **Kingdom Times - the time of the Kingdom of God** which is constantly expanding (Daniel 2:34-35 and 44; 6:27-28; Matthew 13:31-33). Jesus submitted Himself completely to the will of the Father and died for our salvation. Therefore, God raised Him from the dead and gave Him a Name above all names (Philippians 2:5-11). He put everything under the authority of Jesus. He gave Him power over evil. All authority is subject to Him. Jesus does not hold this position temporarily the way political leaders do. God appointed Him in this position *permanently* (Ephesians 1:19b-23). Jesus Christ is the new King on the throne.

The Kingdom of God, with Jesus on the throne of David, keeps growing. That is a fact, even though it does not always seem that way. God's Kingdom will never diminish or decrease! The Word is very clear about this (Isaiah 9:6; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Daniel 2:35 and 44). Through Christ, God began a process "*... - to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*" (Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:13-14). This process is unstoppable and irreversible. It will continue until He destroys every evil power – until all His enemies are subject to Him (1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

God gave Adam the task and the authority to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). By his disobedience, Adam handed his authority over to the devil. By His obedience, Jesus, the second Adam, took back the right to rule (Luke 4:5-8; Romans 5:12-21). He came as a man to conquer the devil and destroy his works (Hebrews 2:14- 15; 1 John 3:8). Jesus now has the authority to rule. But, just as God did in the beginning, He gave this authority to God's children. He wants to reign through us (cf. Daniel 7:22 and 27). We are His representatives (Genesis 1:26). We are His body and we have His Spirit (Ephesians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). He wants to accomplish His will through His children (Matthew 16:19; John 17:18).



We are living in Kingdom times! Christ is on the throne! He reigns! He is building His Kingdom through those who are already citizens of His Kingdom. Through these citizens, His name will be praised even more. Through these citizens will *His* will increasingly be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Through them, He will expand his reign on Earth.

Discuss:

- Read 1 Chronicles 12:32. This was when the kingship of Saul passed to David. Why is it important for us to know the time in which we are living?
- Who took the kingship from whom? Read Luke 4:5-7; Acts 2:29-36 and 1 Timothy 1:17.
- What is your relationship with the King who is seated on the throne?

Remember:

- What you see and hear with your physical eyes and ears is not always the whole truth. The Word of God is truth. The Kingdom is coming!
- Memorise Daniel 2:35.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Remember, God's Kingdom is gaining ground and will eventually be the only kingdom. It will fill the world (Daniel 2:35).

Prayer:

- † Worship, praise and thank the King of the Kingdom.
- † Pray that Christians will understand what they must do now - now that Christ is seated on the throne of David (Acts 2:29-36).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians.



Day 2

The Kingdom is coming

Read: Daniel 2:34-35; Luke 1:31-33; Ephesians 1:10; 1 Chronicles 12:32

The Kingdom is coming! The Kingdom is gaining ground. This truth is confirmed by modern history.

The printing press (in Europe) was invented around 1450. This invention and the translation of the Bible into the mother tongue of ordinary people (after 1500 AD) made the Word of God accessible to everyone. Many people could get hold of the Bible quickly. They could read and understand it. The Bible literally changed everything. People began to understand that they could only be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16). They discovered that sacrifices and the mediation of priests was unnecessary (Hebrews 10:14-20). Through the Word and the Spirit, God changed what people thought about everything (Romans 12:1): religion; politics, justice and social justice; economics and land ownership; health and medical sciences; technology; teaching and training. God began the process on 31 October 1517 through Martin Luther. It led to the greatest change in modern history: The Protestant Reformation. **The Kingdom is coming! It is starting to fill the earth!** (Daniel 2:35; Revelation 5:9-10)

In 1906 the Holy Spirit stirred revival in a small church in Azusa street in Los Angeles. The black preacher, William J Seymour, was blind in one eye and not particularly good-looking. People thought that the revival would blow over quickly. However, history tells a different story. Most of the popular ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries crumbled while Pentecostal and Charismatic churches kept growing after the Azusa Street Revival. The effects were so great that in 2006, a magazine called **The Economist** decided to investigate what had happened in the 100 years following the revival. They also examined the rise in revivals in China and Africa. The authors of the articles published a book in 2009 with the title: **God is back: How the global rise of faith is changing the world.**¹

A few decades ago, Bibles had to be smuggled into **China**. Today, most Bibles (in different languages) are printed in China. The home church

¹ The Radical Gospel of the Kingdom – A vision of Victory for the church of the 21st Century. First Edition 2012. Page 11 Orlando Mostert



movement in China is growing rapidly. Chinese law allows a maximum of 25 members per group. Therefore, when a group reaches 25 members, it is divided into two smaller home churches that can each grow up to 25 members. In this way, the home churches keep multiplying. Research indicates that there were already as many as 130 million Christians in China in 2008. This number could have doubled since then. In 2011, 33% of **Brazilians** were Evangelical Christians. It is estimated that figure is now more than 50%. In **Africa** the number of Christians has increased to over 400 million (a third of Africa's population) since 1970. In **Korea** more than a third of the people are Evangelical Christians. Five of the world's ten largest churches are in the capital, Seoul. Korea has already sent forth more than 15 000 missionaries. The Church of Jesus Christ is even growing in the **Middle East**. However, statistics are hard to come by because of the widespread persecution of Christians by Muslims. The Kingdom is coming! It is starting to fill the earth!² (Daniel 2:35; Revelation 5:9-10)

It is not just about religious gatherings on Sundays in buildings. As with the Reformation, the Spirit and the Word are changing people's lives 24/7 by renewing their minds and thoughts (Romans 12:2)! People are acknowledging Christ's kingship. More and more people are allowing the King to live in and through them. **The Kingdom is coming! It is starting to fill the earth!** (Daniel 2:35; Revelation 5:9-10)

Because unto us a Child is born; a Child with more than one Name:
He is the Lamb and the Lion;
He is the Saviour and the Lord;
He is the Son of the Most High and the Eternal King (Luke 1:32-33);
His Kingdom will keep expanding and will never end (Daniel 2:35).

Discuss:

- In the past, God used people to change the world and ensure that more and more people obey Him in every sphere of life. How do you think He will do it in the future?
- Who do you think God wants to use to bring His Kingdom in politics?
- Are you available if He wants to use you – even if it's just to vote?
- Read Psalm 2. Are godless rulers a threat to God and His Son, Jesus Christ? Who will reign over the whole world (verse 8)?

Remember:

- God wants to use you to make a difference in politics.

² The Radical Gospel of the Kingdom – A vision of Victory for the church of the 21st Century. First Edition 2012. Page 11 Orlando Mostert



- God always works and rules through people.
- Memorise Daniel 2:35.

Tips for voters:

- X** Do what you must do to ensure that politicians and those who govern obey the will of the King.

Prayer:

- † Worship, praise, and thank the King of the Kingdom.
- † Pray that Christians will understand that God also wants to use them as His representatives to build His Kingdom.
- † Pray for the president as well as the leader of the opposition.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **South Africa.**

Day 3

The King of the Kingdom!

Read: Luke 1:32-33; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 10:12

Jesus' commands to the disciples were very clear. Pray for the Kingdom of God to come (Matthew 6:10). Search and strive for the coming of the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33). Go, declare, and demonstrate the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2). Therefore, we must understand what the Kingdom is.

What constitutes a kingdom? There are four important conditions:

1. There must be a king;
2. There must be territory (an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state);
3. There must be citizens (subjects / inhabitants);
4. There must be rule of law (judicial system).

Each of these conditions is bound to the other three. They cannot be separated.

The same applies to the Kingdom of God:

Jesus Christ is the King! He reigns eternally (Luke 1:32-33 and Hebrews 10:12). No one can remove Him from His position.

King Hiram of Tyre wrote to King Salomon of Israel and said: *"Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king"* (2 Chronicles 2:11)!



It was true of Solomon, but it is 1000 times truer of Jesus! God's decision to make Jesus King of His Kingdom testifies of one thing: God loves us more than words can say because Jesus is all we need!

He is the full revelation of the Father (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:3). He loves to the very end (John 13:1). He cares and He serves. He does not seek His own interests (Romans 15:1-4; Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:5-8); He is without sin and He forgives sin (Luke 5:20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26-28); He teaches and guides with wisdom and authority; His ability is unlimited. He creates everything from nothing (John 1:1-5; Hebrews 11:3). He destroys the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b) and heals people oppressed by the devil. He is good to people (Acts 10:38). He is humble and friendly (2 Corinthians 10:1). Through His Spirit He is present everywhere in His Kingdom, always. He is everything we could want!

After Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6), he was so in awe of Jesus that he later wrote to the Philippians: *"... I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ..."* (cf. Philippians 3:8-10). Having Jesus as King is the best thing that could happen to anybody.

Discuss:

- Which attributes of Jesus fill you with awe?
- Think: What would happen if government displayed the Spirit, attitude, and example of Jesus?
- Would you like to be ruled by people whose lives are ruled by Jesus? Motivate your answer. How could this be made possible?

Remember:

- Having Jesus as King is the best thing that could happen to anyone in any country.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Vote for people and parties who reflect the attractive character and image of King Jesus (1 John 2:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18).



Prayer:

- † Worship Jesus Christ, the King!
- † Pray that Christians will experience God's love anew when they allow Jesus to reign over them as King (2 Chronicles 2:11).
- † Pray that politicians, civil servants, and everyone in government will be saved and will have an intimate relationship with Jesus.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Lesotho*.

Day 4

The Kingdom Realm

Read: Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:21-28; Luke 7:18-23; John 10:10

The **realm** over which the King rules must expand until it includes all nations, tribes, and tongues (Revelation 5:9). Therefore, Jesus sends us, His disciples, to the nations. He promised that the Holy Spirit would empower us to be His representatives to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8). Through His Spirit, He gives His children extraordinary gifts to further His ministry and expand His Kingdom (Mark 16: 15-18; Luke 9:1-2; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4:10). The Kingdom expands **person-by-person** and **region-by-region**.

In Luke 10:27 we read: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*" Clearly, the Kingdom cannot be limited to an area of land. The Kingdom includes all aspects of life: religion; agriculture; business; entertainment; media; science; technology; health and medicine; sport; recreation; culture; education and training; politics and government. The Kingdom must come in all of these.

Before Jesus came, people felt the effect of the work of the devil on their bodies. The devil stole, killed and destroyed to his heart's content (John 10:10a) in all these areas (politics, economics, religion, agriculture, and medicine). Many people were oppressed by the devil and often suffered all kinds of disease (Acts 10:38). The **general public** was selfish and tight-fisted. Their words and deeds contradicted each other. **Tax collectors** were corrupt. **Soldiers** abused their power and got rich through extortion (Luke 3:7-14; Luke 19:8). **Church leaders** confiscated widows' houses (Luke 20:47). They had



many opportunities to make money out of those who visited the temple. Roman coins could not be used for temple tax and had to be exchanged for Jewish currency. Not everyone could transport their animal offering to the temple in Jerusalem. They had to purchase an offering with Jewish money at the temple. The whole system was so corrupt that Jesus called the temple a den of robbers (Luke 19:45-46). **People in the countryside** were despondent and helpless. No one cared about them (Matthew 9:36). **Medical expenses** were a heavy burden for many (Luke 8:43). **Society** was deeply divided along religious, ethnic, societal, political, and economic lines (e.g. John 4:9; Luke 19:7). To top it all, the **Romans** ruled over Israel.

Based on prophesy (by Daniel, amongst others – Daniel 9:24-27) people expected the Messiah to come in their lifetime (Luke 1:13-17; 2:25-32; John 1:13-28). Everyone was convinced that the coming of Christ would radically change things (Luke 7:18-19). And it most certainly did!

The Messiah came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b) and make John 10:10b a reality. He declared and demonstrated the Kingdom. In His ministry we see the first accurate example of what it looks like where and when the Kingdom of Heaven comes on Earth. It was so attractive! Crowds of people surrounded Jesus. Everyone wanted to see and hear Him! He brought deliverance, healing, and freedom from demonic powers for free; everyone wanted it (Mark 1:32-37; Luke 4:14-15 and 5:15-16; Acts 10:38). Jesus healed people for free, whether they were sick for a few hours, 12 years (Luke 8:43), or 38 years (John 5:5). He even raised people from the dead (Luke 8:40-56 and John 11:33-44). The Kingdom affected people's **health and quality of life**.

Zacchaeus, the stingy tax collector, gave away half of his possessions to the poor after meeting the King. He paid back four times as much as he had extorted from people (Luke 19:8). The Kingdom made people open their hearts and their hands (wallets) (Acts 2:45; 20:33-35; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 2 Corinthians 9 and 13-14; 1 John 3:16-18). The Kingdom affected the **economic** and **social** spheres of life.

The Kingdom also greatly influenced the **religious** realm. The King gave Himself as the final offering on the cross. ***"For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*** (Hebrews 10:14; Colossians 2:14). Based on Jesus' offering, God reconciled humanity with Himself (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). He forgives people and forgets their sin (Hebrews 10:17). ***"And where these have been***



forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.” (Hebrews 10:18).

The veil in the temple tore and everyone now has free and direct access to God (Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 10:19-20). Offerings, the law, mediators, and the temple were all replaced by Jesus’ sacrifice. All the corruption that went along with these things was done away with. The only condition now is faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:16; 1 John 5:11-13).

Discuss:

- In which realm or situation do you want to see the Kingdom of God come? Why?
- What must happen for the Kingdom to come in politics?

Remember:

- Christians are not fighting a losing battle – including in politics! We are living in Kingdom Times!

Tips for voters:

- X** Use your vote to give the King a loud voice in the country and its politics so that everything will improve.

Prayer:

- † Pray that more and more people will experience an irresistible hunger and thirst for the Word and that they will start reading the Bible until they have a personal encounter with the King.
- † Pray that the Kingdom of God will come in your home, community, and local government.
- † Pray for the election of the right leaders for every political party. Pray for the upcoming election: local, provincial, or national.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Swaziland.***



Day 5

The Citizens of the Kingdom

Read: Colossians 1:13; Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:11-22

The **citizens** of God's Kingdom are the people He rescued from the kingdom of darkness and placed under the reign of His Beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). They are people who acknowledge and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. The people Jesus called out of the world to form a new community (*ecclesia*). He gave this community the keys to the Kingdom and the authority to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth (Matthew 16:16-18).

The citizens of the Kingdom are all those to whom He gave the right to call themselves children of God because they are born of Him and believe in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13). Citizenship is thus not bought or earned. It comes with repenting and being born again (John 3:5). It is a gift to everyone who is born of God. God wants everyone to believe in Jesus and become citizens of His Kingdom (Matthew 18:14; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; Philippians 3:20).

The Spirit of the Kingdom lives in the citizens of the Kingdom. This causes them to live radically differently to those who aren't citizens. They love their enemies and do good to those who hate them. They pray for those who curse them (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36). They love others because God first loved them (1 John 4:19). They accept others because God accepted them (Romans 15:7). They are merciful because God was merciful (Luke 6:36). They forgive because God forgave them (Ephesians 4:32). They help and encourage because God helped and encouraged them (2 Corinthians 1:3-5). Citizens of the Kingdom are people who live according to the constitution of the Kingdom. They allow the King to live through them (Galatians 2:19-20).

These citizens are not from a specific ethnic group. Citizens of the Kingdom come from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9)! They come from every economic and social group (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11). Through the sacrifice of Jesus they are reconciled to God and each other. In Christ they are united. They have the same Spirit. They have the same access to the Father. They belong to the same household: God's household. God lives in them all (Ephesians 2:11-22 and 4:4-6).



When and where the Kingdom comes, skin colour, tribal ties, literacy, sex, education, and socio-economic circumstances cease to matter. Citizens of the Kingdom come from all of these groups. They are all equal, because the Kingdom is about the will of the King for everyone. The King does not discriminate (Romans 2:11; 2 Chronicles 19:5-7)!

Discuss:

- How did you become a citizen of the Kingdom? Are you living like a citizen of the Kingdom?
- Political parties that ignore the King and focus only on the interests of certain people or language group, nation, tribe, social class (rich or poor), or sex have no place in the Kingdom. Discuss.

Remember:

- Kingdom politics cannot be driven by differences between people and groups. Only one question must be answered: Are you for or against the King?

Tips for voters:

X If you are a citizen of the Kingdom, vote for a citizen of the Kingdom.

Prayer:

- † Pray that the coming of the Kingdom in politics will radically change the way people are ruled.
- † Pray that God's children will start thinking differently about politics and how God would have things work in this realm.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Namibia*.

Day 6

The Constitution of the Kingdom

Read: Psalm 97:2; Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8

South Africa prides itself on having one of the best constitutions in the world. Could be, but it consists of many complex laws, articles, and sub-articles which attempt to cover every possible situation. It attempts to influence people's behaviour from outside. To succeed with such a



complex system, one needs educated and impartial judges, various courts, and a large police force. Even then, a good constitution does not guarantee justice for everyone. Judges often break the law themselves or alter it to satisfy their own selfish desires “within” the law.

The constitution of the Kingdom of God is radically different! **This constitution describes Who the King is and what the King is doing.**

The **constitution** of the Kingdom is love. *God is love and He loved us first* (1 John 4:7-21). Therefore the constitution of the Kingdom is simple: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”* and *“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* (Matthew 22:37,39).

The **constitution** of the Kingdom is also just and righteous. One of the many names of the King that describe His character is Jehovah *Mishpat*. It means *God of Justice*. The foundation of His throne is justice and righteousness (Psalm 97:2). Jesus establishes His Kingdom through *justice and righteousness*. Through *justice and righteousness*, He maintains it forever (Isaiah 9:6). *Justice and righteousness* are the will of the King and His actions confirm this (Psalm 103:6; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8).

The constitution is like the King! Because the King is *love* and shows *love*, the constitution requires all citizens of God’s Kingdom to practically demonstrate their love as well (1 John 3:16-18 and 4:7-11). Because the King’s life is marked by *justice and righteousness*, the constitution of the Kingdom requires all citizens to constantly strive for justice and righteousness (Jeremiah 9:24).

The **constitution** of the Kingdom may be summarized as follows: Follow the example set by the King. Live the way He lived! Die to yourself and allow the King to live through you (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:6-7; Matthew 16:24-25; 1 John 2:6). The King never changes (Hebrews 13:8). Therefore the constitution of His Kingdom never needs to change.

This **constitution** is not forced upon citizens from outside by judges and courts. Through His Spirit, the King stirs the desire in his citizens to live and act like Him (Jeremiah 32:40; Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:19). Obedience to the law is the heart’s desire of the citizens of the Kingdom. They pray constantly that the King will live through them. They cannot obey the law on their own.



The **constitution** of the Kingdom is therefore simple, short, and powerful. It covers every aspect of life and addresses every situation. It doesn't have to change. It is the heart's desire of the citizens and does not have to be enforced by judges and courts. The Spirit of the King in us empowers us to live according to the law.

Discuss:

- What is the difference between an external law and an internal desire? Which one has the greatest and most enduring influence on someone's behaviour?
- How wonderful it would be if everyone treated everyone else as they would like to be treated; if justice and righteousness prevail for everyone; if Christ reigns over every ruler. What will be the greatest challenge government will face? Emigration or Immigration? Why?
- The Kingdom's constitution needs the country's constitution in order to work. Or: The country's constitution needs the Kingdom's constitution in order to work. Discuss these two statements!

Remember:

- The Kingdom's constitution must be your heart's desire. This will only happen if you love the King and allow Him to live through you.

Tips for voters:

- X** Start with yourself. Make the Kingdom of God attractive to others by living according to the constitution of the Kingdom!

Prayer:

- † Pray that through their actions, Christians will make the Kingdom of God attractive to unbelievers.
- † Pray that Christians will become even more sensitive to the voice of the Spirit.
- † Pray that politicians and everyone in the civil service will have an encounter with Christ. Pray that the constitution of the Kingdom will become their heart's desire.
- † Pray that political leaders will ask the King how He wants to rule over His Kingdom and people. Fresh revelation is necessary!

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Botswana.**



Day 7

Strive for the Kingdom and make disciples

Read: Matthew 6:10 and 33; 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-2

Every kingdom has a king (someone who rules), subjects (citizens), land (territory), and laws (a constitution). In God's Kingdom, Jesus is King. Those who are saved are citizens. The constitution stipulates that the citizens should live like the king. The borders of the Kingdom must constantly expand: more places, more people, more territories! The citizens of the Kingdom are all jointly responsible for the expansion of the Kingdom.

Jesus' instruction to the disciples was clear: **Pray** for the Kingdom of God to come (Matthew 6:10). **Seek and strive** for the coming of the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33). **Proclaim and demonstrate** the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2).

Jesus' last instruction was: **Go, make disciples** of all nations, **baptise** them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and **teach** them to **obey everything** that I have commanded you.

The King has fully equipped us to declare and demonstrate His Kingdom. He reminds us that all power and authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. He promises that He will always be with us through His Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). He shares His authority with us: He gave us the power and authority to carry out His command (Luke 9:1-2; Mark 16:15-20). The citizens of His Kingdom are equipped with the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) - the ability to do what Jesus did.

We are living in Kingdom Times! Jesus is King. He reigns! The borders of His Kingdom must keep expanding: more land; more people who live according to the constitution; more areas of life in which people do what the King desires. As citizens of God's Kingdom, we are fully prepared and equipped for this calling and instruction (Ephesians 2:10 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Kingdom is attractive because the King is attractive! The constitution is wonderful. The citizens live like the King. The Kingdom is like the Promised Land – a land that flows with milk and honey!

However ... ten of the twelve were afraid ... to take possession of the land (the Kingdom)!



Discuss:

- Why can we say with absolute certainty that Christians are totally prepared and equipped to carry out Jesus' instruction everywhere and in every sphere of life?
- Why are most Christians slow and scared to carry out Jesus' instruction?
- Why *must* we carry out Jesus instruction?
- What advantages are there to making disciples and the coming of the Kingdom in all areas of life?

Remember:

- Our instruction is to make disciples and to declare and demonstrate the Kingdom.

Tips for voters:

- X** Strive for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Prayer:

- † Pray that all Christians will accept Jesus' instruction as their own personal responsibility. Disciples must be made where people live and work, not just at church. The Kingdom must come where people live and work, not just in church.
- † Pray for the salvation of specific people (name them). Pray that God will remove their spiritual blindness and that they will believe in the good news of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Zimbabwe.***



Day 8

But many are afraid ...

Read: Numbers 13:26-33; Numbers 14:10-11 and 26-30; Romans 15:4

The command is clear: Strive for the Kingdom and make disciples. But ... we are so afraid!

There are many lessons to learn from the history of Israel. The Lord promised to be Abraham's God and to give him a wonderful land and many descendants (Genesis 17:1-8). After 430 years in slavery, the Lord called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When they reached the promised land, Canaan, the Lord commanded Moses to send men to spy out the land "... *which I [God] am giving to the Israelites.*" (Numbers 13:1). Moses did what the Lord said. He gave a clear instruction to the spies (Numbers 13:17-20). The purpose was not to determine whether the people could take the land or not but to motivate Israel to take the land that the Lord wanted to give them. The only decision they needed to make was how to do it. Unfortunately, 10 of the 12 spies decided to report beyond their mandate. They forgot all of the signs and wonders God had already done. They focused on the enemy and themselves and they felt like grasshoppers. They were convinced that it would be impossible to take the land because there were giants there! And so, they rebelled against Moses and questioned God's integrity. They claimed He had a hidden agenda. They said God led them out of Egypt not to give them the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey, but to kill them and make their wives and children prisoners of war (Numbers 4:1-4). They even threatened to stone the two men (Joshua and Caleb) who did not agree with the majority report (Numbers 13:26 to 14:10). This made God very angry. *'The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?"'* (Numbers 14:11). **Then the Lord gave them what they believed and told each other instead of what He had promised them!** Read Numbers 14:2 and 28-30! Please read it!

We must learn from this. The Lord commanded us to disciple the nations and expand His Kingdom territory until it covers the whole world. He has already conquered Satan and the world (John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8). All power and authority already belongs to Him and He is with us (Matthew 28:18-20). He gave us His Spirit. His Spirit has already equipped us with various gifts and ministries to carry out His commands. We **can**



disciple the nations and establish the reign of Christ over the whole world. The command is possible! The *"Promised Land"* **can** be taken (cf. Deuteronomy 1:21).

But what are we doing instead? We spend far too much time discussing the giants in the land (cf. 1 Samuel 17:8-16) and too little time in the company of the King (Bible reading and prayer). That's why we talk about the danger of the Antichrist; the Illuminati; economic powers; conspiracy theories; crazy political leaders; the role of world powers; false religions; the mark of the beast and all kinds of corruption; Babylonian powers (everyone who abuses political, economic, or church power to enrich themselves and further the kingdom of darkness), and so on. We lend our ears to the media but the media cover the devil's doings (John 10:10a = steal, kill and destroy) more than they cover what God is doing (John 10:10b = life in abundance)! That is why we are afraid. We feel threatened, worthless, and weak. We focus on surviving and not on overcoming; on other's opinions of us and not on finishing what we must do. We wait for the rapture. The world is too big and strong for us – our wives and children will become prisoners of war. God must take us out of this place because we won't make it here.

But we won't be raptured. Jesus clearly asked the Father not to take us out of the world, but to protect us from evil *while we are in the world* (John 17:15). *Why?* Because He sent us to the world as the Father sent Him to the world (John 17:18). *Why?* To disciple the nations! To declare and demonstrate the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 28:18-20 and Luke 9:1-2)!

The world focuses on everything except on what is happening right under its nose: the coming and the expansion of the Kingdom of God! The world abuses and belittles people who do God's work (cf. Nehemiah 4:1-8). They ignore the King and underestimate His power and authority. But God laughs at them (Psalm 2). He knows their end!

The Kingdom is coming! Nations are being disciplined! The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God (Habakkuk 2:14). Babylon will fall and only the Kingdom of God will remain (Revelation 18; Daniel 2:35 and 44)!

The Church, you and I, must choose:

1. **Either** we focus on the giants, view ourselves as grasshoppers, and miss out of what God promised (the Kingdom);
2. **Or** we focus on the King, the victories He has already achieved, and how He has equipped us. Then we will say what David said to Goliath: *"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin,*



but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands ...” (1 Samuel 17:45-46).

Stop speculating about who the Antichrist is. Make sure you know Who Christ is! Do not waste time analysing the darkness. Bring the light. Do not believe that things will get worse. Make yourself available to the King so that He can use you to make things better! Do not accept that the enemies of God will always be in the majority. Disciple nations! Do not believe that you cannot make a difference in the world. Use the gifts of the Spirit in accordance with the fruit of the Spirit. Watch God building His Kingdom through you! The world won't be changed by a few charismatic evangelists. It will be transformed by millions of disciples being made – one by one.

You have a choice: Fear or obedience. But all choices have consequences.

Discuss:

- Discuss the following statements: **Politics and the civil service** look like they do (selfishness; abuse of power; corruption; poor service delivery; etc.) because Christians are too scared to trample the political giants in the land in the Name of Jesus. The economy is as it is (exploitation; corruption; inflation; uncontrolled debt; wider wealth gap; etc.) because Christians think the (international) economic giants and systems that are part of the Babylonian system are untouchable; that they can hurt us. They forget what God said about the Chaldeans (Habakkuk 2:5-19) and Babylon (Revelation 18). Agriculture is as it is (destruction of soil health and fertility; starvation; food without nutritive value; high rates of farmer suicides worldwide; the rising average age of farmers; droughts; pests and plagues; etc.) because Christians got used to short-sighted farming practices instead of ensuring that everyone can *taste* and see that God is good (Psalm 34:9). The same is true of mining, tourism, etcetera.
- Are you convinced that the Kingdom of God can and must come in politics? Motivate your answer.
- Do you spend enough time in the Word and in prayer to build your faith, hope, and love? Or do you fill your thoughts with all the negative and alarming media articles, which are the breeding grounds for fear, hopelessness, and bitterness?



Remember:

- We are living in Kingdom times! It is time to bring everyone, the whole country, under the reign of King Jesus! We can do it! We can!

Tips for voters:

- X Become intentionally involved in politics and the government of your community and country. Remember the goal is the Kingdom!

Prayer:

- † Praise the Lord! We are living in Kingdom times!
- † Speak to the Lord about your personal responsibility regarding the coming of the Kingdom where you live and work.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Mozambique***



PART 2

YOUR DECISIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

Children should be taught from a young age that all their choices and decisions have consequences. **That is life.** It applies in politics and to our political choices too.

In a democratic land, all registered citizens above a certain age usually have the right to vote. This means that they have the right to choose and decide: Who will govern us?

Whether or not you vote, and which party or individual gets your vote, influences your future and that of your children.

Consider carefully the choice you make.

Day 9

You have a choice. But your choice has consequences

Read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).



From this we learn:

- ✓ God always gives you a choice. But He also says that choices have consequences;
- ✓ God tells you what to choose;
- ✓ Your choices have consequences for your descendants;
- ✓ God leaves the choice in your hands. But you *must* and *will* bear the consequences.

Choices work like this: Norman is 13 years old. His friends offer him a cigarette. **Norman must choose immediately: Yes or No!** His choices have consequences, even if he does not realise it yet. **All choices have consequences.** He must decide which consequences he can bear:

If he refuses to smoke, his friends might make fun of him and reject him. Can he bear the consequences of choosing to say “no”?

If he takes the cigarette and smokes, he might become addicted. It will cost him a lot of money – money that he could use to get ahead in life. Smoking is unhealthy and so his health could suffer. His decision to start smoking could also open the door to other addictions like alcohol and drugs. Can Norman bear the consequences of choosing to say “yes”?

All decisions have consequences. That is why you must think ahead. Think about the consequences of your choice before you decide. Your choice has consequences for you and your children.

Discuss:

- Which decisions that you made had bad consequences? Which decisions had good consequences? Did some of your decisions have both good and bad consequences? Give examples.
- It is time for the elections. What does this force you to do?
- What does it mean if you do not vote? Does it mean that you haven't made a choice? What consequences are there to not voting?

Remember:

Every election forces you to make a decision even if you do not want to be involved in politics. Every choice has consequences.

- Every decision has good and/or bad consequences for you and your children.
- It is your political right to vote, but there are consequences to voting. There are also consequences if you don't vote.
- It doesn't matter who you vote for, there will always be consequences.



Tips for voters:

- X** Think ahead because all decisions have consequences.
- X** Do not make a decision if you are not prepared to live with its consequences.
- X** If you wouldn't want to live with the consequences of a decision, make a different, better decision.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about your decisions and their consequences.
- † Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make the right decisions. Ask Him what the consequences of each choice will be.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Zambia**.

Day 10

Your choices have consequences for today and the future

Read: Proverbs 1:31, as well as 14:15 and 27:12; Galatians 6:7-8

All choices have consequences. Some consequences are good and enjoyable, and some are bad and painful. But it's not always so simple. Most choices have positive (good/enjoyable) and negative (bad/painful) consequences. Think back to the choice Norman had to make. Both choices would have had negative and positive consequences.

Saying "no" would have an immediate *negative* consequence: his friends would mock him and maybe reject him. But in the long-term it would have *positive* consequences: he would save money and be healthier. He would also feel good about not giving in to peer pressure. It would strengthen him and help him to avoid experimenting with drugs.

Saying "yes" would have an immediate *positive* consequence: his friends would accept him. But in the long-term it would have *negative* consequences: it would cost him a lot of money, cost him his health and possibly open the door to experimenting with other drugs.



Whatever Norman chose would have positive and negative consequences:

- If he chose smoking: good short-term consequences but bad long-term consequences.
- If he chose **not** smoking: bad short-term consequences but good long-term consequences.

Therefore, think about the consequences of your decision before the elections. Think about the short-term and the long-term. Choose which consequences you can live with. Remember: your choice determines your future and your children's future.

You usually choose whatever seems most enjoyable to you. You do not even think that your choice might also have bad consequences. That is usually the wrong decision. **Choose what is best for you in the long-term even if it's not enjoyable right now.**

Discuss:

- Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22. Israel wants a king. Samuel prays. What else does he do? Read verse 9, and 18-22.
- What is your experience? Do voters think about the short-term and long-term consequences of their votes? Why do you say so?
- Read Proverbs 27:12. What do wise people do? What do foolish (inexperienced) people do?
Think about the previous election. Did the choice of the majority have good and/or bad consequences? Give examples.

Remember:

- **Every decision has consequences.**
- **Every decision has good** (positive) **and bad** (negative) **consequences.**
- **Every decision has short-term and long-term consequences.**
 - ✓ You must be prepared to live with the consequences of your decision.

Tips for voters:

- X Think ahead because every choice has short-term and long-term consequences.**
 - ✓ Think about the consequences of your decision:
 - Think about the immediate consequences
 - Think about the long-term consequences.



- ✓ Consider carefully: are you prepared to live with the consequences of your decision?
- ✕ When you vote, think about the future and not just about today. The best choice is usually the one that has the greatest benefit for the most people.

Prayer:

- † Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to think ahead. Ask Him to make you aware of the consequences of every decision you make.
- † Pray for your children and grandchildren. Start praying now for the government that will rule over them.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Malawi.***



PART 3

GOD IS KING. HE REIGNS FOR EVER

People do not always correctly interpret what they see. Looking at government and events around you with your physical eyes, you might think they have the authority to do as they please. That is not true. The truth is that all authority belongs to God. He has the authority to appoint and remove kings. Through Joseph, David, and Daniel, God kept His covenant with Israel and demonstrated his kingly authority. He made Jesus king for ever. He gave Him the Name Above All Names and appointed Him above all powers and authorities.

Jesus reigns over the rulers of this world.

Never forget it. Do not allow yourself to be scared. Do not live in fear – unless you have refused to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Day 11

Joseph was called by God

Read: Genesis 37:5-11; 41:40-44; 50:19-21

Joseph (Genesis 37 to 50) was clearly called by God to play an important role in the history of Israel. Therefore, God gave him two dreams. When he told his brothers about his dreams, they were angry and jealous. They sold him into slavery. Joseph became a slave in Egypt, was falsely accused, and was thrown into jail. But God was still with Joseph and even in jail he was a successful leader (Genesis 39:19-23). The Lord gave Joseph wisdom and revealed to him the meaning of the Pharaoh's dream. When Pharaoh realised that there was no one as wise and understanding as Joseph, he appointed him over everything and everyone. Only Pharaoh was above Joseph. Joseph used the wisdom and understanding that God gave him to carry out the calling of the Lord. He stored up grain during the seven years of plenty and sold it during the seven years of famine (Genesis 41:37-57). Joseph also sold grain to his father and brothers. His brothers bowed before him as they had in his dream. Joseph understood



that God had sent him to Egypt for a specific purpose. He realised that God had placed him in an exceptional position of authority (Genesis 45:5-8).

"But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.""

(Genesis 50:19-21a).

It is clear: God is faithful to His covenant to Abraham and his descendants. He is their God and He provides for them. That is why God called Joseph and formed his character. He gave him exceptional wisdom and intelligence. Joseph knew that it was God who put him in such a high position. God did it through Pharaoh. Therefore, Joseph continued serving God (Genesis 42:18). His political success was all thanks to God (Genesis 39:23).

Discuss:

- Who knows the future and determines what will happen?
- Read Genesis 41:40-44. Does this mean that Pharaoh had the final say over Joseph? Was it really Pharaoh who appointed Joseph? Read Psalm 105:16-22 and Proverbs 21:1.
- God promised that He would always be the God of Abraham and his descendants and He would always provide for them (Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 17:1-8). God knew that there would be seven years of famine. He knew what to do to ensure that Abraham's descendants would not starve. That is why he called, prepared, and appointed Joseph. Do you think that God still calls, prepares, and appoints people to carry out His will in politics?
- May Christians refuse to become involved in politics when God Himself is involved in it?

Remember:

- God reigns!
- God is also in control of politics. He gives leaders the authority to make decisions and to see that they are carried out.
- God does not only call preachers and pastors.
 - ✓ He also calls people to govern – politicians!
 - ✓ He gives them authority.
 - ✓ He appoints them in a position to make decisions and carry them out.



- Political leaders who are called by God must understand God's goal and obey Him.

Tips for voters:

- X** Think about what God wants to do in the country.
- X** Which parties or independent candidates understand that they are called by God and are in His service?
- X** Which parties or independent candidates are willing to carry out God's plan for the future?

Prayer:

† Speak to the Lord about the three tips for voters mentioned above.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Tanzania**.

Day 12

David is anointed king according to the Lord's command

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1 and 11-13; Acts 13:22

God saw a king in David (1 Samuel 16:1). That is why God told His prophet, Samuel, to anoint David as king. Samuel didn't just pour some oil on David's head. He anointed him and from then on the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his life (1 Samuel 16:13). But David did not become king immediately. For more than 10 years, God built David's character and developed his leadership. He helped him to learn the skills necessary for being a good king. In Psalm 78:70-72 we read: ***"He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skilful hands he led them."***

Yet, David committed adultery and murder. He had sex with Bathsheba. He tried to cover up his actions by abusing his political power, which led to the death of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah (2 Samuel 11:1 tot 12:25). But David showed remorse for his sins. He confessed it to the Lord. He



begged God not to remove His Holy Spirit from him. He had a pure heart, a steadfast spirit, and an honest testimony (Psalm 51). David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).

The Lord promised David that one of his descendants would always be on the throne and reign as king (Acts 2:29-36). Jesus Christ is a descendant of David. In Him, God kept His promise to David (Acts 13:19b-37).

In David we find another example that shows God does not only call church leaders (Priests and Levites) to His service. God also calls kings! Rulers! David was called by God to lead his people with integrity and skill. David's kingship pointed to Jesus, the Eternal King!

Discuss:

- Some people think that God does not care **who** rules over his people. If this is true, why did He choose David over all his brothers (1 Samuel 16:5-12)?
- God equipped David with His Holy Spirit and took more than 10 years to prepare him for being king. Do you think this proves that God cares **how** someone governs the people?
- May Christians refuse to get involved in politics in spite of the fact that God cares **who** rules over His children and **how** they are governed? May they refuse to vote if they have the right to vote?

Remember:

- It is important to God **who** rules over His children (His people).
- It is important to God **how** His children (His people) are governed.
- As His child, God wants to use you to determine **who** will rule and **how** they will govern.
- What is important to God must also be important to you! Remember, God sees people differently (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Tips for voters:

- X **Who** does God want to govern in your town, province and/or country now?
- X **How** does God want the elected leaders to govern?
- X Are you prepared to vote for God's choice just as Samuel was prepared to anoint God's choice as king (1 Samuel 16:12b-13)?

Prayer:

- † Ask the Lord to help you to identify leaders and parties through which He wants to rule.



- † Pray that politicians, governments, and civil servants will learn through His Spirit and Word to govern according to His will.
- † Pray that the Holy Spirit will convince Christians that God also works through politics.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Angola*.

Day 13

Daniel and his friends bow only before He who reigns forever

Read: Daniel 2:34-35 and 44; 3:13-19 and 6:6-11

Daniel was taken into exile by king Nebuchadnezzar. The king commanded that the most skilful young men of Israel should found and trained for three years. They were to serve in the king's palace. Daniel and his three friends were in the group of skilful young men. They refused to adopt the Babylonian culture and God gave them favour. He also blessed them with exceptional intelligence, insight, and wisdom. Daniel could interpret visions and dreams (Daniel 1:17 and 20). After God revealed the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel, he praised God and said: *"During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."* (Daniel 2:19-23). Daniel prophesied to Nebuchadnezzar: *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."* (Daniel 2:44).



Daniel's three friends also remained faithful to God. They were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to give in to political pressure and deny God. God saved them and Nebuchadnezzar had to confess that there is no god who can save like the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:28-30). He had to **"... acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."** (Daniel 4:25). He praised God and said, **"... everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble."** (Daniel 4:37).

Nebuchadnezzar's successor, King Belshazzar, also acted arrogantly before the Lord (Daniel 5:1-4). God gave him the breath of life and kingship, but he did not honour God. Therefore, he was murdered and his kingdom was divided just as God had shown Daniel (Daniel 5:20-30). King Darius was one of Belshazzar's successors. Daniel stood out above the other civil servants and Darius wanted to appoint him over the whole kingdom (Daniel 6:4). Some other civil servants set a trap for Daniel out of jealousy. Daniel refused to bow before any other god and he was thrown into a lion's den. But God saved him. It made such an impression on King Darius that he sent a letter to all the peoples, nations, and tribes of the whole world (Daniel 6:26). **"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."** (Daniel 6:26-27).

Discuss:

- What message is repeated in Daniel 1-6? Who reigns? Who is in control? Who has the last say?
- What made the heathen kings acknowledge and confess that there is only one God and that He has power and authority over all earthly kings?
- How many kingdoms are there in this world according to Daniel 2:44?
- Which kingdom will you build and expand? How will you do it?
- How does the message of Daniel 1-6 comfort and encourage you when political events (local and international) make you anxious and scared?
- What is God's attitude towards those who think the power is in their hands? Read Psalm 2:1-6; 37:13; 59:9.



Remember:

- God's Kingdom will always keep growing. It will never end!
- God expects you to remain faithful to Him and not be intimidated by political pressure. He is the only, eternal, and true King.
- Do not be afraid! The only kingdom, which will never end, is God's Kingdom!

Tips for voters:

- X Do not be afraid!** Live your testimony.
- X Do not be afraid!** The gates of hell will not prevail against the Church of Christ (Matthew 16:18). The kingdoms and rulers of the earth cannot stop the expansion of God's Kingdom (Daniel 6:27).
- X Do not be afraid!** Do not allow yourself to be intimidated into denying God in politics and bowing before idols.

Prayer:

- † Ask the Lord to help you not to be afraid. Ask Him to help you remain faithful to Him (Revelation 21:8).
- † Pray that God's Name will be glorified in politics, that His will will be done, and that His Kingdom will come.
- † Pray for Christians in the government. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them exceptional wisdom and skill. Pray that they will remain faithful to God in every circumstance, no matter the cost (Daniel 3:17-19).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in the **DRC**.



Day 14

King Jesus – Ruler of the kings of the earth

Read: Isaiah 9:5-6; Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 1:4-6

God promised David that one of his descendants would always sit on the throne as king. Daniel's whole life testified that there is only one God. He reigns forever and He has the power and authority over all kingdoms. Isaiah prophesied the same (Isaiah 9:5-6). He said that the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus for His calling. He also prophesied that Jesus would rule justly and faithfully (Isaiah 11:3-5).

In Luke 1 we read that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. He confirmed that the Lord was going to fulfil all these promises and prophecies by giving her a son. ***"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*** (Luke 1:31-33).

Jesus loved His Father. He always did exactly what the Father commanded Him to do. Therefore, Satan had no power over Jesus (John 14:30-31). Jesus was obedient to God unto death. God raised Him from the dead and gave Him a Name and a position above all names and positions (Philippians 2:5-11 and Ephesians 1:19b-22). Therefore, Jesus could command Satan to hand over the keys of death and the grave (Revelation 1:18). Before His ascension, Jesus said it very clearly: ***"All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me."*** (Matthew 28:18).

Jesus is reigning as King from heaven now (1 Corinthians 15:20-28). He rules in justice and righteousness. He rules according to the Father's will. In heaven, everything happens according to the will of the Father. But here on earth we are still in the process of establishing the Kingdom of God. He has commanded us to take part in the process. We must make sure that God's Kingdom will come everywhere. Therefore, we must keep praying for His Kingdom to come. We must keep striving for the coming of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:10 and 33). We must obey God in every area of life: marriage and family; agriculture; education; and politics. His



will must be done **everywhere** on earth as it is in heaven. God's will must also be done in **how** governments rule! God wanted to rule Israel through Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:5). In the same way, Jesus Christ wants to rule over every people, tribe, tongue, and nation. He wants to do it through Christian politicians and/or leaders who always obey the Father in everything just like Him.

Discuss:

- God's Kingdom comes in agriculture when Christian farmers (employers and employees) obey God and do His will 24/7. The question is: **How** will God's Kingdom come in politics if Christians won't have anything to do with politics?
- **How** should governments rule?
- Who gives the authority to governments and political leaders (even if they aren't Christians)? Read John 19:10-11 and Romans 13:1.
- God's children have no reason to be afraid or to worry. Does this mean that they don't have to vote when they have the opportunity? Does this mean that they just have to accept whoever is ruling over them?

Remember:

- Jesus Christ rules over the kings of the earth. His Kingdom is eternal!
- You must do your part to ensure that governments and political leaders also obey the will of the King.
- God gives people power and authority. If they abuse it, God will take it away from them at some point. They will fall.
- God holds all rulers accountable for the way they govern.

Tips for voters:

- X** Use your vote to put people in power who:
 - i.* honour God's Name and acknowledge Him as the eternal king;
 - ii.* strive for the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth;
 - iii.* want God's will to be done on earth as in heaven.
- X** Do not strengthen another kingdom with your vote.

Prayer:

- † Praise, worship, and thank Jesus who is the eternal King.
- † Pray that Christians will make their influence in governments count. Pray that they will not withdraw from politics because then the kingdom of darkness will easily gain ground.



- † Pray that everyone who rules will realise that they only have power because God gave it to them. Pray that they will realise that they are accountable to God for the way they use their power.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in the **Congo**.



PART 4

WHEN POWER FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, EVIL FOLLOWS

Politics is not a joke. It is crucial that Christians ensure that power does not fall into the wrong hands. It is easier to prevent it than it is to get the power back.

Day 15

Rulers have power

Read: 1 Samuel 8:1-20

In 1 Samuel 8 we read that all leaders have a lot of power. They have power whether they are appointed by God or by people. There are many systems of government. The most well-known are where a king or a dictator or an elected government rules. When a **king** dies, his eldest son usually becomes the new king. The kingship remains within a certain family from generation to generation. **Dictators** are individuals or small groups of people that abuse their power to benefit themselves. They use violence to suppress people and force their will on them. They rule through fear. In a **democracy**, the people decide who rules them. Citizens with the right to vote choose their own political leaders to govern them. But remember: all political leaders have power.

Once there was a farm with 21 workers. The workers could choose to be paid on the 15th or on the last day of every month. Some wanted to be paid at the end of the month so that they could do their shopping then. Others wanted to be paid in the middle of the month because the town was too busy at the end of the month. The employer said that they could choose, but everyone had to accept the decision of the majority. Only 12 workers showed up to vote on “election day”. **Seven** voted for being paid at the end of the month. **Five** voted for being paid in the middle of the month. **Nine** workers did not vote. After a few months most of the workers were unhappy with the decision. But it was too late to complain. Seven out of twelve voted for being paid at the end of the month. They were the



majority with 58.3% of the votes. But they were actually only 33.3% (seven out of 21) of the workers on the farm. The nine workers who did not vote allowed the seven who voted for month-end payments to decide for everyone. That is how a democracy works. When only a few people vote it is easier for a party to win even if they don't represent the majority of the people in the country.

Discuss:

- Why do so many people in a democracy want nothing to do with politics? Why don't they want to participate in elections?
- Does someone who doesn't vote on election day have the right to complain afterwards about the decisions of the elected leaders?
- Why must you vote in every election?

Remember:

- **Political leaders have the right to make important decisions on your behalf.**
 - ✓ They have the right to make laws that you must obey.
 - ✓ They decide which civil servants are appointed, whether the civil servants are qualified for the job or not.
 - ✓ They decide what your child must learn at school and what they may not be taught. They control the education system and the syllabus.
 - ✓ They have control of the country's money and do with it as they please.
 - ✓ They make decisions that affect your health, safety, religion, and the future of your children and grandchildren.
 - ✓ Their decisions make it easier or harder for you to get a job or start your own business.
- **You must vote in a democratic country. Otherwise the minority will force their decision on the majority.**

Tips for voters:

- ✗ Make sure that you have been registered as a voter and that you vote in every election.
- ✗ Vote for people (a party) who you can trust to make important decisions on your behalf according to the will of God.



Prayer:

- † Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to vote for people / a party that you can trust to make good choices on your behalf.
- † Obey the instruction in 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
- † Pray for traditional kings and royal families.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Rwanda*.

Day 16

When power falls into the wrong hands, evil follows!

Read: 1 Samuel 8:1-5 and Proverbs 17:23

Samuel's mother, Hannah, could not have children. She prayed and begged the Lord to give her a son. She promised to devote him to the Lord. The Lord answered her prayer and she did what she promised (1 Samuel 1). Samuel served the Lord and he was a good leader (1 Samuel 2:18; 3:19-20; 7:15). But Samuel's sons were not like their father. When they succeeded him, they served their own interests and not the interests of the people:

- They enriched themselves while impoverishing others;
- They accepted bribes;
- They perverted justice (1 Samuel 8:3).

Nowadays, weak leaders do the same. They misuse the country's money to benefit themselves. They don't care how bad the roads are as long as they can buy the best and most expensive cars for themselves. They don't care how many people die of Covid-19 as long as they get millions of rands from medical tenders.

Weak leaders do not make good decisions. If someone pays them, they'll do whatever that person wants, even if it harms the whole country. They only think about themselves. They only serve their own interests. Those who bribe can be bribed. A political leader that buys your vote with a plate of food, a T-shirt, or a promise of employment or money will also give a tender to a company that doesn't deserve it in exchange for a new car.



Money under the table can fix anything. Samuel's sons were more than willing to find guilty people innocent or innocent people guilty if someone secretly paid them to do so. They distorted the truth to convince others that they were innocent. They didn't strive for righteousness. They were only interested in making money.

Discuss:

- Give more examples of how weak leaders impoverish others to enrich themselves; how they bribe or are bribed; how they try to influence the verdicts of the courts in favour of their friends.
- What kind of future does a country have that is ruled by leaders who govern like Samuel's sons did?

Remember:

- **When corrupt people gain power, they will only get more corrupt to hold onto their power.**
- **A tree is identified by its fruits** (Matthew 7:15-20). You can recognize good leaders by their actions. Good leaders do not impoverish others to enrich themselves. They do not accept bribes and do not try to bribe others. They do not pervert the truth to hide the illegal actions of their friends (Exodus 23:2-3 and 6-8).
 - ✓ **Weak leaders will never govern well.** If you vote for them, you cannot complain when all they do is try to get more money and power. They will never think about what will be best for you or the country.
 - ✓ **Do not just listen to what leaders say. Look at what they do.** Do they do what is good and right and will benefit everyone? Or do they do anything they can to get more money and power?
- **A leader's lifestyle is more important than the promises they make.**

Tips for voters:

- ✗ If you vote for corrupt leaders and put the power in their hands, you and your children will suffer the terrible consequences for many years to come.
- ✗ It is better to keep power from the wrong people than to try to take it away from them.



Prayer:

† Pray that voters will not give power to corrupt leaders.

† Pray for the salvation of all leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Burundi**.

Day 17

Look for trouble and you will find it. Watch out!

Read: Isaiah 1:10-20

Thabo's parents love him very much. They have beautiful dreams and big plans for him. They teach and train him with much patience and love. He knows exactly what his parents expect of him. He also knows why he must do certain things and why he must not do others. His parents have explained it to him often. They speak kindly to him, but Thabo does not listen. One day his father says, *"My boy, you're looking for a hiding. You'd better listen now or else you're going to feel the consequences of your disobedience. We love you and know what is good for you. Believe me and listen."* But Thabo still won't listen. And so he gets what he's asking for: a big hiding (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:4-12).

Similarly, the Lord pleaded with His people for many years to stop doing all the bad things they kept doing. He promised to forgive them if they repented and returned to Him (Isaiah 1:18-20). However, they would not listen. They were asking for a hiding. In Isaiah 3 we read what "hiding" God promised: God would take away the good leaders and give power and authority to immature and fickle people.

"See now, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support: all supplies of food and all supplies of water, the hero and the warrior, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counsellor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter. "I will make mere youths their officials; children will rule over them." People will oppress each other — man against man, neighbour against



neighbour. The young will rise up against the old, the nobody against the honoured. A man will seize one of his brothers in his father's house, and say, "You have a cloak, you be our leader; take charge of this heap of ruins!" But in that day he will cry out, "I have no remedy. I have no food or clothing in my house; do not make me the leader of the people." Jerusalem staggers, Judah is falling; their words and deeds are against the Lord, defying his glorious presence. The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves. Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done. Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. My people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path." (Isaiah 3:1-12. Read to 4:1).

Discuss:

- Why did God replace good leaders with incompetent leaders?
- What lessons should God's children learn from Isaiah 3 and 4?
- What must God do when the majority of people in a country say they are Christians but do not live according to His will?

Remember:

- **When God's children disobey Him, they force Him to discipline them** (Hebrews 12:4-12).
- **God loves His children. That is why He cannot and will not abandon them** (Hosea 11:8-9). One of the ways in which God calls His children back to Him is by allowing them to suffer under the authority of weak leaders.

Tips for voters:

- X If you want to change the government, start by changing yourself.
- X You must obey the Lord yourself before expecting government to obey God.
- X Focus on your own responsibilities in politics before you focus on the government's responsibilities.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about your relationship with Him. Speak to Him about your obedience to Him.



- † Pray for the Church of Jesus Christ. Pray that they will obey God 24/7.
- † Pray that your family and friends and your employer and/or employees will come to salvation and obey God in everything (1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Uganda.***



PART 5

VOTERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

It is easy to talk about what the government should and shouldn't do. It's easier to talk about their failures than about our own responsibilities. People see the speck in someone else's eye while missing the plank in their own eye (Matthew 7:3-5).

There is an old saying which applies here: ***"Be the change you want to see."***

Good governance starts with you!

Day 18

Voters' responsibilities (1)

Make it easy for government to rule

Read: Proverbs 29:18; Matthew 7:1-5

The town's soccer team has a new coach and captain. Everyone is expecting them to turn the team into the best team in the country. Everyone knows about the previous achievements of the coach and captain. However, the team keeps losing. Does this mean that they have a bad coach and a weak captain? No, not necessarily. The question is: what about the players? Are they willing to be coached? Are they ready to make sacrifices and train hard? Are they prepared to obey the rules of the game? What do their lives look like? Do they have discipline and self-control? What are their homes and marriages like? How do they manage their money? How honest and trustworthy are they? The players all need to work with the coach and captain to be successful. They must make it easy for the coach to train them. Weak, undisciplined players can make good coaches fail.

The citizens of a country can make it difficult for their government to rule successfully. It is easier to govern honest people than liars and fraudsters. It is easier to govern hard workers than sluggards. It is easier to govern



children who come from happy, stable homes than children from broken homes where domestic violence, abuse, infidelity, alcohol abuse, and absent fathers are the norm. It is easier to govern people with self-control and good morals than lawless people without morals.

Help government rule well by being a good citizen. Good citizens don't waste water; they don't litter; they pay for services; they help others where they can; and they teach their children what is right and what is wrong. In Proverbs 29:18, we read that people who don't know the will of the Lord will become wild and unrestrained. They will live like savages. God's Word keeps people in check. It keeps them on the right path!

Discuss:

- What should voters do to have a good government?
- Why was it difficult for David to lead and keep the group of men with him in check (1 Samuel 22:1-2; 30:3-6; 30:22)?
- How can you make it easier for government to rule well?

Remember:

- Make it easy for government to rule well by being a good citizen with good morals.
 - ✓ It does not help criticizing government if you are a terrible citizen.
 - ✓ The change that you want to see in your country must start with you.

Tips for voters:

- X** If you want a good government, be a good citizen.
 - ✓ The smartest thing you can do is serve the Lord (cf. Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 111:10 and Micah 6:9). This is how you can contribute to a good government.
 - ✓ The dumbest thing you can do is try to take the speck in the government's eye out when there is a plank in your own eye (Matthew 7:1-5). This leads to weak governance.



Prayer:

- † Pray that the Word of God will become sweeter than honey and more precious than gold to you and your family (Psalm 19:11).
- † Pray that the Word of God will be preached to everyone in the country and that the Word will overcome in every area of every life. (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- † Pray that churches will preach the **true** Gospel and **whole** Gospel (Acts 20:26-28).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Kenya**.

Day 19

Voters' responsibilities (2)

Pray for political leaders and government

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Long ago, in a small wine-producing community, there was a pastor who served the community with love for many years. Everyone greatly valued his work ... or so they said. When he retired, the community wanted to show their appreciation by giving him an appropriate gift. They decided to give what they had: wine. The pastor could sell the wine and use the money as he pleased. They put a massive 10 000 litre tank in the town square. Everyone who wanted to could pour wine into the tank. The first man poured in 50 litres of his best wine. A second and a third did the same. Eventually the tank was full! The whole community was there when the wine was handed over to the pastor.

Then something happened! The pastor thanked the community for their generosity and blessed them. Then he went to draw some wine from the tank. He opened the tap and ... out flowed almost pure water! Everyone was shocked and surprised. They had all been caught out! They were filled with shame because all of them had the same thought: "Everyone is grateful and will give their best wine so no one will notice if I don't. A little bit of water won't make a difference in so much wine."

This story can be applied to our prayer lives. All Christians are commanded to pray. Paul writes: *"I urge, then, first of all, that*



petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

There is a direct link between the prayers of believers and what happens in our communities, our country, and the world!

When I look at what is happening in politics and governments nowadays, I must also confess with shame: **I have been caught out!** We all think: *Other Christians will obey and pray for our leaders, especially those who rule over us. It won't really make a difference if I don't pray.*

The chaos in our politics can be directly attributed to Christians' poor prayer lives. Too many Christians dodge their responsibility to pray for political leaders. But they spend hours complaining about poor service delivery, corruption, cadre deployment, nepotism (favouring family members in the work environment), incompetent civil servants, etc.

Discuss:

- How much time do you think Christians spend praying for government?
- How often and how earnestly do you pray for government?

Remember:

- **It is your responsibility to pray and to vote.** Those who do not pray and vote cannot complain.

Tips for voters:

X No one can pray or vote on your behalf. You have to do it yourself.

Prayer:

- † Pray for the president and his whole cabinet. Pray for those you know of by name.
- † Pray for your town's local government. Pray for every representative you know.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Somalia.***



Day 20

Voters' responsibilities (3)

Bless the authorities and government

Read: Luke 6:27-31; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 18:21

My wife and I recently visited the house of one of our staff to meet his wife and son. Janetta asked what the son's name was. **"Success,"** answered the mother with a smile. Think about it: Every time his parents, friends, teachers, and later on his employers address him as *Success*, he is reminded of his parents' expectation! *"Success, you are born to be successful!"* This is God's desire for everyone (Jeremiah 29:11). I believe that people become what you speak over them. If you keep telling a child that he is naughty, he will become naughty. If you keep telling a child she is "useless", she will believe it and become "useless". *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words."* (Proverbs 18:21 Amplified Bible).

God's blessing enables people to obey His commands. That is why He blessed Adam and Eve *before* He told them what to do (Genesis 1:26-28). This is how He empowered and equipped them for their task. The Lord also commanded Aaron and his sons to speak His Name over the Israelites. Then He would bless the people (Numbers 6:23-27). In Luke 6 Jesus commanded His disciples to bless their enemies (Luke 6:28). When we bless political leaders, political parties, and governments in the name of God, He will equip them for what they are called to do. Psalm 72 gives us the words we need to bless the president and political leaders.

"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice." (Verses 1-2). Bless the president with a teachable spirit. Bless him with a willingness to do what God wants.

"May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth." (Verse 6). Rain changes everything – from the morale of the farmer to the ability of the land to produce food. Rain brings new life, creates new hope, and unlocks a new future. May these be the consequences of the way government rules when we bless them.



"In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more." (Verse 7). When government values the lives of all people (verse 14), when justice and righteousness prevails for all, when no one receives preferential treatment because of their family connections, friendships, ethnicity, and political convictions, we will see progress. *"Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. My people ever pray for him and bless him all day long."* (Verse 15). *"May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun ..."* (verse 17) – For the right reasons!

May government reflect something of the Kingdom of the great and eternal King – Jesus Christ the Lord.

Discuss:

- What blessings would you like to pray over the president / cabinet / parliament?
- What blessings would you like to pray over members of the local government?

Remember:

- Christians are commanded to bless, not to curse (1 Peter 3:8-9 and Romans 12:14).
- When God's children pray blessings, God blesses people!

Tips for voters:

- X** Bless everyone who exercises power and authority, no matter how they are doing it.

Prayer:

- † Pray a blessing over the president and his cabinet.
- † Obey the command in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 now.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Ethiopia*.



Day 21

Voters' responsibilities (4)

Respect the authorities

Read: 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2; Romans 13:1-7

The Bible never speaks to only one group of people. It speaks to husbands and wives; children and their fathers; owners and slaves (employers and employees) (Ephesians 5:21-6:9). There are two parties in all relationships. Both parties must obey God. Each has a responsibility towards the other. You cannot use the disobedience of the other party as an excuse for your own sin. Someone else's sin cannot take your sin away. Only the blood of Jesus can do that. Your sins will not be forgiven because someone in government also sinned. Every individual will be held accountable for the way he fulfils his responsibilities.

It is government's responsibility to use its authority to reward those who do good and punish those who do evil. If government abuses its authority by not doing what God expects, He will hold it accountable (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14). We will return to government's responsibility later.

What does God expect of us?

1. **Always live right!** Especially among unbelievers (Peter 2:12) and even when government does not honour God. The Roman government, Caesar, and the governors to which Paul and Peter refer were not Christians and did not obey God.
2. **Obey God.** Do what He says. Let your life be a testimony!
3. **Honour and respect others. How? Do not speak evil of them.** Do not speak evil of the people in government or any other position of power. Do not put them down or slander them. Choose to bless them (Peter 3:8-9).
4. **Subject yourself to government.** Acknowledge that God appointed them over you (Romans 13:1-2 and 1 Peter 2:13).
5. **You are not obligated to do everything the law allows you to do.** The law allows divorce, but it does not force you into doing it. The law allows many things: abortion, gambling, prostitution, choosing one's sexual orientation, drinking, smoking, drugs, etc. However, the law does not force you to do any of these things. It is only when government forces you to do something against God's will that you should refuse to do it. But, you still have to bear the consequences of your choice (1 Peter 2:19-20).



6. **When necessary, criticise** the choices and actions of government or a specific person in government. However, **do not undermine the authority of the state**. God gave it to them.

Discuss:

- What can you expect if you rebel against government? Why? Read Romans 13:1-2.
- To undermine authority is to look for trouble. The problem is not in the authority, but the abuse of authority. What would happen if no one accepted any authority at all? What if everyone had an attitude of: *“No one will tell me what to do.”* (cf. Proverbs 29:18)?
- In your political context, what does it mean to “honour Caesar”?

Remember:

- Live better than what is expected of you. Honour and respect everyone.
- All authority comes from God. Those who undermine authority, undermine something God gave us in His goodness because we need it.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Honour everyone who exercises authority. Always treat leaders with respect – including those in government.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about the disrespectful ways in which people talk about each other. Listen to what the Lord has to say about this.
- † Ask the Lord to help His children to establish honour and respect as good values in every community.
- † Ask the Lord to help you to honour those in positions of authority.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in ***Sudan and South Sudan.***



Day 22

Voters' responsibilities (5)

Help government

Read: Galatians 6:1-10; Philippians 2:3-8

Back-seat drivers: They do nothing but pretend to know exactly how things should be done. All they do is criticise those who are doing something. This is true when it comes to government as well. Many criticise the government but make no effort to help them.

Religious organisations (Faith Based Organisations) play a huge role in all countries. Christians are called to serve, not just talk. Christians' love must become visible in their deeds (Galatians 5:6 and James 2:14-17). They must keep doing good to everyone, especially fellow believers and those whose lives are unravelling and in danger (Psalm 41:1-4; Psalm 146:7-9; Isaiah 58:6-10; Luke 10:25; 1 Timothy 5:3-8). Make sure that your church or community are not just a bunch of talkers. Help them to become actively and practically involved with communities in need. The church must teach people to treat others as they would like others to treat them (Matthew 7:12). The church must ensure that marriage is honoured as a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:1-6; Hebrews 13:4). The church must ensure that the values in God's Word are accepted and applied in the community. The church must be light and salt. They must help ensure society does not deteriorate into anarchy (Matthew 5:13-16). Churches that preach the pure Word of God help government without getting involved in politics.

Churches must provide moral guidance for the country and government. But churches may not become a pressure group for political parties. Churches must address everyone: men and women (Ephesians 5:21-32); parents and children (Ephesians 6:1-4); employers and employees (Ephesians 6:5-9); rich and poor (2 Corinthians 8:13-15; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; James 5:1-6); all ethnic and social groups (Colossians 3:11 and Ephesians 2:11-22); sluggards and hard workers (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). Churches must show government how *not to* discriminate.

The *Red Cross* is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world. They have 97 million volunteers who help people in need in 186 countries. In South Africa, there are more than 200 000 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). All of them help to build the country. OUTA



(Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse) acts when government misuses taxpayer money. There are organisations who strive for freedom of the press; the independence of the court; the end of abortion and human trafficking; care for the elderly; environmental preservation; the rehabilitation of alcoholics; the promotion of literacy; the protection of the constitution; religious freedom; and so on. All these NGOs offer you an opportunity to volunteer and to make a difference in the country. Organisations can do more than individuals can.

Discuss:

- Why must good citizens become involved with NGOs and churches?
- What can groups do that individuals cannot?

Remember:

- Government cannot do everything for everyone. People must take responsibility for themselves.
- All governments have limited skills and abilities. All governments need the help of their citizens.

Tips for voters:

- X** Get involved in your church and with a worthy organisation.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about the responsibility of churches and NGOs. Ask Him to show you where you should get involved.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in the *Central African Republic*.

Day 23

Voters' responsibilities (6)

Hold government accountable

Read: Matthew 14:3-4

Leaders have influence! When you have influence, you play a role in the lives of others. Influence can be good or bad. Everyone is a leader in one way or another. Even you! You influence your children and parents; your friends and family; your community and your church. Leadership is not



limited to a few people. You must influence people positively. Be an example of good citizenship and show them the right way.

Some people have a negative influence on others. They selfishly misuse their leadership to influence people in a bad way. Political parties, politicians, and government often do this. Everything that they say and do influences the lives of citizens. We cannot keep quiet when leaders use their influence to harm the country and its people. Leaders must be held accountable. We must confront them when they exercise influence wrongly.

David committed adultery with Bathsheba and later had her husband, Uriah, killed (2 Samuel 11:2-4 and 14-17). God instructed the prophet Nathan to tell David: *"You are that man!"* (2 Samuel 12:7). John the Baptist was not scared to confront the heathen king, Herod. He told him that it was wrong to take his brother's wife for himself (Matthew 14:3-4). Paul rebuked the High Priest Ananias sharply when he said: *"God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"* (Acts 23:2-3). Even so, he respected the **office** of the high priest (Acts 23:4-5). At God's instruction, Elijah confronted king Ahab because he had Naboth killed and took his vineyard (1 Kings 21:17-25). When leaders do what is wrong, believers may not keep quiet. It is easier to confront leaders as a church or an organisation than it is to do it on your own.

Discuss:

- How should the church and NGOs stop government from doing as they please? How should they hold government accountable for its actions?
- Why do citizens often resort to violence and vandalism to express their dissatisfaction with leadership?
- How can normal citizens positively influence government's actions?
- What will happen if we allow leaders to do as they please?

Remember:

- You may not allow political parties and leaders to do as they please. Their actions influence everyone in the country - even you and your children.
- Political leaders and government must be held accountable
 - ✓ when they do what they may not do;
 - ✓ when they do not do what they should do.



Tips for voters:

- X** Use your influence. Put pressure on government and political leaders to do what is right according to God's Word.

Prayer:

- †** Pray that all Christian churches will set a good example for government. Pray that Christians will practise the values that they preach.
- †** Pray that churches, church leaders, and NGOs will have the courage of their convictions and hold people in leadership and the government accountable when they do wrong.
- †** Pray that Christians will talk and complain less, and do more to make the country a better place.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Gabon**.

Day 24

Voters' responsibilities (7)

Do not give away your vote permanently

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; Acts 26:9-15; Psalm 119:71

Bertus asked: *"Jonathan, I would like to borrow your pickup truck for five days. There is a homeless elderly couple in our community. They received some land and their children in the city promised to buy building materials for them. I would like to help them remove the rubbish and transport the building materials to the plot."* Jonathan was more than willing to lend Bertus his pickup truck because it was for a good cause. But once Bertus had the truck, he misused it. Pieter, another friend of Bertus, said to him: *"I will pay you if you transport some furniture to my children in the Cape. I know you would like to go there."*

The temptation to travel to the Cape for free was just too much for Bertus. With Jonathan's pickup truck and Pieter's money he set off. Fortunately, nothing went wrong, and he returned the truck to Jonathan after five days. But he still had not helped the old couple. He used Jonathan's pickup truck for his own benefit.



Bertus was a bit embarrassed, but he still hoped Jonathan would not resent his using the pickup truck for a different, more *personal* purpose. He tried to convince Jonathan to let him borrow the pickup truck again. *“I couldn’t find anyone to help me load the rubbish,”* he lied. *“No one would work because the grants were being paid. It took time to find out where we could get building materials at the best price. Lend me your pickup truck again for five days. It’s for a good cause.”*

Similarly, you can lend your vote to a party that misuses it. Don’t! Don’t vote for someone or a party that will misuse your vote to advance their own personal interests.

Discuss:

- How did Bertus try to hide his unreliability and deceitfulness?
- What should Jonathan’s reaction have been?
- Did the party for which you voted last time do what they promised?
- What do you expect from government? What should they do?

Remember:

Your vote belongs to you. Use it responsibly. Vote for whom God wants you to vote.

- You can **give it away permanently** by always voting for the same party even though they don’t perform. That is **irresponsible**. Decide whom you are going to vote for and why *before every election*.
- You can **lend** your vote to a political party for five years. If that party uses your vote as you expect them to, lend it to them for another five years. But, if they use your vote to enrich and benefit themselves, you have the right to lend it to a different political party for the next five years.
- Politicians, political parties, and governments must be held accountable. They do not have the right to misuse your vote to benefit themselves.

Tips for voters:

- ✗ You do not have to keep voting for the same party.
- ✗ You also do not have to vote for the same party on different government levels (national; provincial; and local).
- ✗ You can, but do not have to vote for the same party as your family and friends.
- ✗ Your vote is between you and God. You do not have to tell anyone who you voted for.



Prayer:

- † Pray that all elections will be free and fair.
- † Pray that irresponsible promises will not be made to voters. Pray that responsible promises will be kept.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Equatorial Guinea*.

Day 25

Voters' responsibilities (8)

Vote! Vote for the right person or party!

Read: Proverbs 29:2 and 29:16

Many people believe that the world and life are divided into two parts: spiritual and non-spiritual; the church and the world. This is a misconception. These people limit God to the first part, the spiritual. They believe God is only involved with the church and religion: He only cares about the souls of people. They speak only of the saving of souls and not the salvation of people (spirit, soul, and body – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). They believe that God only calls priests, pastors, and missionaries to work for Him. They go to church on Saturday (Sabbath) or Sunday but forget about God during the week. During the week they live in the secular world where they believe God isn't present. They farm, manage politics, and do business as they please - like unbelievers. That is not what the Bible teaches.

The God of the Bible, the Creator (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), is involved in His creation 24 hours a day every day (Ephesians 1:19-22; Colossians 1:19-20; Hebrews 1:3). He commanded us to pray for His Kingdom to come on earth; that His will be done here as it is in heaven; and that His name will be glorified (Matthew 6:9-10). Thus, Paul writes: ***"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."*** (1 Corinthians 10:31). The Word also teaches us that all Christians work for the Lord full-time, no matter what they do or where they work (Colossians 3:23-24). The Lord gives His Spirit to ordinary people so that they can produce good quality work (Exodus 35:30-33). He gives the farmer the wisdom and knowledge to do the right thing in the right way at the right time. This



ensures that things go smoothly (Isaiah 28:23-29). How wonderful! God called Joseph and Daniel to hold high positions in heathen governments so that they could do His will there. God saw a King in David (1 Samuel 16:1).

When Christians believe that God is only interested in the church and not in politics, they sin. It is a sin to try to limit God's lordship to a specific aspect of life. God's Kingdom must also come in and through politics and the government of the day.

God's Kingdom will only come in politics when God's children are involved there. When God's children rule justly, everyone rejoices. When godless people rule, sin, corruption, violence, evil, and poverty reign (cf. Proverbs 29:2 and 16). Therefore, Christians must have a Godly influence on politics.

Discuss:

- What happens when Christians do not vote? What happens when they believe that God wants nothing to do with politics?
- Does the Lord only call priests, bishops, pastors, apostles, and evangelists to work for Him full-time? Can they do everything that God wants done so that His Kingdom will come in this world?
- Do you really want sin to reign in your country? If not, what should you do? For whom should you vote?

Remember:

- Darkness takes over where Christians are not involved. Christians *must* vote and *must* be involved in politics. They are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).
- When God's children rule according to God's will, the people rejoice. When Godless people rule, sin reigns.

Tips for voters:

- X Get involved in politics so that God's Kingdom will come there too. Vote for people who do God's will. Do not vote for people who go to church but rule as they please.

Prayer:

- † Pray that all Christians will vote.
- † Pray that Christians who have necessary skills and knowledge, will get involved in politics.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Cameroon**.



Day 26

Voters' responsibilities (9)

Ensure that power is shared among people

Read: 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

I was young, but I remember it well: After the death of a childless aunt, Hendrik, my mother's oldest brother, had to divide her possessions among the three siblings. Kitchen appliances were stacked in three piles. Furniture was divided into three groups. The same was done with clothes and other personal possessions. To ensure that things were distributed fairly, they decided that my mother and her older sister would choose first. This is still an example to me of how to ensure justice. **Divide responsibilities.** Allow one to decide how the possessions are divided, but let others choose first.

The principle of the **division of power** is also very important when it comes to government. In a **democracy**, there must be at least three parties:

1. **Legislative authority:** This is **Parliament**. Parliament makes the laws. Usually, people vote for a party and the party decides who to send to parliament. The number of people that the party can send is determined by the number of votes they receive in an election. People can also stand as independent candidates.
2. **Executive authority:** This is **Cabinet**, the ministers. They must ensure that the laws are actioned. They appoint civil servants to do so.
3. **Judicial authority:** This includes **Judges and the different courts**. They must decide if someone has acted within or outside of the law which parliament has made – if the accused is guilty or not guilty. They must also ensure that people who make the laws and action the laws also act according to the law. Therefore, they must be independent – impartial, honest, and fair (2 Chronicles 19:6-9).

Discuss:

- What **danger** would there have been if Hendrik could decide how the possessions should be divided *and* who gets what portion?
- **Why would this danger be greater** if Hendrik was not trustworthy and honest?



- Is it enough to just hope and believe that everyone will be treated fairly? Or is it also necessary to put measures in place to ensure that everyone will be treated fairly and equally?
- Why is it dangerous if **Parliament** (people who make the laws) and **Cabinet** (ministers) can decide for themselves if they want to obey the law or not?
- Why should the **Judiciary** be independent? Why may they not allow political parties, the President, ministers, senior civil servants, or people with lots of money to influence their judgements?
- What could happen if you vote for people who think they are above the law and do not need to obey it?

Remember:

- It is dangerous to vote for people and/or a party that wants absolute power.
- Do not put all the power in the hands of one group of people.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Use your vote to get rid of politicians and political parties who try to influence the Judiciary to act in their favour. Vote for someone else or a different party.

Prayer:

- † Pray that the judiciary will remain independent.
- † Pray for all judges, their deputies, and magistrates.
- † Pray that one person, party, or small group of people will never have absolute power in our country.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Nigeria**.



PART 6

RED LIGHTS

A red light means danger! Watch out! Something is wrong.

You can ignore a red light. However, as you already know, every decision has consequences. Sometimes you see the consequences immediately, but sometimes only later.

When people make a decision that has negative long-term consequences, they say: *It's no use crying over spilt milk!*

Don't ignore red lights. You will regret it later!

Day 27

Red light (1)

Abuse of power

Read: 2 Chronicles 26:1-21 (pay special attention to verses 4-5; 15b-16 and 21)
Mark 10:42-45; Proverbs 18:12 and 21:4

Israel was not a democracy. It was ruled by kings. The kings were supposed to rule the people on behalf of God (1 Kings 3:5-9). King Uzziah did it well. He was only 16 when he became king. Uzziah had a teachable spirit. He listened to his mentor who taught him to honour God. He consistently asked about the will of the Lord. Therefore, the Lord granted him success. He won wars, built new towns, and developed infrastructure. He cared about the land, owned many farms, and was a successful farmer. He had a powerful and experienced army that was well equipped. He had skilled and knowledgeable artisans who could design and build new weapons. Uzziah's reign was very successful! His influence stretched far and wide – all the way to Egypt. The reason? He had a good mentor, obeyed God, and therefore enjoyed God's help and support (cf. 2 Chronicles 16:9).



Alas! In verse 16 we read about the consequence of his influence and success: **He became arrogant**. He stopped asking for advice. He was no longer satisfied doing what a king should do. He started meddling in other affairs. He began doing things that were not his responsibility and that did not have the approval of the Lord (2 Chronicles 26:18).

This happens today too. Many people become arrogant when they are successful and powerful. **Pride and arrogance** are not accidental mistakes. Being proud and arrogant is a **choice, an attitude, a character problem**. It influences everything someone thinks and does. That is why proud leaders do as they please. They believe they are untouchable and above the law.

Discuss:

- Why is it unacceptable to the Lord for leaders to only do what is right for a while and then do as they please (2 Chronicles 26:18-19)?
- What happens to a country when citizens allow proud leaders to rule over them? Give examples from history.
- How can we see pride in someone's life? What do proud politicians and political parties do?
- Read Proverbs 18:12 and James 4:6b. God does not support proud people. Should you support them by giving them your vote?

Remember:

- **Power is abused all over the world to dominate and manipulate people** (Mark 10:42).
 - ✓ Christian leaders may not do this. Like Jesus, they must put other people's interests first and serve them.
 - ✓ Therefore, Christians should not vote for people and parties that are arrogant and proud.
- **Unlimited power always leads to corruption.** Citizens must always make sure that the power of individuals and parties is limited somehow.
 - ✓ One way to do this in a democracy is to make sure that there is a strong and healthy opposition.



Tips for voters:

- X Make sure that no political leader or party has unlimited and uncontrolled power.
- X Arrogant people do not have a future (2 Chronicles 26:21). If you vote for them, you don't have a future either.

Prayer:

- † Pray that successful leaders will not become proud because of their success.
- † Pray that leaders will seek the will of the Lord throughout their career and not just in the beginning when they are young and inexperienced.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Ghana**.

Day 28

Red light (2)

Cadre deployment

Read: Exodus 18:17-24; Nehemiah 7:1-2; Proverbs 22:29 and 25:5

Many years ago, I visited a farmer who had no tertiary education. He was one of the most successful farmers in South Africa. I asked him about his success. I cannot remember his exact words, but he said something like this: *"I started small and people were always more important to me than money. I did not know everything but my wife and I worked hard and were always prepared to learn from others. One of the most important things I learnt was: **Always employ people who are better than you.**"* My friend never felt threatened by people who were smarter or better at things than he was. He was willing to employ anyone who had the knowledge and ability to help the farm grow. He knew that the success of his farm depended on a skilled staff.

Former president, Nelson Mandela, set a good example as a leader. After the ANC came to power in 1994, he employed the bodyguards of his predecessor, FW de Klerk, as his personal bodyguards. *"If they were good enough to protect Mr de Klerk, then they are good enough to protect*



me” (Quoted from the film, *Invictus*³). He was an example of someone who believed that people should be appointed on merit.

A political party that wants to govern successfully must see to it that trustworthy and skilled employees are appointed in the various departments of the state. **Skilled, hardworking civil servants determine whether citizens are happy with the ruling party or not.** Politicians who appoint **unskilled** political supporters, friends, or family in government positions undermine the future of the whole country, not just their own party.

Discuss:

- What advice did Moses’ father-in-law give him? What qualities did the people he appointed need to have (Exodus 18:21)?
- Are all people capable of doing all jobs? For example, would everyone who met the requirements in verse 21 be a suitable judge over thousands?
- According to Proverbs 22:29, who should serve in government?
- Read Proverbs 25:5. What must a president do to have a long and successful term in office?
- What influence does poor service delivery have on citizens’ attitudes to government?

Remember:

- **A political party and government are only as effective as the civil servants they appoint.** The success or failure of a political party’s rule is determined by the integrity and skill of the civil servants it appoints.
 - ✓ A good government will not appoint incompetent civil servants.
 - ✓ A bad government will not appoint skilled civil servants.
 - ✓ A political party that appoints trustworthy, skilled, and capable civil servants invests in its own future. Parties that do not do this will not stay in power for long by honest means.

³ Eastwood, C. (Director). (2009). *Invictus* [Film]. Spyglass Entertainment.



Tips for voters:

- X Check if civil servants appointed by a specific political party can **do their work well, quickly, and correctly**. This will help you to know if the party really prioritises the interests of all the citizens of the country.
- X Support only independent candidates and political parties that appoint civil servants with the necessary **integrity and skill** to do the work.

Prayer:

- † Pray for all civil servants. Pray that they will be skilled and capable. Pray that they will be honest, just, and trustworthy.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in the *Ivory Coast*.

Day 29

Red light (3)

Infighting

Read: Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 15:22 and 18:1-2; Matthew 12:25

Communication is important. Good communication involves **speaking** and **listening**. Everyone should be allowed to express their opinion. They must also be prepared to listen to each other. Good communication leads to good decisions. But there is a condition: Those who discuss an issue must not merely agree with each other about everything. The more diverse the group, the better. The group should consist of people from different races, age groups, genders, and occupations; people who are rich and poor, educated and uneducated. However, there must always be a level of unity and cooperation because infighting distracts you from your task and your responsibility.

Two good guard dogs were looking after their owner's possessions while he was away. It was their job. A thief came up with a way to get past the dogs. He threw a juicy bone at them and they rushed towards the bone and started fighting. They bit and tore at each other. Exhausted, they eventually lay down and licked their wounds. However, as soon as one of them moved towards the bone, the fighting started again. The thief had



ample time to plunder the house while the dogs were fighting. They could not fight each other and do their job.

Businesses, sports teams, churches, and political parties cannot do their work without unity and cooperation. They will not achieve their goals or make a difference. Everyone must have the same values and goals. They must have a passion for their cause. They must agree about the reason for their existence. Everyone in a political party must agree on these things in order to have a strong foundation on which to build. There must be absolute unity.

When some party leaders have a personal (hidden) agenda and want everything for themselves, factional fighting begins and there is disunity in the party. It devolves into a power struggle. Infighting demands the leaders' full attention and time. Political survival is all they think about. They make bad, conflicting decisions that benefit no one. They begin using their time, money, and energy to fight and undermine each other. They stop trying to solve the country's problems. Their political future becomes more important to them than the future of the country and its people. They do not keep the promises they made to the electorate.

The Bible is clear: *"Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."* (Matthew 12:25). Factional fighting is usually the result of poor leadership. It is always the end of good governance.

Discuss:

- Does a divided party have the ability to think and govern in the interests of the country? Motivate you answer.
- What is the difference between healthy disagreements and division (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15 and 15:22)?
- What is the greatest cause of division? Read James 4:1-2 and Philippians 2:1-5.

Remember:

- Differences of opinion in a political party can help the party make good decisions and govern well. But a political party that is divided is close to its end. You cannot work and fight.
- A party needs unity and cooperation to govern well.



Tips for voters:

- X** Do not lend your vote to a party that has constant infighting. They cannot provide you with a future.

Prayer:

† In the interest of your country, pray for unity in political parties.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Liberia*.

Day 30 Red light (4) Bribery

Read: Exodus 23:8; Psalm 15:5; Proverbs 15:27 and Ecclesiastes 7:7

It is a few days before the election. Parties are doing their best to convince voters to vote for them. They often resort to *bribery*. Bribery comes in different forms:

- One of the most common forms of bribery is to suddenly start delivering services after years of neglect. It's always just temporary. It's the ruling party's strategy. *Such services are bribes!*
- Other parties do the same. They do not deliver services but promise to do so if voters vote for them. *Services that are promised during election campaigns without mention of where the time, money, and labour will come from is usually also bribery.*
- Everything that is handed out in the last three to six months before an election (from T-shirts and food parcels to special allowances) and everything that is promised (houses, schools, clinics and job opportunities), borders on bribery.
- Social grants are dangerous. They make people even more dependent on the state. People vote for the party that pays grants and promises to keep doing so. But the state and the community are both responsible for caring for the poor, the disabled, and the needy.

Politicians are not the only ones who resort to bribery. Voters also bribe politicians. And politicians bribe each other. Businessmen bribe



politicians to gain tenders. Politicians are bribed by people with more power to keep silent about corruption. They are bribed with enormous gifts and promises of international help.

Discuss:

- What does the Lord say? What should His children do when they are offered bribes? Read Psalm 15:5 and Proverbs 15:27.
- What makes bribery so ugly and dangerous? Read Exodus 23:8 and Ecclesiastes 7:7.
- What role do political bribes play in your area? Give a few examples of how politicians try to bribe voters.
- If politicians hand out and accept bribes, what should people expect from their civil servants? What will they do?
- What are the negative consequences of a culture of bribery on a country? Can corrupt leaders that have participated in bribery change the culture of bribery? Can you stand up against bribery if you resort to bribery too? Remember, avoiding a traffic fine by paying R100 is bribery. Paying someone to get through the border quickly is also bribery.

Remember:

- **Those who offer or accept bribes are doing something God forbids.**
 - ✓ Bribery muddies the water – it becomes impossible to tell the difference between right and wrong.
 - ✓ If bribery becomes the norm, everyone becomes the victim. No one wins – not even the ones who offer the bribes.
- **Bribery destroys good judgement.**
 - ✓ It makes people make bad decisions.
 - ✓ It leads to fraud and corruption.
 - ✓ It benefits some people dishonestly while harming others.

Tips for voters:

- ✗ If you vote for people who offer or accept bribes then you are voting for a corrupt and unjust society.



Prayer:

- † Confess all forms of manipulation through bribery.
- † Pray that ALL corruption in our country and in Africa will be rooted out.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Sierra Leone.**

Day 31 **Red light (5)** **Government does not govern**

Read: 1 Kings 16:30-33; 18:4 and 19; 21:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-20

Uzziah was 16 when he became king of Israel. He did not have the necessary experience and wisdom for the task. Therefore, he followed his father's example and went to his mother and Zechariah to listen to their good advice. They had a great influence on his government. Uzziah obeyed the will of the Lord (2 Chronicles 26:3-5).

Ahab also ruled Israel for a long time. He sinned more than everyone before him did. But his worst sin was marrying Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians. He started worshipping the god Baal because of her (1 Kings 16:30-33). Jezebel quickly gained a lot of influence *in government*. She had the prophets of the Lord killed and 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah ate at her table. They literally ate out of her hand (1 Kings 18:19). It is clear that she influenced and controlled them.

Jezebel also influenced the life and actions of her husband, Ahab. She and not the king, reacted violently when Elijah killed all *her* prophets. She threatened to kill him (1 Kings 19:1-2). When Naboth didn't want to sell his vineyard to king Ahab, Jezebel once again showed that she was really in control. Look at what she said and did: ***"Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him.***" (1 Kings 21:7-8). Lies, intimidation and manipulation, two false testimonies, spineless leaders and civil



servants, and a crowd of willing stone-throwers – that is how Jezebel used her power to get away with murder (1 Kings 21:9-16). *She* was in charge!

Discuss:

- What do we learn from the story of Ahab and Jezebel?
- What must we consider a dangerous red light in a country's politics?
- Should Christians allow their voices to be silenced by governments while those governments eagerly give in to the demands of other religions and pressure groups?
- Is our battle really against people? Against corrupt and spineless politicians, political parties, governments, and civil servants? Read Ephesians 6:10-20.
- How should Christians fight the demonic powers that influence governments and leaders?
- What are the major religions in Africa that are doing everything they can to influence governments against Christianity?

Remember:

- **Political leaders do the right thing if they seek the will of the Lord to ensure righteousness and justice and to show love to all people.** This is the will of the Lord (Jeremiah 9:24). Where Christ reigns, no one is wronged.
- **Those who are not for Christ are against Him** (Matthew 12:30).
- **Woe to the political leaders who intimidate and manipulate,** who *"... call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."* (Isaiah 5:20).
- **Woe to all spineless political leaders who, like Ahab,** *"... draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes,"* (Isaiah 5:18).

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Vote for people and parties that seek the will of the Lord and do not allow themselves to be intimidated and manipulated.



Prayer:

- † Pray that politicians will accept Jesus Christ as their **Saviour and King** and seek the will of the Lord (Luke 6:46).
- † Pray that the Lord will protect governments from the devil (Matthew 6:13).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Togo and Benin*.

Day 32 Red light (6) Religious freedom is threatened

Read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Joshua 24:13-19

God made man in His image. Therefore, people can choose and make their own decisions. Everyone is responsible for their own choices and decisions. Just remember that all choices and decisions have consequences.

The Lord gave Israel a choice: life or death; blessings or curses; God or idols (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). Joshua, Moses' successor, brought all the tribes of Israel together in the presence of God. He reminded them of what God had done for them: how He called Abraham; how He brought them out of Egypt; how He provided for them in the wilderness; how He gave them the promised land, a land which they didn't build or work for (Joshua 24:1-13). Then Joshua called on the people to honour and serve the Lord and to get rid of their idols. But he left the decision to the people: ***"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*** (Joshua 24:15).

King David also made his choice. He said: ***"I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight." Those who run after other gods will suffer***



more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips." (Psalm 16:2-4). David took a clear stand but he did not kill those who worshipped idols.

In the New Testament, we read that the message of Christ and His Kingdom must be preached to everyone. Everyone must have an opportunity to make a decision. Everyone must understand the consequences of choosing or rejecting Christ. Everyone is invited to accept Him, but no one is forced into it (Matthew 24:14 and 28:18-20; John 3:16-21; Acts 20:24-27; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21). That is religious freedom!

Discuss:

- Why is religious freedom important to all religions?
- Why is it a red light when religious freedom is threatened?
- What danger is there for Christianity if government forces people to become Christians? Or if it prevents them from becoming Christians?
- In which countries are Christians persecuted for their faith? What are the religious and ideological convictions of those governments?
- How should Christians ensure that people with ideological and religious convictions that are opposed to the church of Christ do not take over government?

Remember:

- **Everyone must hear the Gospel of Christ**, even if many never become Christians (Acts 20:31; 24:24-27).
- **No government has the right to force its religious convictions on Christians through violence.** That is an abuse of power.
- **Christians should also not force their religion upon others by means of violence and intimidation.** Christians must vote, preach the gospel, and trust God for the fruit.

Tips for voters:

- X** Observe what is happening in the world. **Do not vote** for individuals and parties that have the same religious and ideological convictions as the **governments** of countries where Christians are persecuted. **They don't believe in religious freedom.**



Prayer:

- † Pray for the protection of everyone's right to religious freedom.
- † Pray for Christians who are being persecuted in countries where there is no religious freedom.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in *Burkina Faso*.

Day 33

Red light (7)

The worst red light: Abortion on demand

Read: Psalm 139:13-18; Jeremiah 1:4; Ephesians 1:3-8

I do not know how spirit and body are knit together in the womb of a pregnant woman. I also do not know how the soul (will, intellect, and emotions) comes into being so that people become body, soul, and spirit (Ecclesiastes 11:5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23). But, I *do* know the whole process from conception to birth is a miracle from God (Psalm 139:13-18). The YouTube video, *Pregnancy – How a Wonder is Born!* (Animation) by Thomas Schwenke⁴ strengthens my conviction. Life from the very first moment! Life in relationship with God (Psalm 139:13-18; Jeremiah 1:4 and Ephesians 1:3-8)!

I read an article about an American journalist who visited Rwanda and Burundi after the 1994 genocide. He wanted to know how they could viciously murder more than 800,000 of their own people in less than three months. His question was answered with an unexpected counter-question: *How do you Americans manage to abort millions of your own children every year? Murder is murder, whether by pangas in the streets and bushes or in sterile and well-equipped theatres and consultation rooms. There is no difference.*

South Africa is one of the many countries in which violent crime is out of control. Domestic violence and murders happen in all population groups: in rich and poor families. Farmers and police, taxi drivers and township residents, children and the elderly. They are all targeted by brutal attacks. Many men, women, and children are molested and raped every day.

⁴ Thomas Schwenke. (2021, May 1). *Pregnancy - How a Wonder is Born! (Animation)* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izOa3-AX8zQ>



However, more unborn babies are murdered every year than all the other deaths put together. A woman's womb is more dangerous than any street, township, or farm! But everyone is silent about that!

Government is sowing violent crime by legalising abortion. They have opened a door to the devil. It is no longer just one person having an illegal abortion but the state, the highest authority, that has legalised abortion. This is how government gives the devil the right to commit violent crime. This is why we are reaping death on such a large scale! Blood keeps flowing.

Christians must take a stand against political parties and independent candidates who support **abortion on demand**. How can those who support killing say they stand for a better future for everyone? Like the blood of Abel cries out to God, so does the blood of murdered babies. This blood brings a curse, not a blessing (Genesis 4:7-12).

Discuss:

- Abortion (murder) is not the answer to unwanted pregnancies. The cause of unwanted pregnancies lies at a much deeper level. What are the real causes? How should they be handled?
- 2 Kings 8:12 describes cutting open pregnant women as an atrocity. In Hosea 13:16 it is the punishment for rebelling against the Lord. Amos 1:13-16 describes it as the final sin of the Ammonites that led to God's dreadful judgement. They cut pregnant women open (murdered unborn children) to expand their territory. They wanted to live "bigger" and better. What do we learn from this?
- Remember, this is about **abortion on demand**, requested by the pregnant woman, usually with the approval of the father. Discuss: How can people who cannot control their own bodies and sexual urges have the right to decide about the life and future of their unborn child?
- Does a doctor, a clinic, or a state that advertises abortion encourage the murder of unborn babies? Does this make them complicit?

Remember:

- Abortion is the murder of an unborn baby!

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Put pressure on political parties to take a stand against abortion. They must do everything in their power to stop legislation that



legalises abortion on demand. If abortion is already legal, they must do everything they can to overturn this law.

- X** Abortion is a red light! Do not vote for people or parties who support it. They support murder. They do not stand for a better future.

Prayer:

- † Pray for all the pregnant women you know. Pray for every unborn baby's spirit, soul and body. Pray for the development of their muscles, skeleton, soul, skin, brain, sinews, immune system, organs, senses, blood, etc. Ask the Lord to make them perfect. Praise Him for it.
- † Pray that mothers will not do anything (e.g. smoke, drink alcohol, use drugs) to hinder the growth and development of their baby. Pray that they will eat healthily for the sake of the baby. Help where you can.
- † Pray that government will make carefully considered and wise decisions about children's safety, development, and future.
- † Pray against abortion.
- † Pray for people, especially women, who choose abortion as an escape and then experience emotional problems. Pray that they will find forgiveness, healing, and peace through Jesus.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Guinea-Bissau** and **Guinea**, and **Gambia** and **Senegal** in West Africa.



PART 7

WHO SHOULD GOVERN?

People differ. They have different abilities. They like different kinds of work. Not all people are good leaders.

The leaders Moses appointed had different responsibilities. Some were placed over thousands, some over hundreds, and some over fifty or ten. However, all of them had to have the same characteristics. All of them had to be capable; all of them had to serve the Lord; all of them had to love truth; and none of them were allowed to seek their own interests (Exodus 18:21).

In the New Testament, we read about the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit (e.g. in 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:3-8; Galatians 5:22-23). Believers *did not all get the same gifts* (exceptional abilities), but *all had to display the fruit of the Spirit* (characteristics).

In Matthew 25:14-15, we read about a man who wanted to go on a journey. He entrusted his possessions (gold coins) to his servants. He did not give everyone the same number of coins. He divided the coins according to their individual capabilities.

Not everyone can govern a country. Not everyone should be in government. People who want to govern must have specific skills and knowledge. Each position and every level of government requires people that have the necessary skills.

Those who govern must have ethical characters. They must have the same characteristics as the greatest leader ever: Jesus Christ. He came to serve us all (Mark 10:45)!



Day 34

Who should govern? (1)

Those who understand authority and the purpose thereof

Read: Proverbs 22:3

The Lord created everything for a specific purpose (Proverbs 16:4a). There is a creative purpose for believers and unbelievers (Proverbs 16:4b and Ephesians 2:10): For King David (Psalm 78:70-72), but also for heathen kings like Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus (Daniel 1:1-2; Isaiah 45:1-7). **God wants to govern on earth through people** (Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 8:6-7; Revelation 5:10). Therefore, He gives authority to governments and rulers. They must understand that they are merely God's servants and not gods (Romans 13:1-4). They must use His authority to **serve** Him and people. **How?**

1. **Government must ensure justice and righteousness.** This is the distinctive feature of Christ's government. This is God's will. This is what He expects from the authorities (2 Chronicles 19:5-7; Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 9:24b).
2. **Government must ensure the safety of all its citizens.** It must punish evil doers. It must do so on behalf of God (Romans 12:19 and 3:4). Thus they will prevent people from taking the law into their own hands (Romans 12:19). It will prevent people from feeling unsafe.
3. **Government must praise those who do good.** It must be able to differentiate between good and evil (Isaiah 5:20). It must acknowledge good citizens who obey the law, work hard, and help make the country a better place for all. If not, it will alienate those who could help them rule in the interests of everyone.
4. **Government must cultivate a climate in which everyone can live a good life.** They must rule in the best interests of everyone (Romans 13:4a; Psalm 72:1-7; Proverbs 31:8-9). Everyone must be able to live a peaceful, quiet, and honest life. Everyone must be free to serve the Lord (1 Timothy 2:1-6a). This means, amongst other things, that the government must create an environment in which people who want to work can work (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:28). A climate in which people and their possessions are safe.

Discuss:

- According to you, what is the creative purpose and duty of government?



- Whose responsibility is it to teach politicians what God expects of them? How can this be done? When should it be done?
- What should a government (authorities, politicians, civil servants, leaders, etc.) do when it realises that the task is too difficult for them (1 Kings 3:5-15a)?
- Discuss the following statement: *The primary duty government has is to show people **how** God rules. **How** it governs must show that God is always just; that everyone benefits where and when God rules.*

Remember:

- The primary job of government is:
 - ✓ to ensure that justice is done;
 - ✓ to pass judgement on behalf of God on what is right and wrong;
 - ✓ to praise those who do what is good and to punish evil doers;
 - ✓ to ensure everyone's safety;
 - ✓ to create an environment in which everyone can serve the Lord and live an ethical, honest life.

Tips for voters:

- X Vote for leaders and representatives who know Who their authority comes from.
- X Vote for leaders and representatives who know the purpose of their authority and know how they should use it.

Prayer:

- † Pray that those who run in the election will understand the responsibility God gives them.
- † Pray that political candidates will receive the proper training – especially regarding values such as *honesty, fairness, trustworthiness, respect, and compassion*.
- † Pray that they will be properly trained in *leadership, problem solving, financial management, stewardship, responsibility, productivity, and a healthy work ethic*.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Mauritania, Western Sahara and Morocco**. They are in West Africa.



Day 35

Who should govern? (2)

Those who understand leadership and the purpose thereof

Read: Mark 10:42-45 and Philippians 2:3-8.

In the Bible, God gives us a good description of the life and work of those He called to be leaders. This shows us God's definition of leadership: ***To serve those in need in such a way that when they follow their leader, their problems will decrease and their lives improve.*** Jesus is the best example of a good leader. His influence in the world continues to grow and His Kingdom keeps expanding.

Those in need: In the Bible, leadership is always about ***addressing people's needs.*** God calls and sends leaders like Moses, Gideon, Nehemiah, and Paul to help people in need. He also sent Jesus to free us from the power and consequences of sin!

Serve: Jesus Christ demonstrates God's definition of leadership in word and deed: ***Leadership is service*** (Mark 10:42-45 and Philippians 2:3-8). Leadership is hard work. Leadership is taking responsibility and helping those in need. You do not need status to be a leader. You can be a leader even if you don't have a special rank, title or position. Leadership is more than idle talk and empty promises. It's hard work!

Follow: When someone leads, others should follow. Leaders should influence people's lives so positively that others will follow them (1 Corinthians 11:1). ***Leadership is influence.*** Leaders must follow the example set by Christ. The ability to influence people may never be abused.

Problems decrease and life improves: Good leaders address people's needs. Therefore, leadership is about solving problems and improving people's quality of life. ***This is the result of good leadership.*** When the actions of people in high positions create more problems and greater chaos, they are not leaders according to the Bible's definition. They are deceivers.



Discuss:

- Discuss the following statements.

Which is right? Why?

- ✓ After becoming president of the Agricultural Union, Thuli Sekhoto began to serve farmers.
- ✓ Thuli Sekhoto's whole life testified of her passion for agriculture and farmers as well as her understanding of their problems. That is why she was elected president of the Agricultural Union.
- What is a leader's **biggest responsibility**?
- What is the **most important skill** a leader should have?
- What can citizens **expect** from political leaders and government?

Remember:

- Someone must *be a leader before being elected as a leader*. A position doesn't turn someone into a leader.
- Someone who is **willing to serve and see to other people's needs** may be appointed to a leadership position.

Tips for voters:

- X The key word is *already*! Vote only for people or a party that has **already** made a difference in your community.
- X People and parties that **do not deliver services** and **do not solve** their community's problems now, will not do so in the future, no matter what they promise to do.

Prayer:

- † Pray that leaders will follow the example set by Jesus: **Serve God and people!**
- † Pray for more and more governments and political leaders to become servants of God and their people. Pray that they will not pursue important positions just for the money and power.
- † Pray for the training and development of a new generation of capable young leaders – especially in politics.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Niger and Chad**.



Day 36

Who should govern? (3)

Those with integrity *and* skill

Read: Psalm 78:70-72

The Lord chose David. He took him from the sheep pastures and made him king to provide for God's people (1 Samuel 16:1 and 13). Take note – David had to **provide** for the people. He wasn't supposed to lord it over them. How did he do it? Read Psalm 79:72 again. The Amplified Bible says: "*So David shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart; And guided them with his skilful hands.*" **Integrity** and **skill** are the most important traits leaders *must* have! A bicycle needs two wheels. When one wheel is broken, the other wheel is useless. Similarly, a good leader needs integrity **and** skill! Many leaders are appointed due to their **skill**. Later they are retrenched because they **don't have integrity**. They are dishonest, untrustworthy, irresponsible, and lazy.

Tshepiso was very clever and stood out at school. He had a promising future. He went to university even though his parents were poor and money was tight. He decided to study law and political sciences. At university he began to stand out as a leader. He could communicate and reason well. He could influence others and mobilise them for a cause. The ladies loved Tshepiso. He seduced many women and then scorned them. Because of his smooth tongue and accomplishments, he was the centre of attention at parties where there was a lot of alcohol. He belittled his parents because they were illiterate. He went into debt by buying a fancy car which he couldn't afford. *Based on his skill*, he was promoted to more important positions in the student council and politics.

Thabiso was the exact opposite. He was a joy to his parents. He was honest and trustworthy – a man of **integrity**. He was a good role model for young people. He was a hard worker, faithful to his wife, and a good father to his children. He loved the Lord and knew the Bible. He became a church leader and taught his followers the difference between right and wrong. But, he knew very little about politics, economics, and office administration. *Based on his integrity*, he also started gaining influence in politics.



The problem with Tshepiso and Thabiso was that neither of them had **integrity and skill**. The more involved they became in politics, the greater the mess they made.

Discuss:

- Why are integrity *and* skill important?
 - ✓ What future does a country have if all the political leaders are Tshepisos?
 - ✓ What future does a country have if all the political leaders are Thabisos?
 - ✓ Why are good church leaders often not also good politicians?
- How do we know if the people and parties for which we vote have the integrity **and** the skill to govern well and provide for the country?

Remember:

- Just like a bicycle needs two wheels, **a good leader needs two characteristics: a sincere heart and the appropriate practical skills.**
- Good people who do not have the necessary skills cannot govern a country well. Skilled people without integrity and a good character cannot govern well either.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Vote for people with integrity *and* the necessary skills to govern.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about the leadership crisis in our country. Most leaders have only one of the two important characteristics. This is true of political leaders as well.
- † Pray for organisations like **“Raising Righteous Rulers”** which train political leaders (visit rrrsa.org). Pray that the result will be skilful leaders with integrity.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Mali and Algeria.**



Day 37

Who should govern? (4)

Wise people with training, knowledge and experience

Read: Proverbs 3:13-18; 14:15-16; 24:3-5; James 3:13-18

There are two trees in a garden. The easiest and best way to tell them apart is by looking at the fruit. The mango tree bears mangos and the avocado tree bears avocados. James speaks of two kinds of wisdom. One is the wisdom that comes from Above. The other is worldly and demonic. The easiest way to tell the two apart is by examining the **fruit**.

The **wisdom of demons** produces jealousy, selfishness, anarchy, and all kinds of loveless and evil deeds. When leaders boast in their wisdom but stoke racism, create disunity, and weaken the economy to enrich themselves, the source of their wisdom is demonic. It is certainly not Godly. There are no benefits to this kind of wisdom.

The fruit of the **wisdom from Above** (from God) is completely different. It is *"...first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."* (James 3:17). This is the wisdom that Solomon writes about in Proverbs. Wisdom from Above is very good (James 1:17) and benefits everyone greatly. It is worth more than any mineral or metal that can be mined. It is incomparable. It is more valuable than anything else. Wisdom ensures a full life and a beautiful future. It allows everyone to prosper. Leaders whose wisdom comes from God do not believe everything they hear. They are not reckless and self-assured. They think carefully and make well-advised decisions. God's wisdom enables them to develop the country, not destroy it. **"Through [skilful and godly] wisdom a house [a life, a home, a family] is built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation]"** (Proverbs 24:3 AMP Bible). Leaders with Godly wisdom cause the country to flourish. They seek peace and cultivate unity and cooperation (James 3:18).



Discuss:

- **Is it necessary for ministers to have the appropriate skill and experience of the ministry for which they are responsible?**
 - ✓ For example, should the Minister of Defence have good military training and experience in the army? Should he/she have worked his/her way up from the bottom?
 - ✓ What appropriate skill and experience should the following ministers have? Education; Agriculture; Health; Mineral Resources?
- **Discuss the statement:** *A wise leader succeeds in making friends out of his enemies. A foolish leader makes enemies of his friends.* Motivate your answer with examples.
- *“As the builder builds the house, the house builds the builder.”* This means that someone learns new things and develops new skills while building a house. But what will happen when someone is given a task and responsibility which he cannot carry out? **Will it build him up or break him down?** Why?
- *“That which you have can be easily lost. That which you know can never be taken from you. Therefore, knowledge is more important than possessions.”* How can you determine what is most important to candidates?

Remember:

- **Not all leaders who claim to have wisdom have the wisdom of God.** Examine the fruit they bear!
- **Knowledge, skill, and experience are important.** Do not disregard them.

Tips for voters:

- ✕ Always try to vote for wise people who have been well trained. People who have learnt by experience.

Prayer:

- † Ask the Lord to give you wisdom so that you will always be able to make the right decisions.
- † Pray for leaders who show by their speeches and actions that their wisdom does **not** come from Above. Ask the Lord to bring them to salvation. Otherwise, they will perish.
- † Pray that leaders will seek wisdom and counsel from the Lord.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Djibouti and Eritrea.**



Day 38

Who should govern? (5)

Those who were faithful with little

Read: Matthew 25:14-30 (pay special attention to verse 21); Luke 19:11-27 (pay special attention to verse 17); 1 Timothy 3:1-13 (pay special attention to verses 4-5 and 12)

Lizzy couldn't control her own children, but she was a teacher. She didn't care much for the learners. She blamed the parents and circumstances for the learners' poor grades. But Lizzy and her husband were friends with the school principal. He made sure that she was appointed as head of a department. She was pleased with her new salary and status. But she still wasn't reliable. This put the principal under pressure. So he used his influence to get her a position in the Department of Education, despite her lack of qualifications. Even though she was no longer working with children, there were still problems. There were rumours about mishandling money and she was promoted to a position in which she didn't have control over finances. This meant she had more freedom, but also more responsibility. Lizzy enjoyed the freedom but passed the greater responsibility onto other people. As usual, she blamed others for everything that went wrong.

This sounds impossible! How could Lizzy keep being promoted without ever doing her work properly? There are many similar examples in life. It is as though people think that someone who cannot do their job properly will do better in a higher position. In other words, poor performance is rewarded! It is ridiculous!

The Word of God teaches us the opposite: "... ***Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things*** ..." (Matthew 25:21). Reliability should be rewarded. If you reward people who underperform, they will keep on underperforming. The Word teaches that only reliability should be rewarded with more responsibility!

It is dangerous when a government's policy directly or indirectly rewards people's ***unreliability***. **Unfaithfulness and irresponsibility will never be rooted out.** The problem will only get worse – not only in the civil service but also in society.



Discuss:

- Think about examples where government policy or the policy of a political party have resulted in unreliable people being rewarded. Discuss.
- Suppose a community falls into such poverty that it cannot survive without government assistance and social grants. They must be helped.
 - ✓ What do some of these grants promote? Responsibility or irresponsibility? Reliability or unreliability?
 - ✓ Can social grants be used to motivate people to do the right thing? To act ethically and responsibly? (The conditions for receiving a grant need to be changed. For example: link the grant to faithful school attendance; sexual purity; the readiness to work for less than the minimum wage; obtaining a driver's license; passing a course in problem solving, etc.)

Remember:

- **You reap what you sow.** Sow unreliability and you will reap more of it. Sow responsibility and you will reap greater responsibility. Sow ethical behaviour and you will reap more people who do the right thing.

Tips for voters:

- X **Vote for individuals and parties who are willing to reward good behaviour.** Do not vote for those who reward unreliable, incompetent, and irresponsible people.

Prayer:

- † Speak to the Lord about your faithfulness, even in the little things.
- † Pray that the rewarding of unreliability, incompetence and irresponsibility will be rooted out in government, the private sector, and in society.
- † Ask the Lord to give government the wisdom and plans to reward reliability effectively.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Tunisia and Libya.**



Day 39

Who should govern? (6)

Those who have the knowledge and skill to solve problems

Read: Matthew 6:34

Leadership is ***"To serve those in need so that when they follow the leaders, their problems decrease and their lives improve"*** (Day 35).

All countries have problems: unemployment; laziness; absent fathers; teenage pregnancies; alcohol abuse; poverty; poor service delivery by local authorities; corruption; violence; debt; the gap between rich and poor; labour relations; tension between religions; ethnic conflict; and international political pressure. There are many more. Clearly, those who want to govern a country must have the skill to solve problems. If they do not succeed, the ideal of a better life for all will never be realised. Problems will increase and life will get worse.

It is good to discuss problems but talking doesn't solve problems. **Solving problems is a process. You must do things in the correct order. There are 11 steps in the process.** Each step is important.

1. **Identify the problem.** Define the problem correctly because *"a problem well-defined is a problem half-solved."* Do it in time.
2. **Accept responsibility for the problem.** Blaming others does not help. It doesn't solve problems.
3. **Pray and ask the LORD to help you solve the problem.** God invites us to discuss our problems with Him and to ask Him for advice. He promises wisdom and help to everyone who approaches Him in the name of Jesus (Psalm 107; Psalm 50:15; James 1:2-8).
4. **Determine the root or cause of the problem.** What you see at first is usually the result of a deeper problem. The real cause is not easy to see. *You see a tap dripping. But the real problem (cause) is the washer inside the tap. You cannot see that it's broken.* That is where the solution lies. At the root or cause of the problem.



5. **Prioritise the problems and decide which needs to be solved first.** Sometimes a problem is just one thing. But sometimes a couple of small problems cause a big problem. Solving a big problem often consists of solving many smaller problems. It is important to decide which of these must be solved first.
 6. **Make a list of all the possible solutions** without immediately evaluating them. Ask trustworthy people for advice. Pray!
 7. **Weigh the different solutions up against each other and choose the best one.** Long-term solutions are usually better than temporary solutions. Win-win solutions are usually better than win-lose solutions. Avoid dangerous solutions. Stay away from solutions that have anything to do with occultist (demonic) activities and practices. Choose solutions that show your love for God and those around you.
 8. **Implement (do) the solution you chose.** Create a step-by-step action plan to solve the problem:
 - Who** must do it?
 - What** must be done?
 - When** must it be done?
 - Where** must it be done?
 - How** must it be done?
 - With what** must it be done? This includes a budget.
- Do the work! Problems aren't solved by making plans but by ***doing*** what you planned.
9. **Evaluate: Is the solution successful?** Is everyone satisfied? Is the solution permanent or temporary? Does the solution create any new problems? If so, make a list. Follow the same process to solve the new problems. **If the solution is successful, continue to step 10 and 11. If not, go back to step one and work through the steps again.**
 10. **Celebrate solving the problem.** Thank the Lord. Solving one problem often gives you the motivation and energy to identify and solve the next problem.
 11. **Maintain the solution.** If effort is not made to maintain the solution, the problem will return.



Discuss:

- Why do you think governments (national, provincial, local) often struggle to solve problems properly?

Remember:

- Solving problems is a **skill** that *can* and *must* be learnt.
- Solving problems is a **process** which must be carried out step by step in the correct order.

Tips for voters:

- X **Make sure that the people or party you vote for have the skill to solve problems.** Your problems and those of your children will decrease your and your lives improve.

Prayer:

- † Pray for a righteous desire to solve one's own problems effectively to grow in everyone's hearts.
- † Pray that political leaders will make an effort to improve their problem-solving skills.
- † Pray for problems in government and agriculture to be solved by means of the abovementioned process (11 steps).

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in **Seychelles** and **Madagascar**.

Day 40

Who should govern? (7)

Young people!

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1; Psalm 119: 98-100

Africa is a rich continent. Africa is large – 22,3% of the world's land area! You can fit the whole of China, India, Western Europe, Argentina, New Zealand, and the USA into Africa. However, Africa only has 17% of the world's population. It has 64 countries and many have plenty of water, although some areas are dry. Think about the many great lakes and underground aquifers. The River Nile is the longest in the world. The Congo River flows into the sea at a rate of 41 000 cubic meters per



second. Africa is also rich in minerals: 9.6% of the world's oil; 90% of the world's platinum; 90% of the world's cobalt; 50% of the world's gold; 67% of the world's manganese; 35% of the world's uranium; and 75% of the world's coltan. **But Africa's greatest asset is its young people. The average age of its population is 19.7 years** (2020 statistic). **Africa has a future!**

Who will govern Africa well? Who will end the plunder of Africa's riches? Who will stop the abuse of its potential? Who will put its wealth and potential at the disposal of the King? Who will be God's co-workers and see to the development of Africa's agriculture without destroying the soil (cf. Job 31:38-40)? Who will establish agricultural policies and practices that will transform Africa into the breadbasket of the world? Who will use science and technology to make a better life under the best King possible for everyone? Who will root out Africa's problems with Godly wisdom and creativity instead of merely trying to manage the symptoms? Who are the leaders whose hearts are entirely devoted to God? Because God will powerfully help and support them (2 Chronicles 16:9 and Jeremiah 32:38-41).

The Lord said to Samuel: "... *How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.*" (1 Samuel 16:1). At that time, David was the same age as the average age of Africa's population! God does not look at appearances when He chooses leaders. He looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). I believe that God sees kings, presidents, ministers, and good administrators in the young people of Africa. Leaders after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)! Young people who understand that we are living in Kingdom times. Young people who know the instruction and calling for Africa and His people now.

We need to seek dynamic young leaders like this who are inspirational role models for the millions of young voters in Africa. Young leaders who are firmly anchored in "**God's Word, God's Will, God's Way and the Worship of God**". Like David, millions of young people in Africa know God and His Word personally. They have more insight than the enemies of the Kingdom. They have more understanding than those who taught them. They have more wisdom than the older generation who have years of experience (cf. Psalms 119:98-100). Young people who, like David, have the necessary **integrity** and **skill** (Psalm 78:72) to rule every country in Africa well. Young people who are convinced about the advantages of the Kingdom of God for everyone. They are the people in whose hands the



wealth and potential of Africa will be safe. But they will also be safe with the wealth and potential of Africa in their hands! Power and wealth will not lead them to sin.

Discuss:

- Woe to the country ruled by people who should have retired long ago.
- Africa is where it is because its leaders think the way they do. That is the cause of many of Africa's problems. New thinking is needed to successfully solve the problems – a new generation of leaders that has been changed by God by **renewing their minds** (Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 4:23).

Political parties who do not make room for dynamic, regenerative, and innovative young leaders do not have a future. Do not put your future and that of your children in their hands by voting for them.

Remember:

- Your future is your choice!

Tips for voters:

- X** Vote for young people who are sold out for the King and His Kingdom. Young people with integrity *and* the necessary skills.
- X** Don't be blinded by someone's age. Remember everything you've learnt in the last 40 days.

Prayer:

- † Pray for Africa. Ask the Lord to bless Africa with a new generation of leaders who are led by Christ. Pray that Africa's youth will reach their full potential.
- † Pray that young Christians will become actively involved in politics.
- † Ask the Lord to reveal **how** He wants to rule Africa. New Kingdom models must be developed in politics.
- † Pray that Christians will work together with Christ **"to destroy the works of the devil"** (1 John 3:8) and establish the Kingdom of God in politics (and elsewhere).
- † Thank God for Africa's wealth and unlimited potential. Pray that leaders will unearth Africa's wealth and potential in a way that will benefit everyone.

Pray for Africa: Focus on the Church, agriculturalists and politicians in Egypt.



PART 8

APPENDIX

Pray for government (1)

(On local, provincial and national level)

Pray that leaders will have or will develop the following characteristics and/or skills:

† **Psalm 78:72**

- ✓ Good leaders have integrity and skill.

† **Exodus 18:21**

Leaders should ...

- ✓ be capable;
- ✓ serve the Lord;
- ✓ love the truth;
- ✓ not be interested in personal gain or self-enrichment.

† **Mark 10:43-45; Philippians 2:3-5**

- ✓ Christian leaders must serve the community and put its interests first.

† **1 Chronicles 12:32**

- ✓ Good leaders must understand the times in which we are living and know what we should be doing now.

† **1 Kings 3:6-12**

Pray that leaders will receive the wisdom to ...

- ✓ govern on behalf of God (1 Chronicles 28:5);
- ✓ exercise authority on behalf of God (Romans 13:1-7);
- ✓ lead the community “God’s Way”;
- ✓ keep the community safe and healthy;
- ✓ ensure good quality education for everyone;
- ✓ work with money, be good stewards, and manage the country’s economy properly;
- ✓ create jobs and/or help and motivate the private sector to create jobs.



† **Daniel 6:5; Luke 16:10-12**

- ✓ Leaders must be trustworthy with finances and administration.

† **Exodus 18:17-25; Nehemiah 7:1-2; Proverbs 22:29 and 25:5**

- ✓ Trustworthy and capable civil servants must be appointed;
- ✓ The civil service must be effective and deliver quality services;
- ✓ Godless people must be removed from the civil service.

† **1 Timothy 3:1-5**

- ✓ Political and community leaders must be good role models and set a positive example;
- ✓ They must be above reproach;
- ✓ They must have one spouse and remain faithful to him/her;
- ✓ They must be sober and not be addicted to anything.

† **Proverbs 12:19 and 22, also Daniel 2:20-23**

- ✓ Pray that all the lies and fraud in politics will come to light;
- ✓ Pray that the powers of darkness will be exposed;
- ✓ Pray for an independent judiciary;
- ✓ Pray for an effective opposition that will hold the ruling party accountable.



Pray for government (2)

(Police, Department of Justice and Correctional Services)

In the Word God reveals Himself as the Righteous One (Jeremiah 23:5-6). He does not favour some and discriminate against others. He cannot be bribed to pervert justice (Deuteronomy 10:16 and Romans 2:11). He sees to it that justice is always served (Isaiah 9:6). His judgement is trustworthy, just, and right (Revelation 16:7 and 19:2).

God wants to reveal Himself to people as the Righteous One. Servants of the law must be His co-workers in this regard. The way in which servants of the law do their work must make people see and believe that God is just.

God gives government the authority to carry out His (God's) justice (Romans 13:1-7). It is government's job to ensure that justice is served through the police and the department of justice.

† 2 Chronicles 19:5-9

"He (king Jehoshaphat) appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. He told them, 'Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.' ... 'You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord.'"

- ✓ Pray that the servants of the law will understand their Godly calling;
- ✓ Pray that injustice and corruption will be rooted out;
- ✓ Pray for an independent and impartial judiciary.

† Exodus 23:1-9 and Leviticus 19:15

- ✓ There should be no cooperation and/or conspiring with criminals;
- ✓ Servants of the law should not do what is wrong. They must keep to the truth;
- ✓ The social position of someone on trial (rich or poor; educated or uneducated; etc.) may not affect the administration of justice;
- ✓ Bribery is unacceptable. It undermines the law and justice;



- ✓ Pray for the safety of the police and their families.

† **Jeremiah 9:23-24 and Micah 3:8-9**

- ✓ The police must know and serve the Lord;
- ✓ The police must be trustworthy and of good character;
- ✓ They must allow justice to be served and promote righteousness and love;
- ✓ The police and the Department of Justice must be trustworthy and held in such high esteem by the community that no one will take the law into their own hands.

† **Matthew 25:34-40 and Hebrews 13:3**

- ✓ The Gospel must be preached in prisons;
- ✓ Corruption must be eradicated in prisons;
- ✓ Prisoners must be protected from violence and sexual assault;
- ✓ Wardens should not be in cahoots with criminals and smuggle forbidden things into the prisons;
- ✓ Prisoners must be effectively rehabilitated to successfully slot into their families and communities;
- ✓ Pray for the families of prisoners.

Notes: Write down what the Lord is laying on your heart through His Spirit to pray for government. You can also write the names of political leaders (local, provincial, and/or national) down here:

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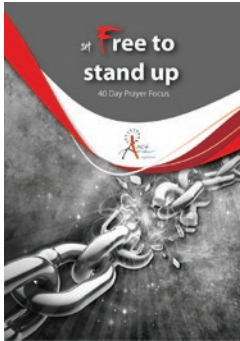
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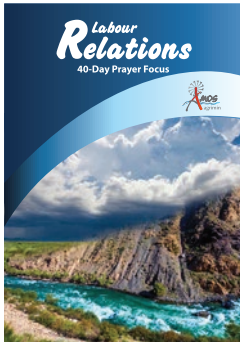
Other AMOS publications

The following AMOS publications are available in **English and Afrikaans**. Download them **for free** at www.amosafrica.net or purchase physical copies at cost price by sending an email to secretary@amosafrica.net.



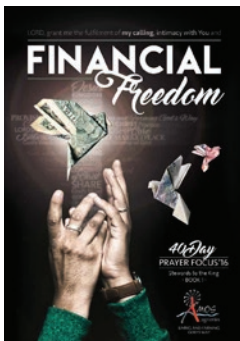
Set Free to Stand Up (Prayer Focus 2014)

Too many Christians who have been saved are still in pain. They are God's children but still entangled in sin. They are free but still think like slaves. They survive but do not live lives of victory. They believe in God, but struggle to believe Him. This problem is actively addressed. The initial focus is on the King who sets people free to stand up. Then the devil's lies and methods are revealed. Readers are helped to understand their restored relationship with God, their identity in Christ and their calling. Some of the things that prevent Christians from rising up are discussed and then there is a prayer for deliverance. The 40 meditations can help you to **rise up and live a life of victory!**



Labour Relations (Prayer Focus 2015)

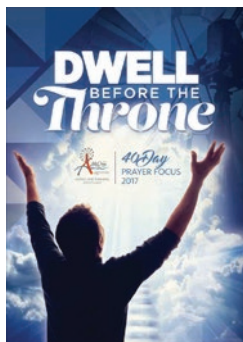
This book provides the answer to the question, what do labour relations have to do with Christianity and the vision of AMOS? (Living and Farming God's Way) Six important Biblical principles for relationships are discussed and practical examples given. Various issues regarding labour relations are handled according to Scripture and with practical examples: labourers, labour, empowerment, motivating workers, discipline, handling conflict, win-win solutions. Blessed are all who by their good relationships make the Gospel of Jesus Christ attractive to others and so encourage the coming of the Kingdom.



Financial Freedom (Prayer Focus 2016)

Financial freedom is more than just a nice ideal. It is within your reach if you know and apply the timeless economic principles God gives us in His Word. The world differs radically to the Word of God about money and possessions. This is the reason for the economic chaos around us. Therefore, we must give God the opportunity to renew our thinking through His Word. The first step on the path to financial freedom is to acknowledge that **everything belongs to the Lord**, even what you and I have. We are just stewards of all that the Lord places in our care.

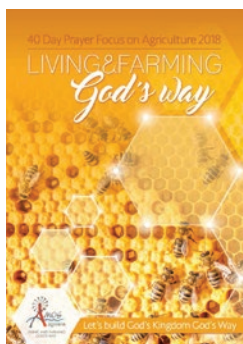




Dwell Before the Throne (Prayer Focus 2017)

The purpose of this Prayer Focus is not to provide knowledge about prayer, but to motivate people to benefit fully from the privilege of prayer. Prayer in the Name of Jesus is important if we want to transform agriculture to *Living and Farming God's Way*. It is also the key to solving problems in agriculture. Pray without ceasing!

The Prayer Focus includes a practical manual with prayer guidelines and prayers. It will help you to pray using scripture and to pray meaningfully for personal needs, for the community, and for agriculture. Prayer is the key to solving problems in agriculture. Through prayer, the Kingdom will come in agriculture. Pray without ceasing. Dwell before the Throne.



Living and farming God's Way (Prayer Focus 2018)

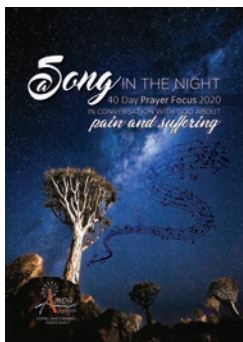
This is our vision and our heart. This is what Amos Agrimin is about. This is our dream for Africa. The Kingdom of God can only be built God's way. **Let us build God's Kingdom God's Way!** Ten **characteristics** of *God's Way* are discussed and many practical applications are provided. You will learn how to cultivate a *God's Way* culture on your farm. Lastly, we focus on important things in the Word about the land on which we farm. These 40 devotions are important for all Christian farmers. Prayerfully study and apply these things.



God sees a king in you (Prayer Focus 2019)

God says about David in 1 Samuel 16:1: "*In him I have chosen a king for Myself.*" After David was anointed, at least 10 difficult years passed before he was crowned. During this time, God formed him and built his character so that he could become the king that God saw in him. We can learn a lot from the life of David then. Jesus was born from the descendants of David. King Jesus has made us kings and priests of God. To be the king that God sees in you, you must, like David and King Jesus, have absolute certainty about your identity as a child of God, your relationship with the Father, and the instruction He has given you.





Song in the Night (Prayer Focus 2020)

God wants to teach you to sing a song in the night! **A Song in the Night** is not a collection of messages of comfort. It is a collection of perspectives from the Word to help you converse honestly with God about your suffering. These conversations will help you to get to know God better, to understand suffering, and to respond to suffering more responsibly. The meditations are systematic, simple, and applicable.







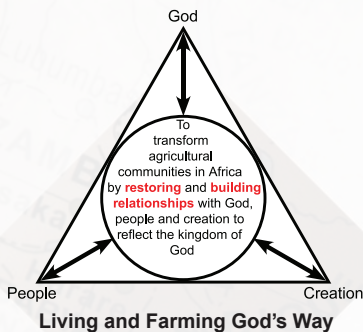
The name, **AMOS**, is derived from the Bible. Amos was a prophet and farmer of the Old Testament. As prophet, he warned against formalistic religiosity, and all kinds of exploitation and injustice of the day. Accordingly God's children are encouraged not to be merely religious, but to live according to His will 24 hours of every day(24/7). The word **Agrimin** is an abbreviation for *Agricultural Ministries*.

The **AMOS** logo is rich in symbolism. The name is prominently printed. The windmill symbolizes agriculture. The windmill provides water and brings life and prosperity to the farm. We at **AMOS** acknowledge Jesus Christ (red cross), as the source of Living Water (blue stream flowing from the cross). He is the One without whom an abundant life is impossible. With this logo, we also acknowledge our dependence on the mighty working of the Holy Spirit, just like the windmill depends on the wind.

Core business of Amos Agrimin

We want to see the **Kingdom of God** manifested
in the **agricultural community**.

Therefore Amos Agrimin's core business is:





Your future..... **YOUR CHOICE!**



AMOS AGRIMIN

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