

A Service of National Repentance

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:13-18 -

13 For You formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.

The Unborn are the Work of God and the objects of His Love.

It is estimated that over 4 million abortions have been performed in Canada since it was decriminalized. That is nearly the entire population of British Columbia simply exterminated. The argument that these are just fetuses and not human beings is simply a farce. Every bit of scientific knowledge and moral intelligence tells us that the fetus is just another stage of growth in the life of a human being, just like a baby or a toddler or a teenager or an adult for that matter. That argument is simply rebellious mankind wanting to justify what they want to do, even though they know it is wrong.

Not only does human life begin at conception, but our scripture reading from Psalm 139 reminds us that every fetus is the work of God. God formed every individual. He "Knitted me together in the womb." Every individual is hand made by God. God has determined everything about that person, their hair and skin color, their appearance, their personality. It was all determined at the moment of conception.

God not only formed every individual in the womb but He already has a plan for that child's life when they were still in the womb. More than that, God loves every child and provided Baptism as a way to connect that child with Jesus to make it God's child forever. Every abortion is killing a child that God created and loves dearly—a child for whom Jesus died to save. What a fearful thing to do. Jesus' blood gives the greatest value to every life that God forms in the womb. To heedlessly take that life will certainly incur the wrath of God.

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 24:1-4 -

24 In the days of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years, but he then rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar again. 2 Then the Lord sent bands of Chaldeans, bands of Arameans, bands of Moabites, and bands of Ammonite raiders against Jehoiakim. He sent them into Judah to destroy them according to the word of the Lord, which he had spoken through his servants the prophets. 3 Surely this happened at the Lord's command to remove them from his presence because of all the sins Manasseh had committed, 4 as well as the innocent blood he had shed. He filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord was not willing to forgive.

Why was Judah and Jerusalem destroyed? Why did God want to remove them out of His sight? God gives two reasons. It was "for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done." King Manasseh had led the people of Judah to worship all the idols of the heathen. And then God mentions specifically, "And also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood." God says He would not pardon them for the innocent blood that was shed.

According to Mosaic Law, the shedding of innocent blood would make the whole land guilty. If the people of Israel would not punish a man who killed an innocent person, the whole land would be held accountable for that. Manasseh had "filled Jerusalem with innocent blood." That included the sacrifice of his children to the idols.

Since 1988 Abortion is legal in Canada at all stages of pregnancy, no matter the reason. It's not only allowed but it is publicly funded as a medical procedure. One article I read says that Canada is the only nation with absolutely no criminal restrictions on abortion, even up to full term. What more innocent blood could be shed than the blood of an unborn child?

Our next reading from Psalm 106 specifically identifies the innocent blood that was shed included children sacrificed to idols.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 106:24-42

34 They did not destroy the peoples as the Lord had commanded them, 35 but they mixed with the nations, and they learned to do what the nations did. 36 They also served their idols, and the idols became a snare for them. 37 They also sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons. 38 They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. So the land was polluted by their children's blood, 39 and they made themselves unclean by what they did. They prostituted themselves by their actions. 40 Therefore the Lord burned with anger against his people, and he loathed the people who belonged to him. 41 So he handed them over to the nations, and those who hated them ruled over them. 42 Then their enemies oppressed them, and they had to submit to their power.

Oh the wrath of God that has been building up against the nations of the world. 4 million innocent babies killed in Canada. More than 60 million innocents slain in the United States. Approximately 40 - 60 million babies killed world wide EVERY YEAR! That's more than the entire population of Canada murdered in the comfort and security of their home every year. That makes Hitler and Saddam Hussein and Idi Amin and every other genocide in the world look like a drop in the bucket. All children sacrificed to the idols of convenience and pleasure, or personal "rights."

Is it any wonder that the world has been plagued by a pandemic for the past two and half years? Is it a surprise that there have been unprecedented fires ravaging the land? Or that storms and floods have become more severe in some areas and droughts in other areas. The world wants to blame it on Global Warming, but surely it is God's wrath over all the innocent blood that has been shed.

It is truly frightening to see how many people are fighting for their "right" to continue the slaughter. If Jerusalem and Judah were utterly destroyed because of the innocent blood shed, what do we deserve? Let us plead for God's mercy.

Hymn 323 - With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

The most amazing thing is that even now, after hundreds of millions of innocents slaughtered, there is still hope. So great is God's mercy and willingness to forgive. He is truly merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and truth. God demonstrates His mercy and forgiveness in our next reading.

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

3 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 2 "Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the Lord had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. 4 Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, "Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!"

5 The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. 6 When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh.

By the decree of the king and his leading officials:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything. Do not let them eat food or drink water. 8 Instead, let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call fervently to God. Let them turn from their evil way and from the violence that is in their hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent. He may turn from his burning anger so that we will not perish.

10 When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

That is an incredible example of God's grace and mercy. Remember that Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, and they Assyrians were the dreaded enemies of Israel. They had conquered several cities of Israel. Yet God had mercy on them. His grace was seen in sending Jonah to Nineveh in the first place and not just destroying them. His mercy was seen also in moving the entire city to repentance. From the king down to the pauper the whole city fasted and repented in sackcloth and ashes. Most of all God's mercy was seen in that He relented and did not bring the judgment upon them as He planned.

I would like to read you another proclamation from a nation's ruler.

Whereas, The Senate of the United States devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation: And Whereas, It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord : And, Insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion. All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord 1863, ...
By the President : ABRAHAM LINCOLN

This is what is needed today. As far as I know, there has not been anything like this since 1863 in either Canada or the United States, a national day of repentance calling upon everyone to repent. It might seem impossible, but with God nothing is impossible. In In 2011 the nation of Papua New Guinea declared August 26 a National Day of Repentance which they have commemorated every year since.

Whether or not our government or nation would humble themselves before the Lord in this way, doesn't stop us from calling upon the Lord for mercy the way faithful people of the Bible have done, like Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah. We can plead for God's mercy upon Canada the way Abraham pleaded for Sodom and

Gomorrah. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and join those great believers of the Bible in praying for God's mercy. In the spirit of Daniel the prophet and with many of his words, we pray:

Prayer of National Repentance:

O Lord, you are the great God, who is to be feared. You have watched over this country from its very beginning and have blessed it above measure. You have shown mercy to those who love you and keep your commands. From sea to sea your mercy and goodness is evident in the bounty of our produce, in the beauty of the land in the freedoms we have enjoyed, and particularly in the forgiveness you have so graciously given. But for all this, we as a nation must hang our heads in shame. We have sinned. We are guilty and have acted wickedly. We have rebelled and turned aside from your commands and standards. We have enjoyed the bounty of your goodness and yet have trusted in our own knowledge, skill and strength. We have failed to recognize you as the giver of all good things and the source of this nations greatness. The people of this land are filled with pride in our accomplishments rather than giving praise to you, and ignore your commands while taking pride in their sins and rebellion.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us for our sin is great.

The churches of our land are not without blame. As you condemned the people of Israel, so the church of our day has "Mingled with the [unbelievers] and learned their works." (Ps. 106:35) In many cases the churches of our land have joined the ranks of the heathen in demanding the right to disobey your commandments and to boast in their wickedness. And we, your people, have failed to give a bold proclamation against the wickedness around us. We have all violated your law and have not listened to your voice.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

Oh Lord God, most holy and true, you have blessed this land abundantly and richly with your favor, yet we as a nation have forsaken your laws and refused to obey your commands. We have arrogantly lifted our heads against you and gone our own ways. Lord, we especially confess with great sorrow in our heart, that this land has been filled with innocent blood from one end to the other. Like the blood of Able, the blood of millions of unborn innocents cries out to you for vengeance. We plead for your mercy. For you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Do not destroy this land as we deserve, but show mercy for the sake of those who do call upon you in faith and for the sake of those whom you may still call to faith in your Son.

Now listen to the prayer of your servants and to our plea for grace, and let your face shine upon us. Oh restore your word and the true faith to the people of this land, and make us bold to confess your name and your truth before all.

C: O Lord our God, listen! Lord, be merciful! Lord, forgive for Jesus sake! Amen.

Lord we also pray for all those women who may, for whatever reason—social pressure, ignorance, or fear—have had an abortion, may you show them that there is forgiveness with you. Rather than trying to justify their actions, teach them to come to you in sorrow and confession, lead them to admit their guilt before you and look to you for mercy and forgiveness. Reassure them by your word that Jesus Christ our Lord has fully paid for all sin and that you will receive them in love and will grant healing and restoration. Grant us the courage and wisdom to reach out to those who may be hurting in their guilt and do not know where to turn for help and relief. We ask it all in the name of our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen