

## Psalm & Readings Tuesday 20th October 2020

### Psalm 106

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,  
or declare all his praise?

Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favour to  
your people;

help me when you deliver them;

that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your  
nation,

that I may glory in your heritage.

Both we and our ancestors have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, have done  
wickedly.

Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider your wonderful works;  
they did not remember the abundance of your  
steadfast love,

but rebelled against the Most High at the Red  
Sea.

Yet he saved them for his name's sake,  
so that he might make known his mighty  
power.

He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;  
he led them through the deep as through a  
desert.

So he saved them from the hand of the foe,  
and delivered them from the hand of the  
enemy.

The waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.

Then they believed his words;  
they sang his praise.

But they soon forgot his works;  
they did not wait for his counsel.

But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness,  
and put God to the test in the desert;  
he gave them what they asked,  
but sent a wasting disease among them.

They were jealous of Moses in the camp,  
and of Aaron, the holy one of the Lord.

The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,  
and covered the faction of Abiram.

Fire also broke out in their company;  
the flame burned up the wicked.

They made a calf at Horeb  
and worshipped a cast image.

They exchanged the glory of God  
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

They forgot God, their Saviour,  
who had done great things in Egypt,  
wondrous works in the land of Ham,  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

Therefore he said he would destroy them—  
had not Moses, his chosen one,  
stood in the breach before him,  
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

Then they despised the pleasant land,  
having no faith in his promise.

They grumbled in their tents,  
and did not obey the voice of the Lord.

Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them  
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,  
and would disperse their descendants among the  
nations,  
scattering them over the lands.

Then they attached themselves to the Baal of  
Peor,  
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;  
they provoked the Lord to anger with their deeds,  
and a plague broke out among them.

Then Phinehas stood up and interceded,  
and the plague was stopped.

And that has been reckoned to him as  
righteousness

from generation to generation for ever.

They angered the Lord at the waters of Meribah,  
and it went ill with Moses on their account;  
for they made his spirit bitter,  
and he spoke words that were rash.

They did not destroy the peoples  
as the Lord commanded them,  
but they mingled with the nations  
and learned to do as they did.

## 2 Kings 18:1-12

They served their idols,  
which became a snare to them.  
They sacrificed their sons  
and their daughters to the demons;  
they poured out innocent blood,  
the blood of their sons and daughters,  
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;  
and the land was polluted with blood.  
Thus they became unclean by their acts,  
and prostituted themselves in their doings.  
Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against  
his people,  
and he abhorred his heritage;  
he gave them into the hand of the nations,  
so that those who hated them ruled over them.  
Their enemies oppressed them,  
and they were brought into subjection under  
their power.  
Many times he delivered them,  
but they were rebellious in their purposes,  
and were brought low through their iniquity.  
Nevertheless, he regarded their distress  
when he heard their cry.  
For their sake he remembered his covenant,  
and showed compassion according to the  
abundance of his steadfast love.  
He caused them to be pitied  
by all who held them captive.  
Save us, O Lord our God,  
and gather us from among the nations,  
that we may give thanks to your holy name  
and glory in your praise.  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
And let all the people say, 'Amen.'  
Praise the Lord!

In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi daughter of Zechariah. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord just as his ancestor David had done. He removed the high places, broke down the pillars, and cut down the sacred pole. He broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it; it was called Nehushtan. He trusted in the Lord the God of Israel; so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after him, or among those who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; wherever he went, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. He attacked the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watch-tower to fortified city.

In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, King Shalmaneser of Assyria came up against Samaria, besieged it, and at the end of three years took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of King Hoshea of Israel, Samaria was taken. The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria, settled them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed his covenant—all that Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded; they neither listened nor obeyed.

## Philippians 1:12-30

I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of

suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.