

Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

*“The Lord raises the insignificant from the dust
and lifts the lowly from the rubbish” (1 Sam 2:8)*

The childhood of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was spent in poverty. One day a Bible was given to him. He started reading it under streetlights with passion. He trusted that God, who crowned David a shepherd boy as King, was able to uplift him also. God made him the President of the United States of America.

David was despised by the members of his family. But God made him King over Israel. God said to him, “I took you from following the flock to be ruler over My people Israel... I made your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth” (2 Sam 7:8,9). A shepherd boy became a Supremo!

Esther was beautiful but she was an orphan. Her uncle Mordecai adopted her. Fearing God, she obeyed Mordecai in all things. There was a hectic competition to replace Vashti the ousted Queen. But “the King loved Esther above all the women” (Es 2:17). An orphan became a Queen!

Joseph was sold to traders out of hatred by his brothers. Unjustly he was thrown behind the bars by his boss' wife. The ripe time came. The clouds dispersed. Showers of blessing fell down! A bonded slave and the jailbird was elevated to the Throne!

We, who were dead in trespasses and sins, were redeemed through the Blood of Jesus Christ. He “loved us and made us kings and priests to serve God and His Father” (Rev 1:6). God, who crowned us with lovingkindness and tender mercies, “has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm” (Eph 1:3). The King of kings has decorated us, the Bride to be, with the shawl of salvation, and jewellery made of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Shall we praise God who has remembered us in our lowly state (Psa 136:23)? Together with David we can only exclaim, “Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?” (2 Sam 7:18).

*Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise shall sing?
Alleluia! Praise the Everlasting King!
(Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, the author of “Abide with me”)*

Almighty God who inhabits the Heaven of heavens, we worship You as the lofty King. We worship You as the One from whom, through whom and to whom are all things. You are great and greatly to be praised. Your wisdom is far reaching. Your love is unfathomable. We worship Your Omnipotence, Your Omnipresence and Your Omniscience.

What are we, Lord, that You are mindful of us? We are dust and ashes, but how do You call us Your friends, O God? We are what we are because of Your sheer grace. We are not worthy to be called Your children, but You have clothed us with the robe of righteousness and put the ring of rights on our hand. We were paupers but You have made us kings. Your cords of love are stronger than our will-power. You have made us more than conquerors through the victorious resurrection of Your Son. We are surrounded by Your mercies. Your protection is above us, beneath us, before us, behind us, on our left and the right, with us and all around us. Thank You, Lord, for Your love!

Dear Lord, we confess our pride that makes us boast of our talents and gifts. These are from You, O God. Forgive us our self-will that clashes against Your good purposes. But Your counsel alone shall stand, O God. Forgive us our self-righteousness which often raises its ugly head. There's no goodness in us apart from You, O God. Forgive us our selfishness that ignores the suffering and the needy. You have blessed us only to bless others, O God. Forgive us our impatience with the weak and erring. But for Your longsuffering we would have perished long ago, O God. Forgive us our neglect of Your warnings against temptations. If You have not been our Keeper, the enemy would have swallowed us, O God. Forgive us our loveless words and deeds. Do not treat us as we treat others, O God. Be merciful to us!

Father God, we thank You for the excellence You have given us in our studies. Thank You for the success in our enterprises. Thank You for the peace in our family. Thank You for the sound health. Thank You for the goodness from You to make our life pleasant and enjoyable. Thank You for the fellowship and friendship You have provided for our support and safety. Thank You for Your servants who edify us, exhort us and encourage us through Your Word. Thank You for Your angels who protect us in and out lest we stumble. Thank You for the abiding presence of Your Son and the indwelling power of Your Spirit. To You be all glory and praise! Amen!

*(1 Ki 8:27; Rom 7:18; 8:37; 11:33-36; Gen 12:1-3; 17:1; Psa 8:3-5; 33:11; 91:11; 139:1-11;
Job 11:7-9; Jn 14:23; 15:15; Rev 1:6)*