

INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

9.20.2009 Pentecost 16 – St. Stephen (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

GREETING: Grace/peace to you from our Lord/Savior Jesus Christ.

PRAYER/INTRO:

What do you think of our nation, its choices, its leaders, or its defense?

All have opinions.

But what is your opinion on the comparison...

between the strength of our nation/strength of God?

God makes the comparison for us very clearly once again this morning through His Word taken from: **Psalms 146**

BACKGROUND:

-The last five psalms form a very beautiful closing

-They are a doxology of praise...

Reasons we praise and thank our Lord for all that He has done and continues to do for us

-Each of the last 5 chapters has a different focus for praise.

-Interesting note... each begins and ends with "Hallelujah."

Can you guess what that word means? "Praise the Lord"

-In a world so often filled with suffering and sorrows... difficult!

-Example: In the moment of loss – do I praise the Lord? (Think of Job?)

Reminder for us:

HALLELUJAH TO THE LORD OUR HELPER!

1 Praise the LORD.

-this is an invitation for ALL people

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

2 I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

-The Psalmists' personal response (we have a very personal God!)

(**Matthew 10:29**) sparrows fall, hairs fall, = all numbered

-reason to praise Him **V2** "as long as I live" (while I have breath)

(**Psalms 150:6**) Let everything that has breath... praise the Lord!

"Praising the LORD is a sign of spiritual life..."

Just like breathing is a sign of physical life." **Hymn 748:5**

-Therefore, trust your LORD, your Heavenly Father!

3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

-Trusting the strength of man... doesn't make sense (**Jer 17:5**)

-**V4** Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!

-Leaders of nations don't know you by name... maybe by soc #?

(**Proverbs 19:21**) **Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.** (Now, that's true wisdom... from God!)

(**Psalms 1**) **5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

Creator
6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

(**2Tim 2:13**) **the LORD, who remains faithful forever.**

Provider
7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

Deliverer
The LORD sets prisoners free,

Physician
8 the LORD gives sight to the blind, (Eph 1:17-19) the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

Protector
9 The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Punisher
(Jer 16:18) -repaid double for their wickedness and idolatry

(Is 40:1,2) -repaid double for their sins

HALLELUJAH TO THE LORD OUR HELPER!

10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

-Look at all He's done (Life, death, resurrection, reign of Jesus)!

-Look at what He continues to do! (**Rom 8:28**) Live it!

-Remember how well He knows and loves you...better than you!

Dear children of our Heavenly Father...you've reason again and again to:
Praise the LORD! Amen.

This peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.