

Inzalo KaAbrahama



ISABATHA NTAMBAMA

Kuleliviki Funda:

Ezek. 16:8; Dut. 28:1, 15; Jer. 11:8; Gen. 6:5; Johane 10:27, 28; Gal. 3:26–29; Rom. 4:16, 17.

Indimana Yekhanda:

“Kepha nina niluhlanga olukhethiweyo, ubupristi bobukhosi, isizwe esingcwele, abantu abamangalisayo; ukuze nishumayele indumiso yalowo owanibiza naphuma ebunyameni nangenakukhanyeni kwakhe okumangalisayo” (1 Petro 2:9).

EDolobheni elincane, iwashi efasiteleni lendawo yobucwebe lema ngolunye usuku ngo-quarter to nine. Iningi lezakhamizi laleyame kuleliwashi ukwazi isikhathi. Ngalelilanga ekuseni, osomabhezini babuka efasiteleni babona ukuthi kwakusenemizuzu engu-fifteen ngaphambi kuka-nine; abantwana endleleni eya esikoleni bamangala ukubona ukuthi bebesenesikhathi esiningi sokuzindela. Abantu abaningi bashiywa yisikhathi ngoba iwashi elincane efasiteleni lendawo yobucwebe lalimile.”—C. L. Paddock, *God’s Minutes* (Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing Association, 1965), p. 244, adapted. Ngumfanekiso ofanelekile kakhulu ngokusilela kukaIsrayeli wasemandulo. UJehovah wabeka uIsrayeli “phakathi kwezizwe” (Ezek. 5:5)—ezweni eliphakathi namazwekazi amathathu (Afica, Europe, ne-Asia). Kwakumele babeyiwashi lomhlaba lezikamoya. UIsrayeli, nokho, njengewashi efasiteleni lendawo yobucwebe, ngendlela thile, wema. Kepha, akubanga kubi kakhulu; ngoba ngalesosikhathi, njenganamuhla, uNkulunkulu unensali Yakhe ethembekileyo. Isifundo sethu kuleliviki sigxile ekubaluleni kanye nakwindima kaIsrayeli weqiniso kaNkulunkulu ezikhathini zonke, kuhlangene nesethu.

Ukubuka Iviki: Yiziphi izithembiso zesivumelwano uNkulunkulu azenza kuIsrayeli na? Yimiphi imibandela eyayihamba nazo na? Isizwe sakwazi kahle kangakanani ukuhambisana nalezozithembiso na? Yine Eyenzeka lapho bengalaleli na?

**Funda isifundo saleliviki ukulungiselela iSabatha, May 8.*

“Ngaphezu Kwabantu Bonke”

“Ngokuba uyisizwe esingcwele kuJehova uNkulunkulu wakho: uJehova uNkulunkulu wakho ukukhethile ukuba ube yisizwe esikhethekile kuye phezu kwezizwe zonke ezisebusweni bomhlaba” (Deut. 7:6). Akubuzwa: uJehovah ngokuqondile wayekhethe AmaHeberu ukuba abengabameli Bakhe abakhethekile emhlabeni. Igama elihumushwe “khethekile” kwindimana engenihla, segulah, lingasho ukuthi “impahla eyigugu” noma “ingcebo engagwayekile.” Iphuzu elibucayi ukuba silikhumbule, futhi, ngukuthi lokhu kukhetha kwakuyisenzo sikaNkulunkulu ngokuphelele, isibonakaliso somusa Wakhe. Akukho okwakukubantu ngokwabo okwakubenza bafanelwe yilomusa. Kwakungeke kubekhona, ngoba umusa yinto eza ingafanelwe.

Funda u-Ezekiel 16:8. Lokhu kusiza kanjani ekuchazeni ukukhethwa kukaIsrayeli nguJehovah na?

“Kungani uIsrayeli akhethwa ngu-Yahweh na? Lokho kwakungenakuqondwa. Wayeyiqoqo elincane labantu abangenayo impucuko enkulu noma ukuhlonipheka. Wayengenakho okukuye okukhethekile okumenza afanelwe yilokhu kukhethwa. Lokhu kuqokwa kwakuyisenzo sikaNkulunkulu kuphela. . . . Isizathu esikhulu salokhu kukhetha saba yimfihlo yothando lwezulu. Kepha iqiniso ngukuthi uNkulunkulu wamthanda ngempela uIsrayeli futhi wamketha ngempela, ngalokho ehlonipha isithembiso Sakhe kobaba. . . . Wayekhethwe ngenxa yothando luka-Yahweh ngakuye. Wayekhululwe ebugqilini baseGibhithe ngokukhangiswa kwamandla ka-Yahweh. Uma nje engaqonda lamaqiniso wayezobona ukuthi nembala wayeyisizwe esingcwele futhi esiyigugu elikhethekile. Noma yimuphi umkhuba ngakuye, nokho, wokulahla lelizinga eliphezulu wawuyichilo elibi kakhulu.”—J. A. Thompson, *Deuteronomy* (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1974), pp. 130, 131. Ngokohlelo lwezulu, abakwaIsrayeli kwakumele babe yisizwe sobukhosi nesobupristi. Emhlabeni omubi kwakumele babengamakhosi, baziphathe kahle babe ngabezikamoya, ngokuthi kwakumele banqobe phezu kwesono (Samb. 20:6). Njengabapristi, kwakumele basondele kuJehovah ngomkhuleko, ngokudumisa, kanye nengemihlatshelo. Njengabaxhumanisi phakathi kukaNkulunkulu nabahedeni, kwakumele basebenze njengabafundisi, abashumayeli, kanye nabaprofethi, futhi babe yizibonelo zokuphila okungcwele—izichazi zeZulu Zenkolo yeqiniso.

Buka umusho kwindimana yanamuhla, lapho uJehovah ethi kwakumele babe “ngaphezu kwabantu bonke . . . emhlabeni.” Ngokubuka konke okufundiswe yiZwi mayelana nokuthobeka kanye nengozi yokuzikhukhumeza, Ucabanga ukuthi lendimana ichaza ukuthini na? Kungaziphi izindlela ekwakumele babe “ngaphezu” kwabantu bonke na? Kumele yini lomqondo siwubhekise kithina, njengebandla, na? Uma kunjalo, kanjani?

Ukwabelwa Izwe (Gen. 35:12)

Isithembiso sokuthi izwe lalizonikezwa abantu bakaNkulunkulu, uIsrayeli, sanikezwa kaAbrahama kuqala futhi saphindwa kuIsaka noJakobe. Okhukhwini lokufa uJosefa wasiphinda lesisithembiso (Gen 50:24). UNkulunkulu wazisa uAbrahama, nokho, ukuthi “iminyaka engamakhulu amane” yayizodlula ngaphambi kokuba Inzalo kaAbrahama ilithathe izwe (Gen 15:13, 16). Ukugcwaliseka kwesithembiso kwaqala ngezinsuku zikaMose noJoshuwa. UMose waphinda umyalelo wezulu: “ ‘ ‘Bhekani, ngilibekile izwe phambi kwenu; ngenani nilidle izwe’ ’ ” (Deut. 1:8, RSV).

Funda uDuteronomi 28:1, 15. Yini egudlwa yilamazwi na? Kafushane, izwe lalizonikezwa bona njengengxenye Yesivumelwano. Isivumelwano sisho izibopho. Yiziphi izibopho uIsrayeli ayenazo na?

Isigaba sokuqala kuDuteronomi 28 sibalula izibusiso uIsrayeli ayezozamukela uma belandele intando kaNkulunkulu. Esinye isigaba sesahluko simayelana neziqalekiso ezaziyokwehla phezu kwabo uma bengakwenzi lokho. Leziziqalekiso “ngokubanzi, nakuba kungekona ngokuphelele, zazibalulwe ngokunikeza ingqikithi yokuthi isono sifeze imiphumela yaso emibi. . . . ‘Ohlwanyelela inyama yakhe uyakuvuna ukubhubha kuyo inyama’ (Gal. 6:8). Njengamanzi, okuthi uma eyekelwe, engeke ayeke ukugeleza aze athole ukulinganiseka; njengewashi, okuthi uma liyekelwe, liqhubeka nokuhamba lize lime; njengomuthi, okuthi uma uyekwe wazikhulela, ungakwazi ukuthela isithelo esifanele;-- kanjalo isono sifuna isilinganiso, indima yokugijima, isithelo sokukhula, futhi ‘ukugcina kwalokho kungukufa’ (Rom. [6:]21).”–*The Pulpit Commentary: Deuteronomy*, H. D. M. Spence and Joseph S. Exell, eds. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1890), vol. 3, p. 439. Ngaphandle kwazo zonke izithembiso zezwe, lezozithembiso zazinibandela. Zeza njengengxenye Yesivumelwano. UIsrayeli kwakumele afeze olwakhe uhlangolthi; uma kungenjalo, izithembiso zaziyeze. UJehovah wakwenza kwabasobala, kaningana, ukuthi uma bengalaleli, izwe laliyohlwithwa kubo. Funda u-Leviticus 26:27–33. Kulukhuni ukucabanga indlela uJehovah ayengaba sobala ukwedlula le ngamazwi Akhe.

NjengamaKristu, sibheke ekwamukeleni futhi nasekugcineni amazwe asezulwini esithembiso kanye nomhlaba owenziwe kabusha. Zithenjisiwe kithina, njangalokho Izwe Lesithembiso lasemhlabeni lathenjiswa AmaHeberu. Umehluko, nokho, ngokuthi lapho sifika khona, ngeke yabakhona intuba yokulahlekelwa yilo (Dan. 7:18). Kusenjalo, kunemibandela yokuthi thina sifika kanjani khona. Uyiqonda kanjani lemibandela, ikakhulu kwingqikithi yokusindiswa ngokukholwa kuphela na?

UIsrayeli Nesivumelwano

“Kepha abalalelanga, ababekanga izindlebe zabo, kepha bahamba, kwaba yilowo nalowo ngobulukhuni behliziyo yakhe embi; ngakho ngizokwehlisela phezu kwabo onke amazwi alesi sivumelwano engabayala ukuwenza, kepha kabawenzanga” (Jer. 11:8).

Buka indimana engenhla. UJehovah uthi uyakwehlisela phezu kwabo “onke amazwi alesi sivumelwano.” Kepha, ukhuluma ngokuthile okubi! Nakuba sivama ukucabanga ngesivumelwano njengento enikeza okuhle kuphela, kukhona olunye uhlangothi. Lesisimiso sabonakala ngoNowa. UNkulunkulu wanikeza uNowa okuthile okumangalisayo—ukuhlangwa ekubhubheni, kodwa uNowa kwakumele alalele ukuze amukele isibusiso somusa kaNkulunkulu. Uma wayengazange akwenze lokho, olunye uhlangothi Lwesivumelwano lwaluzolandela.

Qhathanisa indimana engenhla kanye noGenesisi 6:5, mayelana nomhlaba ongaphambi kukaZamcolo. Yikuphi okuhambisanayo na? Zithini lezindimana mayelana nokubaluleka kithina kokulawula imicabango yethu na?

Ngeshwa, umlando wesizwe sakwaIsrayeli isikhathi esiningi, wawuphindaphinda ukuhlubuka, kulandele ukwahlulela, ukuphenduka, kanye nesikhathi zokulalela. Okwesikhashana kuphela, ngaphansi kukaDavide noSolomoni, bakwazi ukulawula ngokuphelele isifunda sesithembiso. Buka lemibhalo ekuJeremiya mayelana nokuhlubuka kukaIsrayeli. “Kuthiwa uma indoda ilahla umkayo, abesemuka abe ngowenye indoda, isayukubuyela kuye na? Lelo lizwe belingayikungcoliswa kakhulu na? Kepha wena ofebile nezithandwa eziningi ubuyela kimi, usho uJehova. . . . Impela njengomfazi emkhohlisa umyeni, kanjalo ningikhohlisile nina ndlu ka-Israyeli, usho uJehova” (Jer. 3:1, 20). Lokhu kuveza okuthile esike sakuthinta ngaphambilini: isivumelwano uNkulunkulu afuna ukuba naso nathi akusona nje isivumelwano somthetho phakathi kwabantu abahwebayo befuna ukuzisikela kokunonile. Lobubudlelwane besivumelwano ngukuzinikela, ngokuqinile nangokungcwele njengomshado, okuyisona sizathu uJehovah esebenzisa lesisingathekiso. Indaba ngukuthi ukuhlubuka kukaIsrayeli kwakungaqubuki ekungalalelini kepha ekuphukeni kobudlelwane noJehovah, ukwephuka okwakunomphumela wokungalaleli okwagcina sekuletha isijeziso phezu kwabo.

Kungani Ubudlelwane bangamunye busemqoka kakhulu empilweni yobuKristu na? Kungani, uma Ubudlelwane bethu noNkulunkulu bungebuhle, silengela kakhulu ekuweleni esonweni nasekungalalelini na? Futhi, ungathini kothile obuza lombuzo: “Ngingabukhulisa kanjani Ubudlelwane obujulile, nobunothando noNkulunkulu na?”

Insali

Ngaphandle kuhlubuka ngokuphindaphinda kukaIsrayeli, ukwahlulelwa, kanye nokuphenduka, yiliphi ithemba elitholakala kulezizindimana na?

Isa. 4:3 _____

Mic. 4:6, 7 _____

Zeph. 3:12, 13 _____

Noma icebo likaNkulunkulu ngoIsrayeli wasemandulo lamoshwa ngukungalaleli, alizange lihlaphazeke ngokuphelele. Phakathi kokhula, izimbali ezimbalwa zaqhubeka nokukhula. Iningi labaprofethi beTestamente Elidala bakhuluma ngensali ethembekileyo, uNkulunkulu ayengazibuthela yona Kuye njengesixhanti esihle.

Inhloso kaNkulunkulu ekudaleni kanye nasekulondolozeni insali ethembekileyo yayifana naleyo okwakuyiyona ngoIsrayeli ewonke — ukuyisebenzisa njengezikhali eziqokwe Nguye ekumemezeleni “ ‘inkazimulo yami phakathi kwezizwe’ ” (Isa. 66:19, RSV). Ngalendlela, abanye babezokwazi ukuhlanganyela nabathembekileyo eku “khonzeni iNkosi, uJehovah wemikhosi” (Zech. 14:16, RSV). Ngalokho, nakuba isimo sisibi kangakanani, njalo uNkulunkulu unabantu abathile abathembekileyo, okuthi nakuba kunokuhlubuka phakathi kwabantu bakaNkulunkulu abakhethiweyo, bagcine ubizo nokuqokwa kwabo kuqinisekile (2 Pet. 1:10). Kafushane, noma kuyikuphi ukwehluleka kwesizwe sisonke, kwakusekhona labo ababezama ukugcina, kangangokuba benako, olwabo uhlangothi lwesivumelwano (buka, ngokwesibonelo 1 Amakhosi 19:14–18). Futhi nakuba, mhlawumbe, babehlupheka nesizwe sonke (njengokudingiswa ezweni), isivumelwano sokugcina nesikhulu siyoba ngesabo, lesa sokuphila okuphakade.

Funda uJohane 10:27, 28. Uthini uJesu lapha na? Sebenzisa amazwi Akhe, kanye nezithembiso kuwo, esimweni esimayelana nokuhlubuka kukaIsrayeli wasemandulo. Lamazwi asiza kanjani ukuchaza ukuba khona kwensali ethembekileyo na?

Eminyakeni embalwa edlule, Owesifazane osemusha walahla ubuKristu bakhe ngokuphelele, ikakhulu ngoba wayetheneke amandla yisono, ukuhlubuka, kanye nokuzenzisa ayekubona enkonzweni ayekhonza kuyo endaweni. “Labo bantu babengewona AmaKristu ngempela,” kusho yena, esebenzisa lokho njengazaba zokulahla konke. Ugxilisa impendulo yakho kwizimiso zesifundo sanamuhla, kungani isizathu sakhe singaqinile na?

UIsrayeli WezikaMoya

Noma ngabe yimaphi amaphutha kanye nanoma yikuphi ukwehluleka kukaIsrayeli wasemandulo, uJehovah akaqedile ngohlelo lokudala abantu abathembekile bokukhonza Yena. Empeleni, iTestamente Elidala lalibheke esikhathini lapho uJehovah ayezodala uIsrayeli wezikamoya, iqoqo lamakholwa athembekile, amaJuda nabeZizwe, ababezoqhubeka nomsebenzi wokushumayela ivangeli emhlabeni. Uyamukelwa Ebandleni lakuqala.

Funda AbaseGalathiya 3:26–29.

1. Sithembiso sini uPawule akhuluma ngaso kundimana 29 na?

2. Yisiphi isithako esiphambili esenza umuntu indlalifa kulezithembiso na? (Gal. 3:26).

3. Kungani uPawule ehlaziya ukwehlukana ngobulili, ngobuzwe, kanye nezinga emphakathini na?

4. Kuchaza ukuthini ukuba “munye kuKristu” na?

5. Funda abaseRoma 4:16, 17. Lezizindimana zisisiza kanjani ukuqonda lokho uPawule akusho kwabaseGalathiya 3:26–29 na?

Njengendodana kaAbrahama, uKristu waba, ngendlela ekhethekile, yindlalifa yezithembiso zesivumelwano. Ngokubhabhathizwa sithola ukudlelana noKristu futhi Ngaye sizuze ilungelo lokuba neqhaza ezithembisweni ezenziwa kaAbrahama. Ngalokho, konke uNkulunkulu akuthembisa uAbrahama kutholakala kuKristu, futhi izithembiso kuba ngezethu, hhayi ngenxa yobuzwe, ubuhlanga, noma ubulili kodwa ngomusa, uNkulunkulu awethula phezu kwethu ngokholo. “Isipho kuAbrahama kanye nenzalo yakhe sasifaka hhayi kuphela ilizwe laseKanana, kepha umhlaba wonke. Asho athi umpostoli, ‘isithembiso sokuthi uyakuba yindlalifa yezwe asinikwanga u-Abrahama nenzalo yakhe ngawo umthetho kodwa ngokulunga kokukholwa.’ Roma 4:13. Futhi Ibhayibheli likufundisa ngokusobala ukuthi izithembiso ezenziwa kaAbrahama zizogcwaliseka ngoKristu. . . . [Amakholwa aba] yizindlalifa ‘zefa elingapheliyo, nelingenasisihla, nelingabuniyo’ [1 Petro 1:4]—umhlaba uyakhululwa esiqalekisweni sesono.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 170.

Umcabango Obanzi:

Funda u-Ellen G. White, “The Vineyard of the Lord,” pp. 15–22; “Hope for the Heathen,” pp. 367–378; and “The House of Israel,” pp. 703–721, in *Prophets and Kings*. “Akukho ukwehlukana ngokobuzwe, ubuhlanga, noma izinga, okuvunywa nguNkulunkulu. UnguMenzi waso sonke isintu. Bonke abantu bangumdeni owodwa ngokudalwa, futhi bamunye bonke ngokuhlengwa. UKristu weza ukuzodiliza udonga lokwehlukana, ukuvula onke amagumbi ethempeli, ukuze wonke umphefumulo ukwazi ukufinyelela ngokukhululeka kuNkulunkulu. Uthando Lwakhe lubanzi kakhulu, lujule kakhulu, lugcwele kakhulu, kangangokuba lungena yonke indawo. Lususa Ithonya likaSathane kulabo abaluthwe ngamanga akhe, lubabeke lapho bengafinyelela khona esihlalweni sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu, isigodlo esikakwe wuthingo lwesithembiso. Kukristu akusekho mJuda namGriki, nasiboshwa nokhululekile.”—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 369, 370. Funda u-1 Petro 2:9, 10 ukuthola izihloko ezine uPetro abiza ngazo ibandla. Iningi lalezizihloko zibonakala kulezizindimana ezilandelayo zeTestamente Elidala ezibhekise kuIsrayeli: Eksodusi 19:6 noIsaya 43:20. Isihloko ngasinye sigcizelelani mayelana nobudlelwane bebandla noNkulunkulu na? (Ngokwesibonelo, isihloko “isizwe esikhethiweyo” sigcizelela iqiniso lokuthi uNkulunkulu walikheta ibandla futhi unesiphetho esithile ngalo.)

Imibuzo Yokuxoxisana:

1. KuIsrayeli wasemandulo, abapristi babenza imihlatshelo yezilwane eyayikhomba kuMesiya. Njengamalungu obupristi bobukhosi, nhloboni “yemihlatshelo” okumele amalungu ebandla ayenze na? (1 Pet. 2:5).
2. UNkulunkulu wahlukanisa uIsrayeli nezwe ukuze abe yisizwe esingcwele. Kwakumele babelane ngamaqiniso osindiso nezwe. Kunjalo nangebandla namuhla. Kungenzeka kanjani ukwehlukana nezwe kodwa ube sesimeni sokwabelana nevangeli nezwe na? Amava kaIsrayeli nakaJesu ayisibonela kanjani sokusiza ekuphenduleni lombuzo na?
3. UNkulunkulu ngasosonke isikhathi wayelokhu enensali KwaIsrayeli wasemandulo. Cabanga ngoEliya kanye nensali eyayikhona ngesikhathi sakhe (1 Amakhosi 19; Qaphela indimana 18). Kungani kuvame ukubalula ukuqiniseka kuNkulunkulu phakathi kwabantu bezwe kunaphakathi kwabahlubukile bebandla lakho na?

Isiqoqo: UIsrayeli weqiniso kaNkulunkulu (noma ngaphambili noma ngemuva kweSiphambano) nguIsrayeli wokholo, abantu abaphila ebudlelwani besivumelwano bezikamoya kanye Naye. Abanjalo basebenza njengabamele Yena, begqamisa emhlabeni ivangeli lomusa Wakhe osindisayo.