

Issue No 1:

Grace to the Nation a church newspaper; heading
*Reformation, seeking Revival, and expecting Renewal of mind
and hearts for the Namibian people*

The first theme:

"The Sovereignty of God over the entire Universe – Cosmos;"

This theme which "*Grace to the Nation*" is bringing to you for *January, February and March 2010*, is from the desk of Laban S. Mwashekele; an elder pastor for local Evangelical vision and global Reformed mission at Evangelical Baptist Church – Monte Christo, Windhoek, Namibia; for the glory of our God, and the good of God's people.

L. Mwashekele S.



The above mentioned theme isn't the only subject that matter most in biblical Christianity, but it is the most neglected theme, especially in the context of African culture. Western theologians have accepted and developed these themes in their contexts, using their Western adages; analogies and allegories or parables, parallels and proverbs. Some of these idioms and axioms do not make sense to most of us as Africans, unless they are re-expounded, terms re-arranged, and their axioms replaced with the terms and axioms that give meaning to African people in the context of our culture. Statements likened to what we find in Isaiah 1:18-20, where we read: "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD; although your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wools. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." English Standard Version: (ESV). Such statement - although clear as it is, do not make much sense to most of us.

Words and vocabularies like "scarlet and snow, crimson and wool" can only make sense and be understood by people who have traveled to and from overseas; people who have seen snow in full or former farmer boys who have been shepherding sheep and have the idea of white wools, washed for whiter purposes to whiter grades. Otherwise, "scarlet and snow, or crimson and wool" will have little meaning to most of us. Many subjects, including the above mentioned one, namely the Sovereignty of

God, are equal vital to African people, if they are but interpreted in the the context of African culture, using language and view of life.

Therefore, in this newspaper, I am looking to such theme with cautious eyes and vigilant mind, fully armed with African God-given view of life – note that: by the term African, I do not have color or gender in mind, but refer to every person born, bred and brought up in Africa; everyone who have any identity, influences and indemnity of Africa, he may be white, colored or black etc. Again, by he; I do not refer to gender, but to him, the spirit-man within our physical houses called male house or female house. People who haven't yet read Richard Dowden, and especially his book on "Africa: Altered State, Ordinary Miracles" will not see the need for bringing such subjects, in context of African culture, until he understand what this true adopted son of Africa meant in his above mentioned book, under the title: "The end of Colonialism, New States, Old Societies, where he said:

"Three words come to mind when people try to explain the failure of Africa's first generation after the independence, namely;

1. Leadership
2. Tribalism and
3. Resources

They are not bad starting points, but they do not fully explain why Africa, free at last, endowed with enormous potential wealth and people with bright, optimistic men and women, failed. He said: "Leaders do not emerge from nowhere. Could it really be coincidence that all of Africa's forty-odd leaders who came to power at independence were bad rulers who took bad decisions? Not all of them were corrupt tyrants and many were decent men who believed that what they were doing was for the best. The new presidents inherited total power from the colonial rules, but the states they ruled were made up of old African societies, once self-governing and still held together by their own networks of power and influence. Trying to use the tools of a Western-style state to control these rooted societies was like trying to herd cats and a dog-training manual.

"In Africa - as anywhere else he said; - ethnicity and culture are greatly important. Imagine if, after two world wars that have slaughtered some 90 million people, America and Soviet Union exasperated by tribal warfare in Europe, create a single country called Europe. They impose it from above, creating provinces by drawing lines on maps with no regard for the identity of the people living there... "Imagining a "tribal" Europe gives you some idea of what African citizenship is like. The European Union has but only 23 languages. Africa has at last 2000, and between 6000, and 10, 000 political or social entities, each of which once had its own governance and legal system, its leadership, and customs, and culture. And, like an imagined Europe unified by force by outsiders, Africans played no part in the creation of their nation states. Their boundaries were drawn on maps in Europe by Europeans who had never even been to Africa, with no regard for existing political systems and boundaries. Half a century later Africans were given flags, and national anthems, airlines and armies, and they were told they are now independent: Kenyans, or Nigerians or Chadians."

Richard Dowden.

A current Director of the Royal African Society; first came to Africa as a younger volunteer teacher from Britain to Uganda in 1971, and as a journalist in 1983, worked for the Times. In 1986, he became Africa's Editor of the Independent, and in 1995 took the post of Africa Editor for the Economist. He has also made three television documentaries on Africa for the BBC and Channel 4 etc.

The picture Mr. Dowden had posted in our mind is indisputable. It is that; at Independences, African countries have been assisted by Western world. We have been given;

1. New titles, known as "Presidents," which we have either griped or it has been imposed on us.
2. New palaces, called "State Houses," Namibia and other African massive State Houses are adopted methods from Western influencers.

3. New binding documents called or known as “Constitutions.”
4. New houses, called “Parliaments,” and
5. New system, called “Democracy,” leave out budgets, airplanes, armies etc.

The vital point Richard Dowden had brought to light, as a true adopted son of African, is that, Africans are fighting two major battles at the same time. We - Africans, are heavily immersed into two massive wars. On one hand, we labor to meet the Western demands, and wholeheartedly strive to be faithful to rules and regulations to maintain the above listed inheritances – under the new state, while on the other hand, we have to meet the old African traditional demeanor – under the old society. Under the old society; we labor to meet those very old African requirements. E.g. when you meet an African person on the road, you have to stop and greet him, if you do not know each other, you have to introduce to each other, e.g. your name, relatives, origin, and destination vs. If you know each other, you have to tell each other as to: How is so and so doing? Where are you going? Why are you going there and for what business? When are you coming back etc.? You don't tell an African person that you are in hurry, or time is money. To an African person, that is not truth, time and money are two separate entities; time is a gift from God, while money is a paper imposed value by man. So, you don't run after money, and leave people unattended, that is an undeniable behavior, taught in the Bible and affirmed by human logic, as a result; it is believed and maintained in the entire African Continent. The new is state – under Western mindset, adopted or imposed; is not the only state believed and live by the people of God called Africans, but they live also in an old society – under African mentality.

In Africa, if your mother dies, you have to slaughter one, two or three cows, depend on the number of mourners, cook food, and buy drink to feed them. The grieved family suffers twice. If you have money or other wealthy, and then your mother dies, you will grief for that alone, but if you have no money or other wealthy, then your mother dies, you will grief twice – first for losing your mother, and second for the shame of having nothing to offer to the mourners. You don't take it for granted; Africa is a continent of unity and uniformity, division and diversity. Whatever you bring to Africa or offer to African people, whether ‘the gospel; or the ‘term sovereignty’, you have to understand the contexts of both your gospel and that of the African culture first – otherwise you have failed the test. Even this useful theme, which I am bringing to you, can hit its nose against the wall, or swim against the deluge. So preparations are need, for readers to see the need of having biblical mindset. For sure, you will be edified by the fact that “all things are working together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate... Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom God justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:28-30) King James Version - KJV. This biblical teaching and Mr. Richard Dowden's above mentioned statements might sound rough to European born. Listen to African polite writer, before I turn you to the Bible – God's word and work in God's World. Here is something equal provocative to African bred and brought under the great theme:

1. "Let them remain in Africa" under God's Sovereign control

This theme, "*Let them remain in African*" NewAfrican, February; is Afrikatu Kofi Nkrumah's respond to Akua Djanie's article on the subject: "*Escape from Africa*" NewAfrican, December. Afrikatu is saying:

“...the irony is that, while the pessimists only see hopelessness in Africa, and therefore leave or would want to leave, the Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, South Koreans and others are arriving in droves and are seeing only opportunities in Africa, and are in fact making it. So the Africans who leave would return to find there is no more space for them. Truly, there are tremendous opportunities in Africa for Africans but for us to tap into them; we need (and have) to change our perception, mentality and attitude to the continent, and to work hard. I have an organization that is trying to

help needy children and women in rural communities in some four African counties, and I work closely with these folks so I know what I am talking about. These days, a lot of Africans are no longer thankful or appreciative of the opportunity or kindness shown them because they have become so greedy that, the more you give them, the more they want. Then you have the youth of today who hate to do any hard work, they sit under trees and hang out in corners or even play football the whole day. And yet, they want the shortest possible way to become rich. They become so materialist that it is shocking to the bone. Akua, we Africans living in Europe (and Asia or America) knows the realities here: That things are not simple and there are no short-cuts to success in Europe or America. Working three jobs with very little sleep and having just enough to pay the rent, buy food, and pay the bill is a headache with huge dose of stress that I would not wish for the youth of Africa, let alone recommend. So let them stay in Africa – we should all help to develop the continent for ourselves because none but ourselves can do it for Mother Africa.”

Afrikatu Kofi Nkrumah

Prague, Czech Republic

What Richard Dowden and Afrikatu Kofi Nkrumah’s tributes have to do with the subject in hand, namely “the Sovereignty of God”? The two are confirming what the Bible teaches – knowing it or not, their hearts are linked to something familiar, and that is the fact that, God, in his sovereign graces and good-will has entrusted life and light and language etc. to different people groups in their different contexts. He also gave them responsibilities for living and managing that life, light and language. But people who are given these things do not see or know that God is governing them in his sovereign graces and good-will. They don’t know that, he is the God of unity and uniformity, division and diversity. Africans do not understand Europe and why it is what it is, no do Europeans understand Africa and what it is. We do not only have big differences, but we have massive difficulties. Badly than that, we as Africans do not understand God and ourselves. There are three things Africans need to fully understand, the first thing we need to understand is God, the second thing is God’s sovereign graces and good-will, and the third thing is our own context and culture. Unfortunately, we - Africans have not come to a stage where God was our first priority and final need, we always put singing, dancing and enjoyment before desiring God, we have not devoted ourselves to God and dug deeper in Scripture to find him and to understand him. This is why music is about everything to an African person and everything is about music. When we are grieved, we sing, when we fight, we sing, when we are celebrating, we sing etc. Singing to us is not only about praising, it is about comforting the grieved, confirming victories, consulting the superior etc. We do not know God’s word or work in his full measure. You might say; African has more Christian people than any continent in the World. I have no problem with verbal statements like that. The fact I am stating is that, Christianity has been planted in Africa more than any religion in any continent of the World, but because, both missionaries and natives who were instruments in doing plantation, have not understand the two contexts in which they lived enough.

On one hand, missionaries did not understand the context of African culture where they have come to preach, they did more replacements of outward appearances, e.g. they did more replacement of names but not African mindset, change of clothes but not African immoral acts or behaviors, they have revolutionize slogans but not African habit of surviving on others etc. On the other hand, Africans have not understood the context of the gospel which they had received. They accept the reality of God but not his word and work fully, they allow the gospel to be preached around them, but not to work in and through their lives, the gospel has been preached, its seed has been planted but it did not take its roots deeper into the African hearts. I can sense this true in my own twenty-five years pastoral ministry. The badly planted gospel has taken us out of spiritual Egypt, but didn’t take Egypt’s lifestyle out of us – as I am writing this article – I was just told that somebody is witching others, although I do not believe in witchcraft, that does not save me from hearing it – if it isn’t after every two day, you will see tribal conflicts in two or three months. The gospel has gone only two centimeter deeper into African heads and thousands of kilometers wide and length

over African continent. It has spread all the way from Cape (the coastal Capital of South Africa) up to Cairo (the Capital of Egypt, North Africa), and from Senegal (West of Africa) to Somalia (East of the Continent). It has been stretched all over Africa but it is not yet rooted, grounded, and established in our hearts, heads and hands firmly as the Apostle Paul had been prayed for the Ephesians to experience, when he said:

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith -- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Till to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:14-21) KJV.

It is very clear that, Christians were meant to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Till to God is the glory both now and forever (2Peter 3:18). We were to be upon the pinnacle (the highest level or degree attainable, and the uppermost stage of development) of pure biblical Christianity. But, by nature, we are not use to such high views, we are accustomed to lowlands, making pastors and church elders our platform where we stop at and stand on all day, week, month and year long, instead of making them ladders and means to help us to ascend high; till we are able to see the unseen and hear the unheard, touch the untouched and affiliate to the rare life of faith. This state Paul has been praying for and asked God by his grace to lead the Ephesians to, is indeed a rarefied atmosphere. The Bible is calling it “the breadth and length and height and depth.” Paul and other apostle are longed and wanted us to grow and attain maturity, to be molded in minds and sharpened in hearts, till we are able to grasp and have strength to comprehend with all the saints world-wide what he called: “the breadth and length and height and depth;” by that he mean, to have in mind and heart the high view of God’s love for us, and see how he deals with us as apple of his eye. The prevailing words in Ephesians 1:14fvs and 3:14fvs, are strengthened, rooted, grounded or established. The first word strengthened means to be made fully able to carry – and in this case, is the weight of God’s mind, the wealth of Christ’s heart and wisdom of Spirit’s will – three of them governed by love. We have many examples of this in the Bible, for instances:

1. The man Job was enabled to carry the weight of God’s mind – see e.g.: Job 42:1fvs
2. The prophet Isaiah was enabled to carry the wealth of Christ’s heart – see Isaiah 6:1fvs
3. The prophet Daniel was enabled to carry the wisdom of Spirit’s will – see Daniel 2:1fvs and verse 17fvs, 4:1fvs, and verse 19fvs
4. The prophet Habakkuk was enabled to carry the warrant of God’s people – see Habakkuk 3:1fvs
5. The man Zechariah was enabled to carry the wonders of God among his people – see Zechariah 9:1—14:21 etc.

2. God's Sovereign impregnate unsearchable riches unto African continent

It is true that these lessons may not help or assist you, for holy things do only make sense to holy people: life is only senseable to the living, and wisdom is only senseable to the wise, just as light is only attractive to the children of light, love is only attractive to the children of love, so is with discipline, it is only attractive to the disciplined people. The apostle Paul who has known our real need has just introduced us to God’s “unsearchable riches” found in Christ alone (see Ephesians 3:8). In 3:18, he is taking us further to high height to see what is legal ours in Christ. He is not talking of

two types of Christians, but refers to degrees in Christian Faith. He knew that, all of us are weak and sometimes wicked creatures. This is why he says; God who is rich in mercy had prepared for you something greater in life, gracious in light and global in love. Being all of us children, paddling at the edge of the ocean, there is abysmal depths in the life, and light, and love of God which we have not experienced yet. While our greatest desire worldly mindedness is but to be health and honored, wealth and wise in this life, God's greatest delight is to see us laboring to make the end of this life a knowing him, to make the end of this light a loving him and his Son Immanuel. The end of our religion must be but serving this God. If the end of all our biblical doctrines; worship and all adorations, and the purpose of all our baptisms or church memberships, and objectives of all regulative principles of our church officiating and functions be this life, and light and love of God. Then for sure our Dear Heavenly Father will celebrate, and as a reward, he will satisfy us. We must be but deeply taught and well versed in the things of God in order to know his will. His will, will never take us where his grace cannot keep us. We are not here by accident, neither are we in a need unsolvable or un-provided. We must stop running around, set and think, pray and plan, trust God and obey him, where he led we must follow.

If that can but happen, the questions of life and living – I mean the questions like “where is God when things go wrong” etc. will be answered. I tell you that the problem is not with God or things go wrong, the problem is with us. We are crossing the spiritual oceans without spiritual life jackets, moving through spiritual barren lands without spiritual food to sustain our spiritual hunger, spiritual water to refresh our souls or spiritual protozoal infection pills to cure our spiritual illnesses. We are in the prevailing World unprepared to face facts in life, and unable to answer the questions of life. We are not likened to an Oak-tree (a tree that grow to a large size, reach an old age and are every way worthy the venerable associations connected with it, which grows to a great size, and furnishes a most valuable timber -- the live oak of the United States is the most durable timber for ships). We need Christians who are strongly and deeply rooted in God like an Oak tree, deeply rooted in the ground. Unfortunately, the people who were, and are involved in the establishment of biblical Christianity, and especially in the context of African culture, has lazily prepared the ground, and place the seed in the ill-equipped and uncultivated soils.

In other words, God's people have but been harassed in to quick baptisms, into quick church memberships, and to quick Lords' Supper etc. Every means of God's grace has been badly cheapened: Christian life, and light and love had been cheapened; Christian Marriages, Christian Faith, and Christian Church etc had all been cheapened. So we are not strong, everything in and around us is easily breaking. There is no deep and strong teaching in our churches in our days. Everything is made quick, simple, and cheaper; I mean we follow – as Timothy George puts it; pragmatic (whatever works is right) and modernity (whatever is the latest is the best). So, we are affected by two disease, namely; spiritual amnesia (we have forgotten who we are), and ecclesiastical myopia (whoever we are, we are glad we are not like them) says Timothy George. The attempt of this newspaper is to bring to you a face to face mission and heart to heart ministry. We are introducing you to this reliable, indescribable and global God and to his sovereign graces and good-will in the context of African culture. We have an agenda, clear and non compromising agenda, our unashamed and unhidden agenda is but:

1. To know God and make him known to our families and friends in and around our homes
2. To love God and make him loved to our churches, communities, and country, continent and the entire cosmos
3. To serve God and make him served by our observers, audiences and life-mates etc.

We resolve to bring nothing to the Namibia nation but great themes of biblical Christianity in the context of African culture to cure ignorant, God doubting and immature behaviors toward God and the gospel among our people.

3. The term Sovereign defined in the context of African conviction

The word sovereign is an adjective, refers to someone greater, global and gracious. In reality God the Creator is sovereign, who is not controlled by any force outside him. He is good to all who love and obey him. Being greater in mighty and supreme in power; he possesses supreme dominion and superior to all others. He is the sovereign Ruler of the entire Universe. God is supreme and efficacious. He is superior to all others and predominant. He is God who gives sovereign remedies and overseeing all things with his supreme Lordship. He is the highest Court of authority – all things accountable to him. So he is not controlled by any force outside him. This great and global God is the all knowing – nothing is unknown to him, all seeing – nothing is hidden from him and all loving God – and there is no hatred in him, even if he hates sin, he cannot hate it with an unholy hatred. Of course, everything that God is and has round about him is holy. He is the holy God and all that accompanying him must be holy. His names are holy names, his nature is a holy nature and his nuances are holy nuances. His love is a holy love, his anger is a holy anger and all his characteristics or attributes are holy attributes. He is the God almighty, who is all merciful, and the God who is all divine. The God who does all things through his holy and divine knowledge; fully understand all situations from his sovereign graces and good-will. He acts to meet the standard of his glory and the good of his creation. He is the God who deals with all things from the aspect of his holy character, judge all things from his holy conduct and conclude them according to his holy compassion. Righteousness is part of his holy character; justice is part of his holy conduct while grace and mercy are part of his holy compassion. So he is sovereign, independent and superior to all things. Some earthly princes, kings and emperors may be also referred to as sovereigns in their small dominions, but God, our God is above them all.

When I travel, to preach and teach people to lean on this unique and reliable God, who is the sole, sovereign and securing God, many people - although they seem to have no problem with the existence of God; they have a problem with what they call “God’s delay” they use to ask me relevant questions like:

1. Where is God when things go wrong?
2. Why does he allow things to go wide of the mark?
3. When will he react and respond to this much evil in the World?
4. What delays him to restore the World back to its original order? and
5. Who is accountable to the present chaos in our World globally? Etc.

It is clear that, our people - especially African people, are more concerned with the increase of evil in the World rather than with the existence of God. It is factual that 99% of African people have no problem with the existence or the present presence of God. They have rather a problem with God’s two difficult ways to be understood. On one hand, if they stress God from human viewpoint, they stuck in the greatness of God, his unlimited and nonconfrontable power, yet, allows things to go wrong. They have been trying to understand till they conclude that, God is angry with them because of their sins and wrong doings, or, he is simple punishing them for fun? While on the other hand, if they have to stress God from biblical viewpoint, they still have but a slight problem with God’s mysterious ways of life – first his inactive even in provocative situation, second, his unexpected answers to their prayers, and third, his method of using even stranger things to handle situation; as Dr. Lloyd-Jones has putted it. The ways God works is always mysterious, awesome and amazing to human minds and hearts. The answer my audiences or questioners seek is first biblical, second theological and third logical. Fortunately:

- a. The Bible has given us genuine evidence of God’s indisputable reign – God’s in complete control.
- b. Nature has approved that God is in realty reigning beyond questions – God’s undisputed sovereign over nature.
- c. Human logic is confirming the undeniable reign of God. Look at our World, and learn this uncomplicated lesson, see that history is under divine control, following a divine plan, under divine timetable and bound up with the divine Kingdom, as Dr. Lloyd-Jones has concluded. We mustn’t jump to too quick conclusions. Although,

our countries are on brinks of devastating and invasions, famine threatening and violence of social injustices etc filled the agenda, although we sink into despair, we must not lose heart, but do the following: I said; stop, rest and think, lean on God, pray and plan, let God lead your way, trust him, take step of faith and follow his divine leading with confident and take a firm step, and sure pace and focus on him who leads you.

Although there is much evil in the World, we have no doubt that our God is in complete control, and that is what we mean when we say, God is sovereign. God is indisputably sovereign and by that we mean that, God has complete power over all things. He is supreme. He is the great King. He is God the Most High, doing as he will in Heavens and among the people of the Earth and none can stop him, or says to him, what are you doing? When we say that God is sovereign, we mean that, he is Almighty God, who has all power in Heavens, on the Earth, and beneath the Earth, and nobody can resist his will forever.

Arthur Walkington Pink

4. The Sovereignty of God and the Indisputable reality of chaos and crises in the African context

Although the increases of evil seem to have discouraged some people from believing what the Bible teaches, nature approves and human logic confirms. Yet, the fact that God is in total control is indisputable. We must understand things from the source. Evil must not frustrate us. The cause of it must. We must answer questions like: 'What is evil? Where does it originate from? Who is behind it? Why is it obvious? Where will it end? and When will it end'. Of course, all of us have to agree with Dr. John Blanchard, who had affirmed that: "We live in what has been called "a world with ragged edges". Earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, fires, famine and other natural disasters kill millions of people and injuring countless others, sometimes wiping out huge numbers within a few hours. Every day, accidents claim untold number of victims. Planes crash, trains are derailed, road vehicles collide, ships are lost at sea, while building collapse, bridges give way, and trees fall, machinery malfunctions. To make matter worse, disease cuts relentless swathes through humankind, causing immeasurable weakness, pain and fear, while 'man's inhumanity to man' brings a terrible toll of suffering. Yet, the Bible claims that God is in sole and sovereign control of everything that happens in the entire universe, that he 'works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will', and that he is 'compassionate and gracious' and 'abounding in love'. Is there any way in which all of this can hold together?"

The answer to John Blanchard's last sentences is a plain yes – as he had answered himself. The question of who controls this World is indisputable. God is. Or do the people of this World expect us to question God's existence or to doubt his clear sovereign ruler over the entire Universe because of their immature concern about the increase of evil? Can we question God's sovereign control of the world because of their inadequate finding and unbalanced arguments? Dr. Blanchard is right when he stated; "Although our planet provides enough food to feed all six billion of us, millions die of starvation every year because of our selfish pollution of the atmosphere, our exploitation or mismanagement of the earth's resources and the vicious policies of dictatorial regimes. Can we blame God for these?" Blanchard is asking those who doubt God's existence and sovereign control. He went on to ask some factual questions and say; "Is God responsible for diverting disaster funds into the pockets of tyrannical rulers and greed politicians? Millions are dying of hunger in India while its national religion forbids the use of cows as food. Hinduism has millions of man-made gods; can the country's chronic food problem be blamed on the one it ignores? Suffering is often caused by human error or incompetence. Had the owner of the Titanic not reduced the recommended number of lifeboats to avoid the boat deck looking cluttered, many more, if not all, of the ship's passengers might have been saved. Was God responsible for that executive decision? The International Atomic

Enquiry Agency blamed 'defective safety culture' for the Chernobyl disaster. Can the blame for careless neglect of safety procedures be laid at God's door? A great deal of human suffering is deliberately self-inflicted. Smoker who ignore health warnings and crippled by lung cancer, or heart disease, heavy drinkers who suffer from cirrhosis of the liver, drug addicts and those dying of AIDS after indiscriminate sex are obvious examples. So are gluttons who dig their graves with knives and folks, workaholics who drive themselves to physical and mental breakdowns, to say nothing of the countless people who suffer from serious illness as a direct result of suppressed hatred, anger, bitterness and envy. Is God to blame for their behaviors? Can we point finger at God when air crash is caused by pilot's error? Is He at fault when a drunken motorist causes accident, a train is driven through a danger signal or a ship's captain ignores safety procedure? Is God guilt when person steps carelessly in front of a bus? Is God real responsible when a reckless tackle by a footballer ends an opponent's career?"

John Blanchard

Or, put it in a more African language, content and context to answer the questions of God-doubting generations who have been questioning the reality of God, and his sovereign over the entire Universe. These generations are pointing to all the injustice found in the World. E.g. to the conflict in the Middle East and wars between Israel and Palestine, the involvement of America in number of countries and many other mistakes done by big countries that claim to be Christian countries. Many Africans want to know where God's justice in all of these is. Is the God of the Bible discriminating some people? For example, the Arabic Nations and favor other countries like Americas and Israel etc? Few of our people are made to hate the nation of Israel, the Westerners who have colonized Africa and all those who were supporting apartheid, especial in Namibia and South Africa. Many have made other people's failure their veils to cover their eyes to see, ear to hear and heart to believe God's love and wise implementations of things. When I asked them about our own failures, e.g. our chiefs continent-wide, who have been shelling their own people into slaveries and marketed our lands into the hands of the so called willing buyers, while majority of us remain landless, what have they to say about that? Most of our fellow black people in Asia, Europe and Americas where they have been sold with liquor, guns and ammunitions – by the hands of their own leaders, now suffering without anyone to defend them. If they were to come back to Africa, no African government will allow them, since they were born outside where they are sold not by their own choice - what these blame-sifters are saying about these facts? Who is to be blamed, for still have our fellow African outsider their mother continent: Is it the ministry of home affairs? Is it former colonialists – slave buyers or is it Africa chiefs – slave sellers?

Today, we have many brethren who have no land or language, conviction or culture all over Western world – although they may want to come back to their mother land - Africa, no one of our African leader will pay attention to that. We are so bound by human rules – paper imposed authority and power by man, called birth certificates, heady-cards and passports. Who made these papers and legalized them simple to lock some people in and others outside their mother land? Are these God-made papers or man-made papers imposed authority by man, which have just given additional injustice to some and justified others? I keep asking, who is to be blamed, does God have anything to do with this injustice which our former chiefs committed and present leaders committing? Is it God who had colonized Africa or has he any link to any type of colonialism? Who is to be blamed for the new coming colonialism under Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, South Koreans etc. who are busy overtaking Africa, while our own men been and continue to be married to alcohol, sexual immorality, begging and subjective liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons etc. while the Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, South Koreans etc. are taking over Africa by thinking hard, working hard and investing hard.

Everything to the new colonizers is about and around hard thinking, hard working and hard investing; while many of us set with eyes open to beg, and hand stretch out to receive money and other good from the ones we have been accusing and calling

colonizers. I used to state that, God does not bless a man, he blesses his hard toils. If we are not working and help the weak, we must not get angry when others calling us beggars. Let us stop accusing people. We must start accustoming ourselves to hard thinking, and hard working and hard investing. The habit of blame-shifts, fake hopes and baseless arguments is sin. It hinders you to see your need for God who owns your totality, to seek salvation for your soul and to understand the reality of your context and culture. There is no injustice or discrimination in God. He is the pure and heart-loving Creator who loves all of us equally. He has a breastfeeding that none of us can empty. He want and can feed all of us with his love, joy unspeakable and full of glory, peace, goodness, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control etc. We must just come to him with eager mind and heart like little children to be fed. If we lack anything, that isn't God's business, he had created enough Worlds, and enough people, enough spaces to live in, and enough oxygen to breath. He has been giving us enough rain to sustain us and enough whether to make life adjustable. He did all of these to prove that, the World is not by itself. It is his, there is no such thing as law of nature, which holding it together, but there is God's law in place that governing nature. So his sovereignty is indisputable. Understanding his sovereign graces and good-will, and live according to it, is an understanding and living God's word and work, and an understanding and living God's word and work in his World is a fulfillment of God's great commandment, that leads to finishing of Christ's great commission.

5. The Sovereignty of God in the Bible and the Indescribable evident of the Creator in nature and human logic

There are thousands of evident proves that our world is created by God, sustained and governed by him with justice. This evident is both unhiddenable and undeniable. In Psalm 19:1-14 we read:

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” – Psalm 19:1-14, KJV. This Psalm is extolling the majestic glory of God, as displayed in the heavens, especially in the brilliant summer sun as it moves across a cloudless sky from east to west (19:1-6), and the law of the Lord which blesses the lives of those who need it (19:7-11), and the prayer asking the Lord to provide what his law cannot, namely the forgiveness for hidden faults, and a shepherd's care that preserves his people from willful sins (19:12-14). It is a Psalm that reveals God's written words (19:7-14), and works in nature (19:1-6).

Of course, we have to be deeply taught till we are well versed in these things, in order to comprehend or grasp the full knowledge of God found in the Bible, in nature, and in the history of the world as it is confirmed by human logic - Father Lukas Katenda has dealt with some of these topics in full, in the pages of this newspaper, under the same

theme “the Sovereignty of God, second submission named ‘General Revelation’”. Although, our God had revealed himself through, nature, the history of the world and human logic, he can only be fully understand and finally grasped in and through the Bible, his word and work, which testified of his Son Jesus Christ who is the full and final revelation of God (John 5:36-40), and this is what we call special revelation, a subject which brother Mwaningange has dealt with under the same theme, our third subdivision known as “Special Revelation.” I am dealing with the same theme. I mean “the Sovereignty of God, under the subtheme ‘the Sovereignty of God, and the overseeing of the entire Universe’”. I want you to grasp the fact that, God is not only the creator, but the sustainer of the entire Universe. The Bible has taught the truth about that, nature has proven that truth, well universal history has confirmed it, and it make sense to human logic. We do not only have the testimony of God, but we enfold his reality in full. I want you to know that, the world, in which we live, is held together by the Most-merciful, Mighty and Majestic God. While other men fear what they call global warming, and financial crises, you must seek this great and global God, fear him, live a life of faith and hope and love in this faithless, and hopeless and loveless world. Our God’s sovereign grace must reshape our faith, re-establish our hope and refine our love. While other men think that:

- a. The is nor God, then you know that Psalm 14;1-7 is saying: Only “the fool hath said in his heart, that there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. But they are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the Lord. There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the Lord is his refuge. Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the Lord bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.
- b. They have to question the reality of suffering and pain, wanting to know who is behind it and why, yet you knows that Romans 1:18-32 is saying; “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
 - I. “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.
 - II. “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
 - III. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things

are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." KJV.

- c. They go on questioning the Universality of God, and not knowing who holds this world in his hands, but you know that in Hebrews 1:1-3 we read: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

6. God's sovereignty and lives of Christian heroes, mainly Aurelius Augustine, Martin Luther and John Calvin

You can clearly see that, God's sovereignty is undeniable, his word and works has revealed that, he didn't only created the world, but he owns it. It is his and lives in his hands. We can worry until our hair get gray, ourselves get old and die, leave his world as we find it and face eternity of heaven or hell, depend on whom we have believed, how we have been living and behaving. So our worries will not exchange our already numbered days in this life, our dates of death and predestined end. God love each one of us. He doesn't want anyone of us to perish, but to have eternal life. This life is only found in his Son Immanuel – I said Brother Mwaningange will deal with that on our third and last subdivision. For now, just know that, our world is not left alone. We may not be able to comprehend that, this is why the apostle Paul has been prayed for the Ephesians 3:18-19 to – as we have seen in our previous paragraphs, "be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fullness of God." He – I mean the apostle Paul, is not praying for great minds here, but rather pleading for great hearts. Praying for the Ephesians to love God till this love has taken them further, and deeper, and higher and wider and lengthier into God's heart – if you love someone, he will draw you from far where you have been to near.

The term comprehend, used by the apostle in and of itself suggests vastness. He chose to describe it in this four-dimensional manner in order to give biblical impression. Paul being dominated by the greatness and globalness of God's love, he has been overfilled with God's life and light, and grace and glory, grace to us and glory to his word and work. So he is here concerned, he knew that, this will not be understood by our natural mind, so God is needed to reveal this truth unto us, and that is only possible through prayers. Biblical prayers are clear confessions of our totally dependence upon God. But what can we learn from something unlearnable? What is the point of talking about measurement of something if it is immeasurable? The point is not to fully learn it, fully measure or grasp it, but to come into it, be part of it and benefits something from its "breadth, and length, and depth, and height." I have learned from church history about three saints who have gone through it, who have handed themselves to God's love, then it take them deeper and inner then sunk into the heart of God's love, till they grow in it, gain strength from it and enabled to stood the test of time, none I have heard or read in my life who have influenced the world like these three men, or inspired church history more than them since the time of the apostles. These God-enabled men and church shaped saints are St. Aurelius Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Calvin:

1. Aurelius Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo since 396, as an African born, bred and brought up, he was a godly philosopher and global theologian from Roman Catholic background. Born in A.D.354 in North Africa, in what is called Algeria today. He was converted in A.D.386, when he was 32 years old, and dies in A.D.430. He served the church for almost forty years, and was known throughout the Christian world as a God-besotted, biblical, articulate, persuasive shepherd of

his flock and a defender of the faith against doctrinal threats of his day; mainly Manichaeism (a dualistic philosophy which put strong emphasis upon asceticism as a means of salvation), Donatism (an African separatist movement that objected to the reinstatement of Christianity who surrounded the Scripture under persecution), and Pelagianism (the theology stemming from the thought of Pelagius, which emphasizes human ability and free will rather than depravity and sinfulness of man). Augustine had called God his Lord and God, his Light and Wealth and Salvation... Augustine, from his maturity to his day of death, has been fighting the battle for grace, as a submissive captive to sovereign joy against his contemporary and arch-antagonist, the British monk, Pelagius. For the Protestants, Augustine is the dominant figure in the history of Christian thought, between the close of the New Testament canon and the Reformation. For the Roman Catholic, Augustine's influence during this period is rivaled only by that of Thomas Aquinas. Without doubt, Augustine is the man who have sought God with his whole head and found him. He desired God with his whole heart, and grasped him (through faith) with his whole hands.

From the platform in North Africa, and through his remarkable faithfulness in formulating and defending the Christian faith from his generation, Augustine shaped the history of the Christian church. His influence in the Western world is simply staggering. His writing has entered both the church and the world as a revolutionary force, which determine the course of church history and especially in the West; for the Western church and Western life up to this day. He is cherished as one of the greatest father of the Roman Catholic, and yet was Augustine who gave us the Reformation as Protestants, not only because Martin Luther was an Augustinian monk, or that John Calvin quoted Augustine more than any other theologian, but because the Reformation witnessed the ultimate triumph of Augustine's doctrine of grace over the legacy of the Pelagian view of man. As someone has rightly quoted that, "Augustine was ... a philosopher, theologian, mystic, and poet in one ... His lofty power complemented each other, and made the man fascinating in a way difficult to resist. He is a philosopher, but not a cold thinker; he is a theologian, but also a muster of spiritual life; he is a mystic, but also a pastor; he is a poet, but also a controversialist. Every reader thus finds something attractive and even overwhelming; depth of metaphysical intuition, rich abundance of theological proof, synthetic power and energy, psychological depth shown in spiritual ascents, and a wealth of imagination, sensibility, and mystical fervor."

John Piper

2. Martin Luther, the father of Protestant Reformation, educated as a loyal member of the medieval Roman Catholic Church, and became both a monk and a priest. Yet his study of the Scriptures and his own spiritual struggles, led him to an evangelical breakthrough. He came to teach the basic principles of the Protestant Christianity, namely justification by grace alone, through faith alone, and the Bible as the only ultimate authority for Christian belief and practice. He led a board movement in sixteenth-century Europe to reformed theology and reformed purity. He labored to reform and purify the church. He was a pastor, scholar, theologian and genuine Christian were monumental and have influence the church profoundly to this day. Born in A.D.1483 at Eisleben, Germany, and entered the Augustinian monastery in A.D.1505. He was awarded a degree of Doctor of theology in A.D.1512 and finally entered the massive war that give birth to Protestant Reformation as he posted ninety-five theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg in A.D.1517, in which he had placed biblical view above all views, and dethroned man's pride and enthroned God's glory above all. He had placed Christ and cross in the center to replace of all images, tokens and human descriptions. While Augustine fought a war of defending God's sovereign joy, Dr. Martin Luther had fought for his way into Paradise, through the gate of the New Testament Greek. Dr. Luther has grasped Romans 1:17, in the light of 1:14-16 and 18-20.

From Romans 1:17 we read: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "the righteous shall live by faith." In 1:14-16, we read: "I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For, I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first, and also to the Greeks." While 1:18-20 we read: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven, against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes (qualities), namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:17, is what gave Martin Luther a light and right to fight for his life and entered that glorious light, which came all the way to most of us, even to the continent of African in general, and to country called Namibia in particular. Verses 14-16, and 18-20, had but strength his argument of salvation, he has clear seen that, it has been given by God of grace, by grace alone, received by and through faith alone, and is by or through reading or hearing of God's word and work alone... That is what has given joy unspeakable to Dr. Luther, and, as I have said that, thus far, I have not seen or heard a man who had influenced the world with his Protestantism like Dr. Luther, apart from the apostles, Augustine and Calvin. Dr. Martin Luther is the father of all Lutheran worldwide, and the hero of all reformers – including reformed Baptist like me, his greatest legacy which he had left for us is his three hours of prayers, every early mornings e.g. 3h00 to 6h00am, his deep study of God's word and work, and finally his godly writing which has penetrated former generation, present age-band and the one yet to be born.

3. John Calvin, the exiled Frenchman who became chief pastor of Geneva, Switzerland. As the reformation's supreme Bible teacher, he was also as a systematizer, as Thomas Aquina to Roman Catholic. Many now call him a catholic doctor rather than a Protestant reformer, because of the breadth, depth, length and width of the mainstream quality of teaching. And its Calvinism in its various mutations remains a living force, Calvin's books, and especial the "Institutes of Christian Religion" was and is still the Protestantism classic statement which has landmark status still. Calvin's vision, learned from Luther and Augustine, of God's sovereign saving sinners, had fired many great pastors and evangelists like Richard Baxter, John Bunyan, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, Sir Isaac Newton, William Wilberforce, Lord Shaftesbury, Charles Haddon Spurgeon and Martin Lloyd-Jones, along with pioneer missionaries such as William Carey, Robert Moffat, John Paton, Robert Murray etc. John Calvin's concept of Christian cultural calling, and of the Christian life as a militant pilgrimage leading safely home by a predestined path of service and suffering, became a world view that has never ceased to produce humble, hardworking heroes and heroines of faith. He was an international figure in his lifetime, advising and encouraging reformers in England, Scotland, France, and other countries of the world. While Geneva itself, adorned after 1559 with a Christian University, was a haven and inspiration to thousands of refugees. His worldview has shaped early America, and the West can hardly be understood without Calvin's knowledge and influences. Born in 1509 and dies in 1564, earned a B.A. and M.A. in Arts degrees at the University of Paris, France, and another B.A. and licentiate in law from Orleans University, and has been at the Bourges University, but at same time converted to Protestantism which led him to free beloved country – France, to Geneva of Switzerland for exile.

So the three men, namely; Augustine and his sovereign joy unspeakable and full of glory, Luther and his supreme doctrine of graces and the glory of the cross, and Calvin and his high view of God, his understanding of God's majesty and biblically preaching and living, has proven beyond any doubt that we can know something of God's indescribable names, and holy nature. These men were not only predestined by

God to such panorama, but they were perfected and qualified by him to see the unseen, do the undone and live unusual life of faith. Nothing can enable us to do things beyond our ability more than the Spirit of God, which is not only the means of strengthening, but wisdom, inspiration and above all, the fullness of God flows from Christ.

Paul, as we have been quoting, has a desire to have Ephesians church being strengthened, he has been maintaining a clear vision for an assigned mission. His mission was not about head to head missileing and mind to mind monopolizing, but, a face to face mission and heart to heart ministries. He is not praying that they may have philosophy, but that they may know the love of God found in Christ Jesus. In other words, the apostle Paul have never demanded quantity in the expenses of quality, he is not speaking of matter without language, or color without value. He knew that we need both, holiness and heaven - for no holiness no heaven (Hebrews 12:14). We have to fight for grace and glory, as well as Christ and the cross. For what can we do with Christ who has not known the cross? Oh, there are many christs who have never knew and will never bear the cross – I mean, false christs who have been around but never carried the biblical cross (Matthew 24:24). More than that, in order to avoid the judgment, we must be justified by faith alone, in Christ alone, and through the cross alone.

7. The Sovereignty of God and man's past blunders – both negative and positive inaccuracies in our World

The French Foreign Legion is world famous for its esprit de corps and daredevil spirit. It has a motto:

“If I falter--push me on.”

“If I stumble--pick me up;” but

“If I retreat--shoot me (dead).” The last statement is frightening, but what can a National Defense or Special Reserve or Task Force do with retreating soldiers? What can biblical Christianity do with a bench of Christians who refuse to know the mind of God, the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the will of God the Holy Spirit? What can we do with people who falter but do not want to be pushed on? Individuals who stumble but do not want to be picked up and retreating coward soldiers but do want to cleared out of the way? Crime is against the state, immorality is against society and sin is against God. Ignoring to know God is sin against the Bible, it is a breaking of biblical laws. Refusing to stand for Jesus – as a good soldier of the cross is a crime against the Church, both Local and Universal Church, while failure to live a holy life is an immorality against the Christian Community. To remove the Bible from your presence or reject to read it, believe it and live it, you are ignoring the mind of God, the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, and is a dismissal of the will of God the Holy Spirit. Our mind are not meant to survive in media alone – it is of course helpful for our secular information, but without the Bible closer to us, it does creates only frustrations because of the chaos we reads out of secular medias, as it is reported in them, it creates anger because of the injustice we hear, and doubt because of much un-fulfillments of many promises people make and fail to keep their words. The Bible is our medicine to all of these, it tell us plainly that, God is in complete control, although things may go wrong, God is alive and active. Think of colonialism in African continent. I believe that our forefathers were upset with God, and much with his delay. Yet, we know that things have worked together for good, and especially for men like you and I who have learned to find God in both situations, in the midst of dust and in plain road, in health and in sickness, in life or in death.

In Genesis 50:20 – referring to Joseph who have been sold by his own brothers, he said them: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” ESV. Can you see that while colonialism was intending to hart, humiliate, and rob, God was educating Africans in a hard way. He was busy developing us as Africans – I mean black, colored and white Africans. God had a plan for all of us, although the good of it must come to

us viva the midst of sufferings and deaths. Today Africans are people of humility, and sympathetic who give more hospitality to whosoever, like the Israelites at the time of suffering and persecutions – Acts 2:42-47.

1. We are more united now, comparing to the old time of our chiefs where we were over-lording each other and confiscate cows from each other.
2. We are more educated to compare to the times of ignorant. Our Leaders have left one countries to others countries to find not only political ashram, but deduction, although in a hard but impressing way, their African politeness were sharpened, method of leadership moldered, while their local mind were bordered to regional, national, continental and global mindset. Our leaders are more global, live a global, and speak a global language than ever before.
3. We are fortunate, colonizers were thinking that, they will develop African countries for themselves, but God was watching, and laughing, allowed all these development to take place for our glory and the enjoyment of all of us as you see for yourself. Today, both children of colonizers and that of the colonized are enjoying life and light together, go to modern schools, modern hospitals and modern secular businesses or even in modern churches to see harmony and beauty of unity and uniformity, division and diversity.
4. We are more advantaged with road, telecommunications, and many other messages, manner and method of getting ahead on time.
5. We have no time to express ourselves as to how God, in his sovereign graces and good-will, had allowed thing to happen, for his glory – whether present or future glory, yet, at the end of the day, bring glory to his name and much good to his people. In the beginning they may sound like evil, and many times they are, yet surprisingly, they don't come alone without some good touched to it. This is what I mean when I say, "everything in our World and beyond it, is in complete control".

Think of many of our good and genuine leaders, they are brought up in laugh situations, harassed and pressed down by those situations, yet, as we all know that quality and genuineness are the outcome of shedding much sweat, tear and blood. The three do always water every seed shown in hope. E.g. if you go to school, but there is none of these in your life and labor, or give birth t a child and did not cost you tear, sweat or blood, or plant any seed, and there is nothing to tell about its difficult, then I tell you, something is not right. So everything that has value, genuine and lasting quality, must require sweat, tears and blood. I use to tell the members of the church God has entrusted in my hands that, if Namibia's independent didn't cost blood of freedom fighters, all the way from Kapten Hendrik Witbooi down to Tobias Hainyeko and many countless freedom fighters, I will have no reason to respect it for. But now, since some people have watered this freedom with their blood, much tears and countless sweat, I don't want to disturb such a peace which people have been fighting for. Let my so called democratic right perish, God's glory and the good of his people must remain undisturbed. So out of our severe sickness God's sovereign graces and good-will, do always something to benefit us. Temporary benefit since we are all dieable, subjects of death and decay. How many of us have forgotten that we are born to live a little and then to die and face God and judgment? How many us who have forgotten that, even the materials we gather around us, are not ours, we find them here and here we will leave them, until we are in sickbed then we remember that they are temporal, although after recovery, when we are released from our sickbed we use to stuck back into them again.

8. The Sovereignty of God and the last words of great men and the Bible – God's word and work in his World

Nothing is holding and more reliable than a man's last words. At our deathbed, even the liar then speaks the truth. One look at someone's deathbed often tells more than all the great words and deeds during his lifetime. When death confronts people, they drop their masks. Many have confessed in their last moments, oh they had admitted that they had been building on sand. They confessed that they were misled by an

illusion, they followed a terrible lie. E.g.: Aldous Huxley wrote in the forward to his book (called) "A Beautiful New World" that one should judge all things, as seen from one's death-bed. The bible says: "Lord, teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise" (Psalm 90:12).

1. Voltaire, the famous cynic, had a terrible end. His nurse said: "For all the money of Europe, I would not like to see the death of another infidel."
2. David Hume, the atheist shouted: "I am in flames!" His desperation was extreme.
3. Napoleon's private physician wrote: "The emperor is dying lonely and forsaken. His last agony is awful.
4. Cesare Borgia, the statesman, said: "During my life, I have made provision for everything, but I forget about death. Now I must die completely unprepared!"
5. Charles IX (France): "I am lost! I clearly see it!"
6. Mazarin had asked a question: "Soul, what will become of you?"
7. Hobbes, the philosopher: "I stand before an awful leap into darkness!"
8. Thomas Scott, former President of the British House of Lords: "Until this hour, I thought there was neither God and nor hell. Now I know both are realities, and I am facing damnation through the just judgment of the Almighty One."
9. Lenin died in mental derangement. He implored tables and chairs for the forgiveness of his sins
10. Jagoda, secretary of the Russian secret police: "There must be a God. He will punish me because of my sins."
11. Jaroslowski, President of the International Atheist Movement has cried: "Please, burn all my books! Behold, the Holy One! He has been waiting for me for a long time. He is here!"
12. Buddha: "I have not attained my goal!"

Only Jesus Christ died a victorious death. When he proclaimed:

❖ "It is finished, Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit." He was not crying a coward man's cry, or defeated foe's renouncement, but a victor's declaration of victory over death and damnation. That is what we are preparing our people to be, and live and die. Why do we worry about others? Well, death is a reality; fear of it is a fact, and preparation to die peaceful is not only needed, but a necessity. This is not a myth, the Bible, church history and human logic has been affirming these things. Let us look to some biblical truth about death, and victory over death, and over fear of death.

- a. The Bible – the Old Testament and David, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." Psalm 16:8-11, compare Acts 2:25-28. Or as he put it at his death-bed: "When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (1Kings 2:1-4) ESV.
- b. The Bible – the New testament and Paul, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I know not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and

continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; that your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you” (Philippians 2:20-24) KJV.

- c. The history – the New Era, Bishop Hugh Latimer’s word to Bishop Ridley when they suffered together at the stake where were burned to death, when he was dying that treble and painful, although victorious death; he said to his fellow soldier: “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as, I trust, shall never be put out.” A memorial stands at the the spot in Oxford where this took place.

Erroll Hulse

The following themes of biblical Christianity in the context of African culture, meant to shape Christ’s people, and mold genuine generations for God are.

1. The Sovereignty of God over the entire Universe – Cosmos – already dealt with for January, February and March
2. The Supremacy of Christ over the entire Church – Kingdom – our next theme in queue, and real to follow as time allows and God permits
3. The Saving Power and Securing Presence of God the Holy Spirit over our souls – Church etc.– second next.
4. The authority of Scripture - God’s word and works in his World
5. The authenticity of a Local and Universal Church
6. The audacity of reformed theology vs. deformed meology
7. The indemnity of Christ’s life and labor in this barren land
8. The influence of a Christian Church upon her communities, countries and continents
9. The indisputable conqueror of Christian ministries World-wide
10. The health shepherd / pastor, or minister
11. The health scrape-land / pasture, or ministry
12. The health sheep / people, or members of local churches etc.

The author has intentionally chosen the twelve biblical themes of biblical Christianity, which he had expounded, mustered by two contexts; on one hand, he has been mustered by contextual theology (the study of God’s word and work in the context of general and special revelation); while on the other hand, he has been mustered by contextual anthropology (a study of human nature and culture in the context of general and special reaction to that great and marvelous revelation of the global God). These themes are set aside with clear aims in this aimless World, to give us language, meaning and value; they give or reveal matter, weight and quality of biblical Christianity in the context of African culture.

From the desk of Laban Shitundeni Mwashekele; an elder pastor for local Evangelical vision and global Reformed mission at Evangelical Baptist Church -Monte Christo, Windhoek, Namibia; for the glory of our God, and the good of God’s people.