WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

"NOTHING EMBITTERS A PERSON MORE THAN SUFFERING. BUT WHEN IT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD, IT BECOMES HOLY" ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

13[™] SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **AUG 27** SUN

After –Hospitality 1 Cor 16:13-24 Mt 21:33 -42 Tone 4 11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Betta & + John Labanish by Fr Alex

- 8: 30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Lolly & Gary Vinson by <u>Aug 29</u> Tue Fr Alex 2:00pm - 6:00pmChurch Office hours
- 8:30am For Our Parishioners and HGB Steven Margan by Fr Alex Aug 30 Wed MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS -Special Intention
- 8:30am For Our Parishioners and For USA and Ukraine by Aug 31 Thu Fr. Alex

6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

14[™] SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUN SEP 3

After –Hospitality- PUT LUC 2 Cor 1:21-2:4 Mt 22:1-14 Tone 5 11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and who are in need of special prayer by Fr. Alex

Prayer to Guardian Angel ANGEL OF GOD. MY GUARDIAN DEAR. TO WHOM HIS LOVE COMMITS ME HERE: EVER THIS DAY BE AT MY SIDE, TO LIGHT AND GUARD, TO RULE AND GUIDE. AMEN

Do you love watching movies or shows on Fridays? How about The Chosen? Good news! Every Friday at 5:30 PM from September 1 to October 20, we will be showing one episode from season 1 of The Chosen! Come watch and discuss with others and enjoy popcorn, soda, and more! Any questions? Email Micah Matthews

at micahmatthews2139@gmail.com for more information. -Micah Matthews

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are: Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betta Labanish, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Thomas McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan, Elaine Hampton, Linda Lechman, Dr. Jeffery Sotack Elisabeth Branden Thank you. Fr. Alex

Bible Study: The Gospel of John

It's not too late to join the Bible Study for 2023! Come and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ by diving deep in the life of Christ according to the beloved disciple John (and eat some great food as well!). Please Join us on the (1st and 3rd Tuesday) of the month to: Read, Discuss, and Meditate on the Daily Readings, after Divine Liturgy, and (2nd and 4th Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall. Fr. Alex

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions. Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please made sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. Also, please place your chair on top of the table. Doing these things will be a big help and save much

Learn about Our Past, Prepare for Our Future

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Assembly of our Byzantine Catholic Church at St Mary Church in Hillsborough, NJ, on Friday, November 3 through Sunday, November 5, 2023. Byzantine Catholics from across the United States and Canada are invited to attend. Metropolitan Archbishop William said, "Your presence and participation are vital and welcome. Please consider coming and supporting this historic Assembly 2023." The venue includes lectures, discussions, fellowship, and a gala dinner with folk music and dancing. The Assembly cost is \$250 for individuals and \$400 for couples. The Maria Theresa Foundation will underwrite the registration fees of individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35. For more information, contact the Assembly coordinators, Fr. Ed Cimbala, at 212-677-0516 or Fr. Yuriy Oros at 609-394-5004. The assembly website is https://www.byzantineassembly2023.org, and the email is byzantineassembly2023@gmail.com.

Candles for August

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley Theotokos & Child... HGB Lainie Noonan by Christine Noonan John Baptist... HGB Mark Noonan by Christine Noonan St Nicholas... +Michael & Avanelle Bross by Angela Bross Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan Christ Teacher... Madeline Noonan by Christine Noonan

<u>SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.</u>

Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps, local honey.

Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests: please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please made sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. Also, please place your chair on top of the table. Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

Carpathian Kitchen News... For all you who work so hard to make our products in the Carpathian Kitchen, from pierogi, piroshki and kolache, and all you who purchase and enjoy our products, a big thank you. It is your hard work and loyal purchases that fund the Circle of Hope, that in turn supports local organizations like the Housing Partnerships.

Why not get involved? The last production run, we had a few volunteers come from within the local community, who had heard of what we are doing. These volunteers not only enjoyed themselves, but plan to help out in the future. That is a good indicator that we have something special going on in the kitchen. Our next pierogi production date will be 22-23 September. We really could use a good turn out on the 23rd. We will also be making another test run of our Piroshki soon. More on that later.

After last Sunday we only have 9 dz. left from the last production run of 51dz. It will be another month before we make more. Stop by after Liturgy to get yours!

God bless America!!!



FINANCIALS, August 20, 2023

Monthly Dues –200.00; Offertory –543.00; Candles-18.00; Holy Day – 100.00 Fuel-25.00 In – 885.60; Out –569.60

Men's Club Social

The Men's team will have their next informal social on the **3rd Tuesday** at 6:00 PM in St. Philip Hall. **Take note of the new gathering time of 6:00 PM. All members of the men's club, as well as inquiring men, are encouraged to come

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

"How can I understand, unless I have someone to instruct me?" (Acts 8:1) Share the joys of Scripture each Sunday morning prior to Liturgy! Adult Bible Study will meet at 10:00 in the Saint John the Baptist Hall beginning on Sunday, September 10. We will read the Gospel and Epistle for each Sunday, and then reflect on the lessons based on Church teachings. David C. Alan and occasional guests will lead the discussion. No registration necessary—we look forward to seeing you there! Contact David if you have any questions chaim2000@att.net

We will still collect donations for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause. You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex

"Grandpa, Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days. Sometimes it feels like the world has gone crazy.... And Grandpa, Take me back to yesterday, when the line between right and wrong didn't seem so hazy.... Let's wonder back into the past and paint me a picture of long ago..... From the ballad "Grandpa" by the Judd's.....

"So dad, what changes have you seen since you were a boy?"

Well, in general there has been a great improvement in living conditions. When I was young, we did not have air conditioning. Heating was not a problem for us, but in back of us, down the dirt road from where we lived, folks tar papered their place to keep out the winter draft. Most of us had modern refrigerators, but I still remember the ice house where some would go to get blocks of ice for their "Ice Box".

Back then you made things last. I don't remember wanting anything more than I had for clothes, but what I had, consisted of jeans and t-shirts for every day wear, two sets of school clothes, and a suit I wore on Sunday's. When clothes were outgrown, you passed them down until they wore out. Nobody thought twice about it.

Before you think we were deprived in some fashion, we really felt very good about our situation. My mom and dad grew up without electricity. Mom made it through the sixth grade in a one room school house before she went to work full time. Dad made it through high school, but worked many jobs along the way. One summer he hauled logs with the family mule for ten cents a log. I never heard them complain about it.

"What was going on in the country when you were a boy?"

Well, you have to understand that my knowledge of the world was limited to the fields, streams and woods around home, along with the books I read at school, and what I heard on the radio and watched on television. We were one of the first to get a television. Yep, all two channels. You had your choice between variety, comedy, cop shows or westerns. For news we listened to Walter Cronkite or David Brinkley and Chet Huntley. That, together with the local news show; a total of about one hour of news in the evening. No 24-hour news cycle.

Politics were a grown-up matter. I never heard my parents discuss it. President Eisenhower's interstate system was connecting America like never before. President Kennedy got the United States into the Space Race, which captured the imagination of the nation. I remember as a young high school student watching Niel Armstrong walking on the moon. There was a vitality and enthusiasm in the country, and along with that, an expansion of suburbs and local development.

We had our share of crises. During the nuclear confrontation with Russia. I went with Dad to check out the cave we were supposed to go to when the bombs dropped. I also remember sitting in my grade school class when we heard President Kennedy was shot. There were problems also, harbingers of problems we have with us today. Segregation from Civil War reconstruction was still very prevalent back then, but the civil rights movement would slowly bring us out of it. Then there were the cultural wars, a sexual revolution, drug use, and a secular, progressive mind-set coming out of the universities that sought to replace old values, especially religion.

"What about the people back then, how do they differ from today?

The young folks today are so smart, especially with technology. Look at Abby and Eva, they are so quick to understand and use technology. They routinely use computers and electronic devises. They have a general understanding of technology far beyond what I, or for that matter what you had at that age.

"Tell me about some things that have not changed for the better." Well, I suspect you already know them. Civility has declined over time. We don't have the patience we use to. I think the 24-hour news cycle is partly to blame. Families have changed also. At least how families interact. For a whole lot of reasons, including divorce, single parents, etc..., traditional families are seemingly under attack. We also seem to want government to solve our problems today, far more than during any period of my life. Well and fine, but the more power you give government the more our freedom is curbed.

This last one I think very important. It is that we are more easily distracted today than in the past by our technology. As we become more attached to our technology, will we become more detached from each other? Will we stay in our room refusing to come out, preferring to be alone with our technology, in some vain attempt to escape from reality? When we refuse do deal with reality, we deny ourselves the opportunity to grow and develop our skills and intellect. These are gifts from God that we neglect.

We have more information at our disposal then at any time in the history of mankind. We are so smart about so many things, and we crowd as much as we can into our life. In the process, I'm afraid we risk losing touch with those next to us. And with that, also losing touch with our humanity and the things the Judd's sang about in their song.

"Did lovers really fall in love to stay; Stand beside each other come what may? Was a promise really something people kept; Not just something they would say and then forget?

Did families really bow their heads to pray? Did daddies really never go away? Whoa-oh, Grandpa

Tell me 'bout the good old days.

Circle of Hope Updates....On behalf of our parish, the Men's Club will make it's first Circle of Hope award Sunday, September 3rd. Housing Partnerships (our neighbors across the street) will receive the \$1000.00 award so that they may continue its magnificent work in the local area, providing needed home repair and improvements for low income, elderly and handicapped. So plan to come to the Sunday potluck and welcome their Executive Director Ms. Brandie Weiler, who will accept the award. **This is a big day for our parish.**

So, what makes makes Housing Partnerships so special? Here is just one example of the work they do. This summer, from 17-23 June, Housing Partnerships partnered with the Catholic diocese of Richmond to work in Highland Park, a low-income neighborhood very close to Ascension. Fourteen parishes from across the area participated. Volunteers included 72 teenagers, 12 volunteer professional contractors from Housing Partnerships, 20 adult chaperons, college campus ministers and seminarians. All came together to put in more then 2,777 hours of volunteer work that week. Housing Partnerships not only coordinated to provide the free contractor supervision, but supplied the materials need to accomplish work, including repairing handicap ramps, hand rails and doors, reglazing windows, drywall work, pressure washing homes, painting trim and so on. That is just one example of the work they have been doing since 1985! <u>Wow, that is Christian action</u>. The Circle of Hope grant will help Housing Partnerships continue their important mission.

Nothing but a Number

Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70. George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.

If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.

That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.

Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.

In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultraexperienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.

Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?

To Take Away

- How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?
- Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?
- What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?

Psalm 1

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked Nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent, But delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

He is like a tree planted near running water, That yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does, prospers.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Not so, the wicked, not so; they are like chaff which the wind drives away. For the LORD watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Messiah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 23

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me. I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Psalm 138

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple, and give thanks to your name.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Because of your kindness and your truth, you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

Your right hand saves me. The LORD will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.

Your right hand saves me, O Lord.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Praise, you servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD both now and forever.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

From the rising to the setting of the sun is the name of the LORD to be praised. High above all nations is the LORD; above the heavens is his glory.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor To seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people.

The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

Psalm 104

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, all you his angels, you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

Psalm 11

The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, his searching glance is on mankind.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

The LORD searches the just and the wicked; the lover of violence he hates. For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds; the upright shall see his face.

The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; By whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the LORD.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be disturbed.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Exodus 15

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. He is my God, I praise him; the God of my father, I extol him.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name! Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea; the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power, your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp where there is no foothold; I have reached the watery depths; the flood overwhelms me.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

But I am afflicted and in pain; let your saving help, O God, protect me; I will praise the name of God in song, and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not."

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Psalm 106

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb and adored a molten image; They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

They forgot the God who had saved them, who had done great deeds in Egypt, Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham, terrible things at the Red Sea.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Then he spoke of exterminating them, but Moses, his chosen one, Withstood him in the breach to turn back his destructive wrath.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God, and worship at his footstool; holy is he!

Holy is the Lord our God.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, and Samuel, among those who called upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them; they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Extol the LORD, our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for holy is the LORD, our God.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Psalm 95

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tested me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

We have sinned, we and our fathers; we have committed crimes; we have done wrong. Our fathers in Egypt considered not your wonders.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

But soon they forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel. They gave way to craving in the desert and tempted God in the wilderness.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

They forgot the God who had saved them, who had done great deeds in Egypt, Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham, terrible things at the Red Sea.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Then he spoke of exterminating them, but Moses, his chosen one, Withstood him in the breach to turn back his destructive wrath.

Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.

Psalm 97

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about him, justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the LORD of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth, exalted far above all gods.

The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD–for he proclaims peace To his people, and to his faithful ones, and to those who put in him their hope.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps.

The Lord speaks of peace to his people.