



CATECHISM

A CATECHISM FOR PRESBYTERIANS

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PREFACE

A Catechism is a help to faith. It not only teaches us the right answers to our questions about God, it also teaches us to ask the right questions. Therefore this, this book should not be read quickly or merely learnt by heart. The questions should be used to stimulate our own thinking.

The questions and answers themselves are intended as a framework for use in the building up of faith. Sunday by Sunday as the preacher expounds the Scriptures, we will find that this preaching lightens up and puts flesh on to the framework.

It cannot be emphasised too often that this Catechism is for the home and for the family. It can be a thrilling and an exciting adventure for the whole family to study the questions together, and then turn to the answers in the light of the Scripture verses quoted and other passages which come to mind. This can be encouraged by competitions: in the home, in Sunday School, and in young people's groups of the Church.

Those who were involved in the preparation of this book worked primarily on behalf of the former Reformed Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, but it is hoped that others may find it of value. It is sent out with the prayer that it may help all, old and young alike, to understand better the truths of the faith of their fathers in Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

We are grateful to the Africa Sunday School Curriculum Office of the former Christian Council of South Africa, now the South African Council of Churches, and to the International Bible Reading Association for permission to use the illustrations which appear in this book.

We also express thanks to the former North End Presbyterian Church in East London for the translation into English of Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika (It has been modernised by replacing the ancient "thee" with "you".)

This Catechism is available in Zulu, Venda, Northern Sotho and Xhosa.

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CHAPTER ONE
"GOD"

Lesson 1

"God"

1 Who created the heavens and the earth?

God created the heavens and the earth.
(Gen 1:1; Psalm 104)

2 Who is God?

God is spirit, knowing everything and being active everywhere in holy love, although we are not able to see him.
(John 4:24; Psalm 139: 7-12; Phil2: 12-13)

3 How do we know God?

We know God through the Scriptures, which reveal him working in his world, and supremely through Jesus Christ, his Son whom he has sent.
(Psalm 19: 1-4; Heb1: 1-3)

4 What do the Scriptures teach about God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

The Scriptures teach that the Father is God, that the Son is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God: All three are one God.
(Matt 28:19; John 16:28; 14:25-26)

Lesson 2

"One God"

5 Why do we call God "Father"?

We call God "Father" because in his love as creator and sustainer of all. He has sent his Son into the world that through him, we might become his children.
(Psalm 103: 8-14; John3: 16 -17)

6 Who is the "Son" of God?

The "Son" of God is our Lord Jesus Christ who was from eternity with God, and who became man that he might be our Saviour.
(John 1: 1-4; 14; 18; John 8: 58)

7 What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit works in our hearts, making us new creatures fit to receive all that is offered to us in Jesus Christ.
(John 14: 26; Rom 5: 5; Eph 1: 13-14)

8 What does God offer to us in Jesus Christ?

In Jesus Christ, god offers us forgiveness for sin and fellowship with himself, which is eternal life.
(1 John 1: 9; John 5: 24; 2 Cor 5: 16-20)

Lesson 3

“One Holy God”

9 Why did God create humankind?

God created humankind, male and female, in his own image, to serve him and to enjoy him forever.

(Gen 1: 27; 1 John 1: 3)

10 What spoils our relationship with God?

Sin.

(Gen 3: 11-19, 24; Rom 1: 18-32)

11 What is sin?

Sin is to love ourselves more than God, to disobey God rather than to serve him, and all that follows from these.

(Gen 3: 1-7; Jer 13: 23; John 5: 41-44)

12 Why do we need forgiveness?

We need forgiveness because sin separates us from God. This is death.

(Eph 2: 13-18; Rom 6: 23; Ga 15: 13-25)

Lesson 4

“One Holy God of Love”

13 How are we saved from sin?

We are saved from sin through Christ. We repent and turn from our sin, so accepting God’s forgiveness.

(John 3: 16-21; Eph 2: 8-9; 1 John 1: 9)

14 What happened when Jesus was born?

When Jesus was born, God became man. He became flesh of our flesh and yet was still truly God.

(John 1: 1-3, 14, and 17-18)

15 Why did men desire the death of Jesus?

Men desired the death of Jesus because they were envious, yet were not able to accept the Messiah (Christ) who lived among them in holiness and poverty.

(Mark 15: 10; Luke 9: 58; John 3: 20; 5: 18; 10: 33)

16 Why did God allow Jesus to die?

God permitted the death of Jesus to condemn and abolish the power of sin. He was the one eternal sacrifice for sin.

(Isaiah 53: 4-6; John 11: 49-52; Hebs 9: 11-14, 22)

Lesson 5

“One Holy God of Love And Power”

17 What does the resurrection of Jesus proclaim?

The Resurrection of Jesus proclaims the victory of Christ over sin and death.

(1 Cor 15: 55-57)

18 What does the Ascension of Jesus enable us to know?

The Ascension of Jesus enables us to know that God raised up his son in glory that he might rule the world, that he might guide his people and that he might make intercession for them continually.

(Heb 7: 26-28; 9: 24)

19 What does the promise of the return of Christ mean for us?

We may rejoice because our Lord Jesus will come again as he went, and we are warned therefore to watch knowing that we shall each one day face our lives in the light of God.

(Luke 12: 40; John 3: 19-21; Acts 1: 11)

20 Need the Christian fear the last judgement?

No. There is no need to fear, for God has put the judgement of the world into the hands of his Son and we can rejoice to know that it is he who shall pronounce the last word on our lives and on all things.

(John 5: 24; 1 Cor 15: 51-58)

CHAPTER TWO

“THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD”

Lesson 1

“The Church”

21 What is the Church?

The Church is a family – one, holy, catholic and apostolic – in which God unites all who belong to him through Jesus Christ.

(Eph 2: 19-22)

22 Who is the head of the Church?

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, which is his body.

(John 14: 6; Eph 1: 22-23)

23 How does Christ rule the Church?

Christ rules the Church by the Holy Spirit who dwells within it.

(Eph 3: 14-19; 4:30)

24 Why is the Church “holy”?

The Church is “Holy” because Jesus Christ is holy and its members are a holy people belonging to God.

(1 Peter 2: 9-10)

Lesson 2

"The Mission of the Church"

25 Why is the Church "catholic"?

The Church is "catholic" because it is for all nations and for all time, and because all the fullness of God dwells in it.

(Acts 1: 8; Eph 1: 23)

26 Why is the Church "apostolic"?

The Church is "apostolic" because it is founded on the apostles' witness to Christ, and is sent into the world to continue that witness.

(Luke 24: 48; Eph 2: 20)

27 How does the Church continue that witness?

The Church continues its apostolic witness:

- 1 By carrying out our Lord's command to make disciples of all nations;(Matt 28: 18-20)
- 2 By fellowship and prayer through worship and the Sacraments (Luke 10: 2; Acts 2: 42) and
- 3 By regular giving of our money as God prospers us.
(Mal 3: 7-12; 2 Cor 9: 6-12)

28 To which branch of the Church do we belong?

The branch of the Church to which we belong is called the Presbyterian Church.

Lesson 3

"The Scriptures and Prayer"

29 What are the Scriptures?

The Scriptures contain God's revelation of himself to his people, and are therefore our supreme rule of faith and conduct.

(2 Tim 3: 16; 2 Pet 1 20-21)

30 What must we do with the Scriptures?

We must read the Bible, handle it at all times with reverence, and learn with zeal and love to keep its promises and words in our hearts, and to obey them in our lives.

(Deut 11: 18-20; 2 Tim 3: 14-17)

31 Why must we pray?

Because God has commanded it and has promised that he will hear us.

(Psalm 50: 15; Isaiah 65: 24; Matt 7: 7-8)

32 Through whom must we pray?

We must pray through Jesus Christ alone who intercedes for us continually.

(John 14: 6; 17: 9-10)

Lesson 4

“The Lord’s Prayer”

33 What is the Lord’s Prayer?

“Our Father who art in heaven;
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever.
Amen.”

or

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come.
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

(Matt 6: 9-13; Luke 11: 2-4)

34 What does this prayer contain?

It contains six petitions. The first three are for the glory and activity of God; and the other three are for us.

35 What is intended by the words: “For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever”

These words remind us that all prayer is rooted in the power and goodness of God, and not in ourselves; and they direct our worship to the glory of God.

CHAPTER THREE

"THE SACRAMENTS"

Lesson 1

"The Sacraments"

36 What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is a form of approach from God instituted by Christ, where by outward signs, our oneness with Christ is shown.

(Matt 3: 13-15; 1 Cor 11: 23-26)

37 How many Sacraments are there?

Two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

38 What elements are used in the Sacraments?

Water is used for Baptism; and bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. These are set apart by prayer and thanksgiving.

(Matt 26: 26-28; Act 10: 47-48)

39 Do the Sacraments and the Scriptures say anything different?

No. They say the same thing in a different way. The Sacraments speak to the eye; the Scriptures speak to the ear.

Lesson 2

"Baptism"

40 What is Baptism?

Baptism is the guarantee of our being received by God within the Church.

41 What is the significance of the use of water in Baptism?

Water is the sign of cleansing; of our death through Christ to the life of sin, and of our being raised with him by the Holy Spirit into new life in the fellowship of his Church.

(Ezek 36: 25-27; Acts 10: 47-48; Col 2: 9-15)

42 Why should we baptise our children?

We baptise our children because they are heirs of God's blessings. When the children come to an age of understanding, they themselves must make a public confession, so witnessing to the truth of their baptism.

(Matt 21: 16; Mark 10: 14; Acts 16: 14-15, 33)

43 What is the duty of the Church towards its baptised children?

The duty of the Church is so to care for them that in home, congregation and community, they may be brought up in the knowledge and love of God, until they make profession of their faith and take their place as adult members of the Church.

(Acts 2: 38-39; 41-42)

Lesson 3

“The Lord’s Supper”

44 What is the Lord’s Supper?

The Lord’s Supper is an act of worship essential to our life in Christ, because through it our union with God and with the whole Church is set forth, and we are made partakers of the eternal life of Christ in the receiving of bread and wine.

(John 6: 51, 55-56; 63; 1 Cor 10: 16-17)

45 What is the significance of the bread and wine?

By giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ’s command we are, through faith, made partakers of his body and blood to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

(Matt 26: 26-28; 1 Cor 10: 16-17)

46 Why should we partake in the Lord’s Supper?

Because Christ commanded us to do this in remembrance of him, and because it proclaims his death till he returns.

(1 Cor 11: 23-26)

47 What is the duty of those who partake?

To live, loving as they have been loved.

(John 15: 12-13)

47b Who may partake?

Admission to the Lord’s Supper is open to all members of the Church, including baptised and believing children who share in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at the discretion of the Session after application by their parents or sponsors. At each celebration of the Lord’s Supper an invitation to share in it is extended to members of any branch of the holy catholic Church who may be present.

“THE COVENANTS OF GOD WITH HIS PEOPLE”

Lesson 1

“The Promise”

48 How did God deal with men of old?

God called men and made covenants with them.
(Gen 12: 1-3; 17: 9-13; Ex 24: 7-8)

49 How did God covenant with them?

In Abraham, he covenanted with promise; in Moses, he covenanted with law.
(Gen 17: 1-5; 9-14; Ex 20: 1-17)

50 Why were these covenants made?

To prepare for the coming of Christ.
(Jer 31: 31-34)

51 What was the promise God gave?

That the just shall live by faith.
(Gen 12: 1-2; Rom 1: 17)

Lesson 2

“The Law”

52 What was the law God gave?

“God spoke all these words saying:

‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of slavery.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.”
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

53 What do these commandments teach?

The first four commandments teach our duty to God, and the other six teach our duty to our fellow men.

54 How may the teaching of the prophets on God’s law of life be summarised?

“To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

(Micah 6: 8)

55 What is the greatest commandment of all?

“You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.”

(Deut 6: 5; Leviticus 19: 18; Luke 10: 27)

Lesson 3

“The New Covenant”

56 What is the teaching of the New Testament about the relationship between the promise and laws of the old covenants, and the new covenant of the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ?

The New Testament teaches that Christ is the fulfilment of the gracious promise of the old covenants, and that the law acted as a tutor (or teacher) in charge of us until Christ should come.

(Gal 3: 24-29; 2 Cor 3: 5-6; Col 2: 13-14; 16-23)

CHAPTER FIVE

"THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE"

Lesson 1

"The Kingdom of God"

57 What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is God's rule in the hearts of men, and in the life of the world, through Christ.

(Luke 17: 20-21)

58 What are the Beatitudes?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

(Matt 5:3-10)

Lesson 2

"The Life Everlasting"

59 What is eternal life?

Jesus said: "This is eternal life: to know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

(John 17: 3)

60 What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHAPTER SIX

Lesson 1

“The Books Of the Bible”

1 Which are the five Books of the Law in the Old Testament?

The five Books of the Law are:
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

2 Which are the historical books of the Old Testament?

The historical books are:
Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the two books of Samuel, the two books of Kings, the two books of the Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

3 Which are the Poetic books of the Bible?

The Poetic books are:
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

4 Which are the Books of the Major Prophets?

The Books of the Major Prophets are:
Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Lamentations (of Jeremiah), Ezekiel and Daniel.

5 Which are the Books of the twelve Minor Prophets?

The books of the twelve Minor Prophets come at the end of the Old Testament, and are:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

6 Which are the historical books of the New Testament?

The historical books of the New Testament are:

The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the Act of the Apostles.

7 Which are the Letters of the New Testament?

The Letters are:

Romans, the two letters to the Corinthian's, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, the two letters to the Thessalonians, the two letters to Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, the two letters to Peter, the three letters of John and Jude.

8 And which is the last book of the Bible?

The last book of the Bible is the Revelation of John.

Lesson 2

“The Presbyterian Church”

1 What is the Presbyterian Church?

The Presbyterian Church is a part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of God, and is named “Presbyterian” because it is governed by Presbytery through the General Assembly and the Session.

2 Who is a minister in the Presbyterian Church?

A minister is one who has been prepared and set apart for the full-time service of God within the Church and ordained by the Presbytery to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments.

3 Who is an elder in The Presbyterian Church?

An elder is one who has been elected and ordained by the minister and Session to take part with his or her fellow elders in the government of the Church.

4 What is Presbytery?

A Presbytery is a Court in the Church, consisting of the minister and a representative elder or elders from all Sessions within its bounds. There may also be certain other members laid down in the “Manual of Law and Procedure of the Church.”

5 What is the General Assembly of the Church?

The General Assembly is the supreme Court of the Church. It consists of ministers and elders appointed by the Presbyteries.

6 What is the Session?

The Session is the Court of the Church, which rules a congregation under Presbytery. The minister and elders are the members of the Session.

7 What is the Board of Management/Deacons’ Court?

The Board of Management, or Deacons’ Court, is made up of a body of people elected by the congregation to administer its temporal affairs. Though the names may be different, the work they do is the same.

Lesson 3

"The Christian Year"

1 Advent:

During these four weeks before Christmas, we remember how the world was prepared for the coming of Jesus and we remind ourselves that he will come again.

2 Christmas:

At this time, we remember that the Son of God came into the world as a little baby. Christmas Sunday is the Sunday before Christmas Day, which is December 25.

(Luke 2 : 7)

3 Epiphany:

Here we remember the coming of the wise men to Jesus twelve days after his birth. We are reminded that the Gospel is for Gentile and Jew alike, and so for all people. The Church also remembers at this time the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan.

(Matt 2: 1-12; 3: 13-17)

4 Lent:

In these six weeks before Easter, we remember how Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem in obedience to the command of his father even although he knew that it meant death on the Cross of Calvary.

5 Passion Sunday:

On this the fifth Sunday of Lent, we remember the pain and agony of our Lord as he prepared himself for his death.

6 Palm Sunday:

This is the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem when the crowds received him with joy saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest."

(Matt 21: 9)

7 Good Friday:

This is the day on which Jesus was crucified for the sin of all people.

(Luke 23: 33)

8 Easter:

This is the day of light; the day of the new covenant; when God raised Jesus from the dead. From this time onwards, Christian people gathered together for worship on Sunday to remember what God did for all people in raising Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter Day is the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21.

(Jer 31: 31-34; Luke 24: 5-7)

9 Ascension:

This day comes forty days after Easter. It is the day when Jesus left the earth to be with his Father after giving the disciples a commission to preach the Gospel to all peoples in all the world.

(Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:6-11)

10 Pentecost:

On this day (ten days after the Ascension of Christ), the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples and the believers gathered with them; and they went out with great joy to obey the command of Jesus that they preach the Gospel.
(Acts 2: 1-12)

11 All Saints:

All Saints Day is November 1, an occasion when we remember and give thanks to God for all his faithful people who have departed this life (died), and who, with us, form the Communion of Saints which is the Church of God on earth and in heaven.

Lesson 4

"Responses in Worship"

These are responses used by the whole Church in worship. They have Latin names by which they are known throughout the world. The words in **bold** print are said by the congregation.

1 The Gloria:

Gloria means 'glory'. The words used are these:-

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen."

2 The Sursum Corda:

Sursum Corda means 'lift up your hearts.' The words used are these:-

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

3 The Sanctus and Benedictus:

Sanctus means 'Holy.' Benedictus means 'Blessed.' The Benedictus is said immediately after the Sanctus, and the words are the same as the words used by the crowd, which welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord;
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.**

4 The Agnus Dei:

Agnus Dei means 'Lamb of God.' This is the phrase used by John the Baptist of Jesus (John 1:29). The words used are these:

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:
grant us your peace.

Lesson 5

"Prayers and Meditation"

1 An ancient prayer from the Book of Psalms:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me,
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love unfailing will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."
(Psalm 23)

**2 A prayer from the writings of a great African
Christian, Augustine, who was born in the year
353 and who died in 430:-**

"O Lord, the light of the minds that know you;
the life of the souls that love you;
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
Help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
So to love you that we may fully serve you,
Whom to serve is perfect freedom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen"

3 A prayer of Patrick who was born in the year 372 and who died in the year 466:-

“Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.”

4 A prayer of Francis Assisi who was born in the year 1182 and died in the year 1223:-

“Lord,
Make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

For
it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.”

5 A prayer of Ignatius Loyola who was born in the year 1491 and died in the year 1556:-

“Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve:
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Except that of knowing that we do your will.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

6 A prayer written in part by Enoch Sontonga in the year 1897. The remaining verses were added later by Samuel E Mqayi:-

1 Lord, our God, bless Africa our home!
May her head be lifted high.
Let your ear be open to our cry
That your blessing may come.

2 Bless the chiefs and leaders of our land;
Their creator may they ever fear,
You with love remember and revere;
Bless them under your hand.

3 Bless the men who public office hold,
Youths who also in their tasks do share,
That the land in patience they may bear;
On them blessings unfold.

4 Bless the wives and mothers in their task;
Bless the girls who grow to woman-hood;
Beautify their lives with every good;
On them blessing we ask.

- 5 Bless the preachers who your Word declare;
Make each church a fellowship of love;
May your Spirit aid them from above;
And your blessing be there.
- 6 Bless the beast we tend, the land we farm;
Banish drought and famine and ill-health;
Teach us all to earn and share our wealth;
Bless us, and keep us from harm.
- 7 Bless us; may our strivings never cease
To behave to others as we ought,
Great in understanding, kind in thought,
Bless us, Lord, with your peace.
- 8 Lord, our God, bless Africa our home!
Cast out all its wickedness and shame;
Let your blessed Son our hearts reclaim!
That your blessings may come.