

APOLOGIA THE SONG BOOK

A brief journey into the mind of the artist



“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth”

John 17:17

APOLOGIA (2019)

“Apologia” is a 3rd studio album by Masomphenya. It was produced in a time frame of 5 years, from 2014 to 2019. The project seeks to bring enlightenment on selected themes of the Bible, often wrongly interpreted by the Word of Faith preachers (prosperity gospel preachers). Apologia lets Scripture alone speak, teach, exhort, encourage, correct, and rebuke on those matters. The artist believes without a doubt *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”*(2 Timothy 3:16-17).

This work right here is an English translation of the lyrics. It illustrates and offers the reader the basic thought process of the artist during the composition of the songs. He hopes that through this work, you might be pointed to Scripture; and let God speak to you through his word on the issues addressed.

Masomphenya

Friday, January 1, 2021

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth”

John 17:17

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SONG LYRICS

#I. INTENTIONS

Composed: 02/02/19

Produced by S.A.M.U.E.L

INTENTIONS is by and large an introduction to **APOLOGIA**. The song was primarily inspired by 2 Timothy 4:1-5:

“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound[a] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry”.

Firstly, it (**INTENTIONS**) briefly states the purpose of **APOLOGIA**: to preach the gospel, in hope that when God’s people currently in error hear his word, they will desert the false teachings and embrace the true gospel (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:16). Secondly, it outlines the approach employed in its exposé’: the presentation of the gospel. It also defines the target audience: primarily God’s sheep, especially those who have fallen for the prosperity gospel (John 10: 12-27). Finally, the song concisely comments on the negative criticism that may arise for calling out false teachings: namely, it would not be a foreign experience, since our Lord Jesus Christ himself was hated by some for preaching the truth during his earthly ministry (John 15:18-25). Hence, with the strength of Christ alone, and to the glory of God alone, the album has been produced.

Verse 1

(Purpose defined)

My purpose is not to win praises from men (Galatians 1:6-10)
It isn't to scoop awards like the "best rapper" award
My goal is for the gospel to be preached and heard (Romans 1:16)
With the hope that God's sheep may hear his voice and know the truth
Abandoning the false doctrines (John 10:27; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)
Please note I'll be as honest as possible in the album (**APOLOGIA**)
I won't compromise the truth, this is war and I'm like a soldier
(2 Corinthians 10:1-6; 2 Timothy 2:1-7)
Some will regard me as a false teacher
But I won't be offended with such
For our Lord Jesus Christ was hated too (John 15:18-25)
My purpose is not to appeal to every man (I John 4:5-6)
His sheep hear his voice (John 10:27)
And so Lord I ask:
Strengthen me to do your work
I can't do this on my own (John 15:5)
I'm out...

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)

#II. OSAJAJA (don't judge) FT. TIYA JOAN

Composed: ca. 13/August/2014

Produced by S.A.M.U.E.L

OSAJAJA ("Don't judge" in English) highlights the biblical meaning of Matthew 7:1, "thou shall not judge". It refutes the incorrect interpretation that prohibits Christians to exercise discernment. According to scripture, the kind of judging our

Lord Jesus warns against in Matthew 7:1 is hypocritical judging: rebuking someone when we ourselves are guilty of the same sin (Matthew 7:1-5). Additionally, the song asserts there is a biblical precedence for rebuking sin publicly (Matthew 23:1-36; Galatians 2:11-13; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:16-18). Therefore, where necessary, believers should denounce sin, false teachings and false preachers with wisdom and discernment.

Verse 1

(The argument of most false teachers against the exercise of godly discernment)

[False teachers] often say “*don’t judge lest you be judged...*”

“...Don’t touch the Lord’s anointed lest you be cursed by God

They often tell us we’re one God’s family

Hence it isn’t right to “point fingers” at a brother when he’s in the wrong

They argue Christ didn’t come to divide but to unite

They say we’re all sinners

Hence it’s best to remain silent when someone is in error

Otherwise, you’ll be judging if you attempt to correct their sin

They say we have to leave the judging to God alone

We have to zip our mouths and wait for the final judgment day

(Is warning a brother of false teachers judging?)

But wait a minute, what does “don’t judge” really mean?

Is it exposing false teachers?

Is it warning a brother of false teachers?

If we caution them, is it a sin so much that we must repent?

(Was Jesus or the apostle Paul judging?)

How about our Lord Jesus Christ?

Was he judging when he publicly called out Pharisees as hypocrites?

(Matthew 23:1-36)

Should we say he was in the wrong for doing that?

How about the apostle Paul?

He writes to Timothy and warns him of false teachers

Was that wrong? (1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 2 Timothy 4:14-15)

(“Don’t touch the Lord’s anointed” doesn’t mean Christians shouldn’t exercise discernment)

And also, what’s the meaning of “don’t touch” the Lord’s anointed?

It is a prohibition against Christians proclaiming the truth in the face of falsehood

“Don’t touch” the Lords anointed simply means don’t kill or physically harm the Lord’s servant [in this context, David]¹ (1 Samuel 23: 14-24:1-2)

It doesn’t mean don’t call out false teachers

Furthermore, in the New Testament, everyone who believes in Jesus has the Spirit of God, and thus they’re anointed in that sense

(2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20, 27)

[They are no “super” Christians, we all receive the same faith (2 Peter 1:1)]

Chorus

Calling a spade a spade

Preaching the word faithfully

Rebuking sin openly by the power of the Holy Spirit

That isn’t judging!

Rebuking sin by the preaching from the Scriptures

Faithfully exhorting God’s word

And in the process exposing false teachers

Warning God’s sheep to beware since foxes are amongst us in the church

That isn’t judging but love and caring

(Matthew 7:15-20; (Acts 20:29-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-5)

¹ The term "anointed one" is commonly used in the bible to refer to individuals who received a special calling from God e.g. kings and prophets in the Old Testament. See 1 Samuel 24:1-6. In 1 Chronicles 16:19-22 the term is used to refer to Israel as the people of God

Verse 2

(Tiya Joan challenges Masomphenya)

“Masomphenya you’re causing confusion

Jesus actually warns ‘don’t just lest you be judged’ in Matthew 7”

(Masomphenya response: Let’s not read the verse out of context)

I hear you Tiya

Jesus indeed warns us not to judge in Matthew 7

But let’s look at the whole context to have the right interpretation

Firstly, Jesus himself in Mathew 7:15 tells us the criteria for recognizing false teachers

He says we’ll know them by their fruit

They’re sheep in appearance but inside they’re wolves

Therefore, when we finally recognize them and warn a brother how could that be judging?

The kind of judging Jesus warns against in verse one is hypocritical judging

Condemning something when we ourselves are guilty of the same sin

That’s why in verses 3, 4, and 5 he says *“first take the log out of your own eye
And then you’ll see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye”*

Jesus here isn’t instructing us to remain silent when it is evident from Scripture a minister is serving Satan by preaching falsehood

Exposing false teachers is biblically permitted if done to God’s glory (1 Timothy 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

(Back to the chorus)

Verse 3

(Jesus is the truth and the Prince of peace. His word is truth. Therefore, what causes division in the church is falsehood, and not the proclamation of the truth)

The truth doesn’t divide

Falsehood is what actually divides the Church (Romans 16:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:3-5)

So claiming a person will divide the church when he proclaims the truth is simply a spirit of compromise

Rightly put: it's a devil's device for suppressing the truth because truth unites

Where there's the truth there's Jesus because Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)

And there peace reigns since Jesus is the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6; John 14:27)

(Believers ought to oppose falsehood and proclaim the truth since false teachings are what divides the church)

Hence we've got to fight and oppose heresies and false teachers

For when falsehood is tolerated the church is led astray (Romans 16:17-18;

Galatians 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:3-5)

But praise God, he nourishes his sheep (Psalms 23)

Praise God! He leads his sheep (Psalm 23; 119:105)

And when his sheep go astray

He brings them back no matter what (John 6:39; John 10:27-29; Roman 8:31-39)

Outro

Warning God's sheep to beware since foxes are amongst us in the church

That isn't judging but love and caring (Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-5)

#III. OSAMANGOMEZA (don't just believe anything) FT. ANYO BANDA

Composed: 30/July/ 14, 22/August/14

Bridge and chorus were written by Anyo Banda

Produced by Chizmo

OSAMANGOMEZA literally means "don't just swallow". Here, it's being used metaphorically to mean don't just accept every teaching/preaching as truth. The song is an exhortation to believers to exercise discernment. Christians should not simply believe every teaching they hear, without first establishing if the message agrees with biblical truth (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1-6.

OSOMANGOMEZA also affirms that Scripture is the infallible and inerrant word of God and that it has the final authority over all matters (Acts 20:29-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

Verse 1

(The Bereans, a good model for exercising discernment)

Brethren, we find an interesting account in Acts 17:11

About believers from Berea

They searched the scriptures for themselves after hearing Paul teach to confirm if what he said was true

Scripture affirms these Jewish believers were nobler than those in Thessalonica
For they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily

(A comparison between the Bereans and some of us believers today)

In all conscience, I believe the Bereans are still nobler than many of us today

For we neglect the biblical call to discernment

(1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22; 1 John 4v1-6)

We're too quick to accept every sermon we hear as truth without first checking if it's in line with Scripture

(Embrace that which is in line with the biblical truth only)

But don't just believe anything until it conforms with God's Word.

Be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11)

Don't just accept it simply because it's coming from a well-known preacher.

Believe that message which is in accordance with the Word of God

Bridge

A little yeast is all it takes inside the soul (1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:6)

A little poison is enough, Napoleon

But you should know the truth: we're living in a war (Galatians 6:10-20)

And the enemy is after you (1 Peter 5:8, 9)

Chorus

Don't quickly swallow without first tasting the food (1 John 4:1)
Don't just believe every message
For though we have one bible, we have different interpretations
(Mathew 4:3-10, Galatians 1:6-7)
Don't just believe every message
For the devil disguises himself as an angel of light
(Matthew 4:3-10; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15)
Don't just believe! Anything!

Verse 2

(The Lord gave us his Word which is sufficient, and his Holy Spirit, necessarily for exercising discernment)

The Lord was pleased to give us Scripture and the Holy Spirit
(Psalms 119:18, John 14:26; John 16:13-16; 2 Corinthians 2: 12-16; 2 Peter 1:21)

He also created us with a mind [ability to reason]

Thus, It's not godly to simply believe anything posing to be from God
(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

On the contrary, it is godly to first test every Spirit
(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1-6)

Besides, Scripture is sufficient

[Therefore] we don't need any New Revelation [today]

2 Timothy 3:16 affirms that God's word is sufficient

(Back to the chorus)

Verse 3

(Being anxious about the future, the desire to hear a "direct word" from God beyond his written Word has led many Christians astray)

"Prophecy over me man of God!"

Sadly many Christians are being deceived by false prophets (2 Peter 2:1-3)

But then it's the Word of God that transforms us

(Acts 20:29-32; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

There's no transformation without the ministry of the Word (Romans 1:16)

(God speaks to us through his Word. The Word of God is what transforms us)

For that reason, every preaching must be based on Scripture

(Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:2)

Whether they claim it's a direct prophecy (word) from God

If it can't be biblically supported, it's simply a myth, a mere speech (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:15-16)

(Many people are claiming to be servants of God. We ought to exercise discernment)

Nowadays many are claiming to be servants of the Lord (Matthew 7:15-23)

But who is authentic? Who should we follow?

That is why we have to exercise discernment: test every spirit (1 John 4:1)

The same applies to Masomphenya, don't just believe what he sings

(Back to the chorus)

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)

#IV. SENZA (carry your cross) FT. SAXESS AND CHRISPINE

Composed: 28/July/14, 22nd/August/14

Verse 2 written by Chrispine

Bridge and chorus were written by Saxess

Produced by Chizmo

Much of what's popularly branded today as the "gospel", is simply garbage. It's filled with empty promises, useless to the soul dead in sin, on the highway to eternal damnation:

"Come to Jesus if you want riches"

"Do you want to excel academically? Get saved!"

"Come to Jesus and you'll be healed of every sickness" etc.

Seriously, this is so sad. Do mean a heart corrupted with sin, conquered by the power of Satan should be lured to repent by appealing to its sinful nature? How disturbing! *"What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"* (Luke 9:23-25)

True repentance happens by the grace of God. It begins with God and ends with God. And it is never marketed by "be saved you'll find marriage or physical healing" (Ephesians 2:1-10). On the cross, God the Father poured his wrath on his only begotten Son, the righteous one, so that sinners could be reunited with him (2 Corinthians 5:21). While we were still dead in wickedness; thirsting for sin as if it's something life-giving, Christ died for sinners. The righteous one died for the wicked (Romans 8:5). Apart from Christ, nothing could have united sinners with God, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 3:23).

SENZA (literally "carry" in English) rejects the prosperity gospel. It affirms sinners don't get saved for any other reason other than having Christ himself. (Matthew 13:44-46). If they want to follow Christ, then they must deny themselves and take up their cross, daily following him. They will encounter hardships. But Christ

teaches them that whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for his sake will save it. Moreover, *“What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”* (Luke 9:23-25)

Intro

Let the gospel be based on Scripture

Verse 1

(An example of a false gospel)

Come to Jesus if you want to do well in life
Come to Jesus if you want material prosperity
Come to Jesus! Name whatever you want in life
Mark my words, once you repent you'll have it abundantly!
Get saved and you'll find marriage
Salvation will cure your barrenness
You'll easily become wealthy
You'll never fall sick
It'll just be news to you that people have troubles

(Beware of the “popular gospel” without the cross. It is false!)

Sadly, our main focus is an appeal to worldly desires (Luk3 10:17-27)
An empty promise of earthly treasures (Luke 16:13;
The kind of “good news” that’s popular nowadays isn’t preaching about Christ liberating us from our sin!
(Luke 4:16-21; Acts 4:5-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Peter 2:24-25)

Chorus

Jesus said if anyone would come after me
Let him deny himself and take up his cross daily
And follow me (Luke 9:32)

Verse 2

(Twisted priorities)

They're repenting only to get blessings

They're praying just to escape from their troubles

They're seeking wealth and miracles, not the author of miracles (John 6:25-35)

They are chasing marriages, wealth, healing, and peace

They're [definitely] missing the principle of the kingdom

(Matthew 6:33; John 6:25-35)

They're not after the kingdom of God but his blessings

(The truth about the gospel)

However, this truth I know: the gospel isn't about acquiring material things

These things fade away (Proverbs 27:24; 1 Timothy 6:17)

It's about seeking Jesus Christ, the master of the universe

(Matthew 13:44-46; John 6:25-35)

(Back to the Chorus)

Bridge

[Take my yoke upon you,

And learn from me

For I am gentle and lowly in heart

And you will find rest for your souls]

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30)

My mercy abounds (Psalm 86:5)

Verse 3

(True repentance happens when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. Causing us to realize we're dead without Christ, in need of his mercy)

We don't repent until the Holy Spirit convicts us we're sinners in darkness

(John 16:8)

Our hearts are filthy without Jesus (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:9-18)

We require his blood to cleanse us to be pure
(Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 2:1-9; Hebrews 13:12)

(There's no chance to repent after death)

Grace has been offered (Romans 3:23-26)

The time to believe in Christ is right now whilst we're alive (Hebrews 9:27)

There's no second chance to repent after death (Hebrews 9:27)

If we die without Christ we will end up in hell

(Luke 16:19-31; Romans 6:32; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

(Point emphasis: we don't get saved for any other reason other than having Christ himself)

Surely God blesses his children

(Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Timothy 6:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

But certainly, we don't get saved to enjoy the benefits after salvation

Outro

How many of you know the "health and wealth gospel" isn't the gospel of God's Word?

The gospel of God's Word includes trouble, difficulty, and suffering.

But you see, the glory of it all men and women is in the midst of all that

You and I become victorious because of the success of God's love for us

He loves us so much that he enables us amid our difficulty

**MASOMPHENYA PERFORMING “SENZA”, LYRICAL EDIFICATION CONCERT,
FEBRUARY 28, 2020**



#V. GIVING VS. GAMBLING FT. EMMAX

Composed: 10/April/17

Chorus were written by Emax

Produced by DJ Megi

We hear teachings like “seed sowing”. That kind of teaching that brainwashes our mind to begin considering giving as a means to amassing earthly riches. **GIVING VS. GAMBLING** wonders if such kind of giving is indeed giving or gambling. Are we playing some game of chance for money against God? Risking our few pennies in the hope of making much more? WHAT A JOKE!

Our life, our little houses, money, possessions, the universe, and everything in it belongs to God (Deuteronomy 10:14). It is quite absurd to imagine cornering, coaxing, let alone forcing the creator and owner of everything, into being left with no option but to give us bountiful riches, on the basis that we returned his dime to him. God doesn't need anything from us (Acts 17:25). It is simply a privilege that he permits us to enjoy his blessings in our covenantal relationship with him (Deuteronomy 8:18). What an honor that he lets us worship him through giving (1 Chronicles 29:14-18). This is the heart of giving that **GIVING VS. GAMBLING** proclaims: worship unto the Creator. Believers should guard their hearts against the sin of greed and discontentment. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs (1 Timothy 6:10). We must take care, and be on our guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15). He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income (Ecclesiastes 5:10). Our true satisfaction is in Jesus only. Let's give with the right attitude and posture: worship unto God.

Verse 1

(The sinful motive for giving part 1: the fear of man)

Why do we give to God almighty?

Why do we make an offering on days like Sunday [during worship]?

Do we do it just to please the pastor?

And yet deep within our hearts we grumble and wish we kept the money?

Unfortunately, the tendency to do things just to be liked by others is also present in the church [church politics]

The only reason some believers give is to be accepted by others

They do it out of fear of man (Proverbs 29:25)

(The sinful motive for giving part 2: the love of money)

You also get this group of people that only give to gain so much

Their offering is somewhat a “seed” to the reaping of more cash

It’s a shame they’ve literally turned giving into gambling²

(We can’t trade/gamble with God)

But if we want to trade lets go to the market

If we want easy money lets gamble with Premier Bet³

Otherwise, we’re utterly wrong, thinking we can play games with God

(Revelation 1:10-18; Galatians 6:7-8)

If we want to do business, what if we trade with O. G Issa⁴

Chorus

Why do you give?

To whom do you give?

Do we give out of religion?

² Check this article on the meaning of “a hundred fold”: <https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/10/Mark-10-30.html>

³ Premierbet Limited is a gambling & casinos company

⁴ O. G Issa is a well-known businessman in Malawi

Or do you give for [the sake of] yourself? /

Questions

Think about it

Why do you give?

Verse 2

(We have itching ears. And so we heap for ourselves teachers who tell us we will get more when we give)

A lot of us want to get rich easily

I can tell from the pastors we're choosing to follow (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

We're going for those who're telling us we'll get rich if only we "sow a seed"

Those that say we'll reap abundantly, and have no room to keep our harvest (Luke 6:38⁵)

We're going for those who're telling us we'll have whatever we want [only if we give]

(God isn't a lottery ticket. He isn't a magician. He expects his children to work hard to earn a living)

But where do we find shortcuts in the bible?

The all-powerful God isn't a magician

He instructs us to work with our hands to earn money

(Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

He says the lazy man shouldn't eat (Proverbs 12:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)

He didn't say we should go to the bank, check our balance, and that we'll find mysteriously cash in our account⁶

Please let's not attribute magic to God

⁵Read this article on the meaning of Luke 6:38: <https://www.facebook.com/229857173792473/posts/twisted-scripture-number-36-luke-638-the-scripture-give-and-it-will-be-given-to-/1115082995269882/>

⁶ This belief is based on the false teaching called "Miracle Money" (at least in Malawi). False preachers teach their followers they can trust God to deposit money into their account mysteriously

God instructs us to work hard

(Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 14:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)

Man reaps what he sows [i.e. if we are lazy, we shouldn't expect somehow we'll earn a living mysteriously. God isn't a magician]

(Back to the chorus)

Verse 3

(The Biblical motive for giving: giving as an act of worship to God)

Why do we give to God almighty?

Why do we make an offering on days like Sunday [during worship]

We give out of love/gratitude to our God

(Genesis 4:1-7; Genesis 8:20-21; 1 Chronicles 29:1-20; Mark 12:41-44)

(Whatever we have and give belongs to God. This should cause us to be humble and have a posture of worship as we give)

Moreover, whatever we have belongs to God (Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 89:11)

He's simply entrusted us with those possessions as stewards (Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:15; 1 Chronicles 29:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30)

So let's be humble, for everything we have belongs to him

(Job 41:11; 1 Corinthians 10:28; James 4:6)

If he wants he can take it away from us, and no one can stop him (Luke 12:13-20)

[Hence] when we give we offer what already belongs to him

(Deuteronomy 16:16-17; 1 Chronicles 29:14)

(Some preachers are greedy. They tell their followers to give because they want to satisfy their materialistic ambitions)

But some of these preachers are greedy (2 Peter 2:1-5)

They say give in order for them to get rich, to afford expensive cars, and to become millionaires (Isaiah 56: 10-12; 2 Peter 2:1-5)

(The Bible urges Churches to support their pastor. But the pastor shouldn't motivate his church to give out of the sin of greed)

It's true Christians should support their pastor

(1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)

And if they aren't doing so they're disobeying God's word

(2 Chronicles 31:4-10; Galatians 6:6)

But all am saying is: "the preacher shouldn't say give and you'll get rich when the real issue here is greed" (1 Timothy 6:10)

Outro

(Masomphenya summarizes the main points of the song)

Yeah, the preacher shouldn't say give and you'll get rich when the real issue here is greed

And we're not saying God doesn't bless us when we give

That's not the point here

His word is true, he blesses us when we give⁷

However, the motive of our giving ought not to be getting rich

It ought to be worship

Knowing that whatever we give to God belongs to him anyway

And God blesses us in so many different ways, not just monetary

Extra resource on Malachi 3:8-10: <https://harvestpca.org/sermon-robbing-god-malachi-36-12/>

⁷ Read this article on God's blessings when we give: <https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B130211/the-abundance-of-giving>

#VI. UMPHAWI NDI NTCHIMO (being poor is a sin)

Composed: 02/February/17

Produced by Kond1 & S.A.M.U.E.L

Listen to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ written in Matthew 25:31-40:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” - Matthew 25:31-40

Now, try to answer the true or false questions below:

1. The King speaking these words is none other than the Son of Man, Christ Jesus. True or false?
2. On the final judgment, Christ will separate sheep from goats. In other words, the righteous from the wicked. True or false?
3. The righteous will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. True or false?
4. Christ will recommend the righteous for the following: feeding him when he was hungry, giving him a drink when he was thirsty, showing him hospitality

when he was a stranger, clothing him when he was naked, visiting him when he was sick, and visiting him when he was in prison. True or false?

5. According to Jesus, the righteous did these things to him whenever they did it to their fellow saints. True or false?
6. The passage among other lessons shows us that some of the righteous whilst on earth will be poor, lack food and drink, lack clothes, will fall sick, and some will be thrown in prisons. True or false?
7. Therefore, it would be going against the words of Christ to preach that Christians shouldn't/cannot be poor. True or false?

UMPHAWI NDI NTCHIMO (being poor is a sin) is a song that response true to all of the 7 questions above. It completely denies the claims that the Bible promises material wealth and prosperity to all Christians. Nonetheless, it highlights from Scripture that God expects his children to work hard with their hands. The song mainly analyses the biblical meaning of 3 John 2, *“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul”*. This is one the passages often misquoted in the propagation of the prosperity gospel. According to Jesus, we will always have poor people in our communities (Mark 14:7). Therefore, depending on how much God has blessed us, we should be willing to extend those blessings unto others. It is heartbreaking, however, that many of us Christians are greedy. We fail to share with others the little blessings God has bestowed upon us. Some of us begin to criticize the poor for lacking faith in God, especially due to the influence of the prosperity gospel. We accuse them of being cursed. Instead of reaching out into our little storehouse and feeding them, we stretch out our finger and point them to church for prayer/“deliverance”. Where’s the love of God in that? (John 13:35)

“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 24:37-40)

Intro

(Masomphenya wonders if all Christians can actually be rich?)

Verse 1

(Scripture criticizes laziness. God expects his children to work hard)

The God whom we worship

The Lord Ebenezer, Yahweh

He doesn't want us to beg as a result of being slothful

(Proverbs 12:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10)

He hates sluggishness, he doesn't tolerate it (1 Timothy 5:8)

He doesn't expect us to just be idle (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

He expects us to work with our hands (Genesis 2:15)

Praying and asking for blessings is no excuse for hard work

God still expects us to work with our hands (2 Thessalonians 3:10; James 2:14-26)

(Questioning the claim Christians shouldn't/cannot be poor)

Nonetheless, I've got questions

Can't a Christian lack cash?

Because he's saved can't he be broke?

Should it just be news to him that people have troubles?

I ask this because some claim being poor is a sin

They say it's a sign something is wrong with your Christianity

They argue that silver and gold belong to God, and we're heirs to his kingdom

(The claim for "material prosperity" for all believers is wrongly drawn from passages like 3 John 2)

Many of them read 3 John 2⁸

They then begin claiming God wants every Christian to be wealthy

⁸ "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul"
(3 John 2)

Unfortunately, they don't read the whole chapter in context
Many of them stop at verse 2 and start misquoting the scriptures

(The meaning of 3 John 2)

But then John here isn't saying all Christians ought to be billionaires
Putting on expensive designer brands
Flying on private jets

He's basically praying for Gaius because of his hospitality and faithfulness to God
(3 John 1-15)

The point here isn't that all Christians must be wealthy!

(All Christians cannot be wealthy. The Church of God has both rich and poor Christians. And though with natural eyes it might seem unfair, God loves them equally regardless of their social status)

We can't all be wealthy (Acts 2:44-45; Romans 8:31-39; 2 Corinthians 8:1-3)

And it doesn't mean God isn't minding about us

(Isaiah 46:16; Philippians 4:10-13)

And though with natural eyes it might seem unfair, [the truth is] God loves both rich and poor [Christians] equally (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1-2)

In his eyes, the wealthy [Christians] are no better than the poor [Christians]
(Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:26-29)

It doesn't matter whether [materially] we're rich or poor

We're all equally worthy in God's eyes

For we're all the temple of the Holy Spirit [we are united in Christ. We all have received the same spirit] (Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 8:15; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthian 6:19)

Outro

(a Sermon clip plays)

#VII. SING'ANGA 'MKULU (the great physician) FT. EMMANUEL KHUMALO

Composed: 12/January/2016

Produced by Chizmo

We understand from the Bible that God has the power to cure sicknesses and diseases. He is the Lord that heals all our diseases (Psalms 103:3). This declaration presupposes the experience of sickness on the part of God's people. Otherwise, why would God reveal himself to us through his word as "our healer", if his people in perspective are immune to sickness? The teaching of "divine health", that purports Christians shouldn't/cannot fall sick is thus a direct attack on the revealed character of God! Hence, it is unbiblical. **SING'ANGA 'MKULU** (the great physician) gives praise to God as our great physician. The song denies the claim that every sickness is an indication of God's punishment, or that taking medication is a sign of little/weak faith in God. Imagine Elisha, the mighty servant of the Lord. Imagine how he saw God miraculously working through him: the parting of the waters of the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:14); sending bears to ravage his attackers (2 Kings 2:23-24); causing a flood to save Israel and to foil the Moabites (2 Kings 3:14-25); producing a miraculous flow of oil for a widow (2 Kings 4:2-7); giving fertility to the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-17); raising a child from the dead (2 Kings 4:32-37) etc. Nevertheless, he still fell sick and in fact, he died from his illness. His body decomposed. He didn't resurrect. Sickness could thus be a blessing for God's people. God can use it to grab their attention for himself. He may also use as a means of preaching the gospel; or for whatever purpose he sees fit to the glory of his name (2 Corinthians 12:8-10; Galatians 4:13). And if they die, what a great gain for the believer (Philippians 1:21). Moreover, the death of God's people pleases him (Psalm 116:15).

Intro:

Can a Christian fall sick?

And if they do, does it mean they have little faith in God?

Does it mean they're not trusting God enough to heal them?

Listen

Verse 1

(Taking medicine doesn't mean one has little faith in God. For medical treatment is a reflection of God's incomprehensible wisdom)

I believe Satan isn't the mastermind behind medical discoveries

I believe it is a reflection of God's wisdom

(2 Kings 20:7-11; 1 Timothy 5:23)

Therefore, when I'm sick I [gladly] take medicine

But when I recover I praise God (Psalm 103:1-5)

I owe my healing to God because healing belongs to him (Exodus 15:26)

The nurse only treats but the healer is Jesus (2 Kings 20:7-11)

[The fact that we don't always recover after medical treatment is proof healing doesn't essentially lie there]

In fact, recovery isn't guaranteed upon taking medication

Others still died after treatment

Hence, [even though I take medication] I place my trust in God and not in the treatment (Jeremiah 17:7)

(It is false to claim Christians shouldn't/cannot fall sick. And when they naturally do, it doesn't mean they have little faith in God/they have sinned and God is punishing them)

Though I'm saved, I sometimes fall sick

It doesn't mean that I have little faith (Philippians 2:25-27)

It doesn't mean I have sinned and am being punished (Galatians 4:13)

I don't pretend I never fall sick because I'm a Christian

I still fall sick simply because human beings fall sick

(God heals through medical treatment; or natural body processes like blood clotting; and sometimes he heals even without medical treatment. Whatever the means, he alone is the healer)

[Praise God] when I fall sick he heals me:

I take medication and I get well

Sometimes I feel better even before taking medication

The means of recovery doesn't matter

The point is: Jesus is the healer, end of story! (Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:1-5)

(But even if I fall sick and end up dying. I'll still say I'm healed. For then I'll finally meet my Maker face to face in heaven)

Even if I fall sick to the point of death

I'll still say I'm healed

Never attribute my death to the work of demons (Isaiah 54:17)

I'll say I'm healed because I'll go to heaven (Luke 16:19-25; Luke 22:22-43)

And there I'll suffer no more (Revelation 21:4)

Certainly, whether Masomphenya gets sick to the point of death

I'll still sing I'm healed, don't say Satan has killed me

I'll say I'm healed because I'll finally meet my God face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Moreover, he's pleased with the death of his people (Psalm 116:15)

Chorus⁹

The great Physician now is near

The sympathizing Jesus

He speaks the drooping heart to cheer

Oh, hear the voice of Jesus

His name dispels my guilt and fear,

No other name but Jesus;

Oh, how my soul delights to hear

The charming name of Jesus.

Verse 2

(The faulty basis for the "divine" health concept)

I hear others claiming Christians must never fall sick

Because the heavenly father is ever healthy

But then the same God never sleeps nor slumbers (Psalm 121:4)

⁹ Adapted from "The Great Physician" hymn by William Hunter

Why then do we still find ourselves sleeping?

They say [Christians must always be healthy] because they have God's DNA in their system

But if that's true, why do they even fall sick in the first place?

If their DNA actually changes, why are their bodies not completely immune to sickness?

Are all those who are sick sinners?

(The fact remains: even Christians fall sick. And if it pleases God, they die)

They say don't admit it when you are actually sick

They say don't confess with your mouth that you are sick¹⁰

However, the fact remains: even Christians fall sick

So much that at times they die from their illness

[For example] Elisha got ill and he died (2 Kings 13:14)

Dorcas fell sick and she died as well (Acts 9:37)

(The death of Christ on the cross assures believers of a perfect life: free from sin, sickness and pain. However, the reality of that will ultimately be enjoyed in heaven, and not here on earth)

It's true through his death on the cross

Jesus offers us healing (Matthew 8:14-17)

However, total freedom from sickness shall be experienced in heaven not here earth (Mathew 25:31-40; John 16:33; Revelation 21:4)

(Genuine faith vs. counterfeit faith)

Don't suppose a Christian who falls sick has little faith

(2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

Instead, their faith is weak if they begin to doubt God's existence in their sickness

¹⁰ Seriously, why abuse patients like that?

Their faith is weak if they think God doesn't care, and then begin to live in rebellion to him

But, their faith isn't genuine if during their suffering, they begin to live in rebellion to God, and eventually die without repenting (Romans 8:31-39; I John 2:18-19)

On the one hand, their faith is authentic if they persevere in trials (1 Peter 1:3-9)

It is genuine if in spite of the suffering they still hold on to Jesus (Isaiah 46:3-4; Colossians 3:2-4; Philippians 1:6)

(Back to chorus)

#VII. MULUGU KULIBE (God doesn't exist) FT. SUFFIX AND S.A.M.U.E.L

Composed: 30/August/18

Verse 1 written by Suffix

Verse 2 written by S.A.M.U.E.L

Produced by S.A.M.U.E.L

James 1:2-4 exhorts believers to count it all joy when they meet trials of various kinds, for they know that the testing of their faith produces steadfastness. And to let steadfastness have its full effect, that they may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But honestly, such is not the experience of many of us. When in pain, we tend to question the goodness of God; especially when we pray and seem to not get the answers we want. **MULUNGU KULIBE** (Literally "God doesn't exist" in English) is a song that articulates such a reality. In verse one (written by Suffix), a young Christian doubts the existence and goodness of God because he's suffering, and somehow feels that God is not coming through his situation. Verse two (written by S.A.M.U.E.L) is then a response to the young man's grievances. The song is a reminder that Christianity is not a ticket to the best life here on earth (John 16:33). Faith in God doesn't mean immunity to suffering. The good news, however, is that he is always with us during our trials, pain and tears. We don't suffer alone: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I*

will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). Christ, our high priest, sympathizes with our weaknesses. For he himself became man. He got tempted in every way like us and overcame. Such truth should comfort us. We belong to the God who understands our feebleness and suffering. Moreover, such truth should motivate us to put all our trust and rest in him. We must not believe the deceptive voices that whisper that he’s not hearing our prayers: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

God is faithful, he’ll not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear, *“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).* Praise be his holy name.

Verse 1

(A suffering, distressed and depressed young Christian doubts the existence of God)

This Christianity is not easy

It is so hard

At least before I got saved I used to enjoy getting drunk

I hear that you died so that I should have a better life

But how come I’m still struggling though I’ve been a Christian for 4 years?

You called me and I changed my former ways

But my parents still got divorced

I’m failing to go to school, who will pay for my tuition?

I thought you promised you’ll bless me?

You’re not sympathizing with my pain

I’m left all alone

I’ve no peace

This world is so cruel
So I think about death, maybe it's better to just commit suicide

I doubt God exists
How come there are all these problems?
How come those who don't fear you are living a good life?

I get the concept of sovereignty
So maybe clinging to the theory is what's letting me down

My friends at church are quite wealthy
And so they belittle my problems
When church service is over everyone goes their own way [no sense of community]
Maybe this whole Christianity thing is fake
How come there are more questions than answers?

Chorus

Lord, I'm in pain, can't you see it?
Please rescue me!
You say you're loving
But how come I'm here facing hardships?

Is it true that you're fair?
Is it really true that you care?
I shouldn't lie am sceptical about it
If you really existed life would've been good

Verse 2

(A response to the young Christian's complaints: the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer)

You've been praying but haven't seen things change
You've lost all hope after being heartbroken

You've tried so hard to see some progress in life but to no avail
It seems like everyone around you is doing pretty well except for you

Such is life, troubles are inevitable (John 16:33)
But that doesn't mean God doesn't hear us when we pray (Psalm 34:15-19)
One thing you should always remember is that in suffering
His (God's) ear is attentive to our prayers (1 Peter 3:12)

Such is the world, know that we'll always have trouble (John 16:33)
In this life, we'll encounter pain and suffering
Reality is sometimes life gets hard
We from time to time sing sorrowful songs
At times we cry, we don't see a bright a future
But that shouldn't scare you (James 1:2-4)

I know we've got questions
Some of which we can't find answers (Psalm 145:3; Job 36:26)
But don't let that kill you, don't let it weaken your faith
(Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 11:33)
There are so many things in your life that you can't understand
God is always with you, whether in joy or pain
(Psalms 46; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 1:23; Romans 8:31-39)
(Back to the hook)

Bridge

Don't lose heart, it shall be well
(Romans 8:15-18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Revelation 21:4)
God Emmanuel is with us (Matthew 1:23)
Don't lose heart it'll be well
He's with us, his name is Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23)

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)

#IX. ZIYANKHULO (tongues)

Composed: 9/August/2014, 07/September/2017

Produced by Yesaya

Undeniably, “tongues” is one topic that needs much enlightenment or maybe let’s just say the whole theme of “spiritual gifts”. The song scratches on the surface as far as the issue is concerned. It had two main agendas: questioning the legitimacy of teaching believers how to speak in tongues.¹¹ The bible’s account is very clear people spoke in other tongues having been enabled by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The apostles ran no school where they taught their disciples to continually say syllables such as “Ba! Ba” Ma! Ma! Shaka! Ribo!” to be able to speak in tongues. Neither did they instruct their followers to say the name “Jesus” repeatedly to begin speaking in tongues. If the gift is authentic, why then have a human being force/coax others to speak in tongues? **ZIYANKHULO**, (tongues) sees this as a sign that this is not from God. Furthermore, the song attempts to iron out the misconception that “praying in the Spirit” means “praying in tongues”. In basic terms, “praying in the Spirit” means praying in sync with the Holy Spirit, that is, according to the will of God, which is revealed to us in Scripture (John 15:7; 1 John 3:22; 1 John 5:14-15).

Check out the resources below to have a better understanding of the matter:

1. Undervaluing the Pentecost: <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/TM13-3/undervaluing-pentecost-rc-sproul>
-

¹¹ Some church leaders in Malawi conduct lessons where they try to get their members to speak in tongues

2. Praying in the Spirit: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/praying-in-spirit/>
3. Groanings words cannot express: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/spirits-intercession/>
4. How should we pray?: <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1358/how-to-pray>

Intro

Just begin to offer him [God] sounds like a little child
And don't pay attention to how you feel
Or how you sound

Chorus

You don't teach someone how to speak in tongues (Acts 2:4)
This isn't something that can be taught in a classroom setting
(1 Corinthians 12:10, 11)
This is not like Mathematics to be graded if you've passed (Acts 19:6)

Outro

(Sermon clip plays)

#XI. DZINA LA YESU (the name of Jesus)

Composed: 18/June/2017

Produced by S.A.M.U.E.L

Religious syncretism¹² is common among several African Christians. With the growth of “prophetic” ministries, believers in this context (Africa) often find

¹² Religious syncretism is the fusion of diverse religious beliefs and practices: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/religious-syncretism>

themselves gripped with this kind of sin (Religious syncretism). Instead of putting all their faith and trust in God alone, they also put their trust in objects like charms or add traditional practices or beliefs to their worship. It is common today to find Christians having bumper stickers of their “man of God/prophet” fixed on their cars for protection; or they would have his portrait hanging on the walls of their houses as a guard against misfortune. Prayer is accompanied with objects like salt, water, or oil, often labelled as “anointed”.

However, Scripture exhorts us to put all our trust in Yahweh alone (Proverbs 3:5; Jeremiah 17:7-8, 17). Not only that, it warns us strongly against putting trust in objects, idols, charms, wealth, or anything apart from God himself: *“There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you”* (Deuteronomy 18:10): *“If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people”* (Leviticus 20:6); *“and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the women who sew magic charms on all their wrists and make veils of various lengths for their heads in order to ensnare people. Will you ensnare the lives of my people but preserve your own?’”* (Ezekiel 13:8); *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me”* (Exodus 20:4-5).

Certainly, it is a dangerous thing to put trust even in ourselves or wisdom, or any other man, whether their title is “man of God/prophet”, “prince/king” etc. (Psalms 118:8; Psalms 146:3; Proverbs 28:26). Jeremiah 17:5 says, *“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart*

turns away from the Lord.” In this regard, **DZINA LA YESU**, (the name of Jesus), urges Christians to place all trust in God, that is, the object of our faith must be God, and him alone. It is true the Lord uses the church to minister into our lives. He has appointed specific men like pastors to act as our spiritual shepherds. Even then, we should never fall into the sin of trusting these men as the ultimate help. They are mere servants (Luke 17:7-10; Acts 14:11-15). All faith must be put in God alone. *“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God”* (Psalms 20:7).

Check out this resource: Are we preachers or witchdoctors?
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/TM13-13/are-we-preachers-or-witch-doctors-conrad-mbewe>

Intro

(Masomphenya bemoans over the lack of faith in Jesus alone. It's like Jesus has no power up until anointing water/oil, salt, stickers etc. are added to prayer)

Verse 1

(The practices of our pagan forefathers is similar to our so-called “men of God”/prophets)

Allow me for a moment to be the late D.D Phiri¹³, the historian

Allow me to briefly narrate our history

If we carefully trace back the history of our forefathers

We'll discover many of them had a belief in spiritual powers

They would make sacrifices to the gods for blessings

They practiced this long before the coming of the missionaries

They already had some notion of the existence of a supreme being even before the arrival of David Livingstone¹⁴ (Romans 1:18-20)

¹³ The late D D Phiri was one of the famous and celebrated historians in Malawi

¹⁴ David Livingstone is considered as one of the early Christian missionaries to Malawi

And have you ever heard about sorcerers?
Have you ever heard about witchdoctors?
Our forefathers used to consult them when seeking some intervention from supernatural powers

Sadly, these people are now right in the church (Matthew 7:15; 2 Peter 2:1)
All they've done is to change their name
They're no longer being called sorcerers but "men of God"
Instead of pointing the church to Jesus
(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 5:42; 1 Corinthians 1:23)
They're pointing it to bangles, salt, anointing water, and other [unbiblical] practices
(Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Jeremiah 23:9-30; Micah 3:5; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

(The object of our faith must be God. That is, our faith must be placed in Jesus alone: the example of the woman with the issue of blood)

The woman with the issue of blood got healed when she touched Jesus' garment
Because of her faith in Jesus, and not in the garment (Mark 5:25-34)
Thus, there's no power in salt, anointing water, bangles, and stickers
Change comes about when our faith is placed in Jesus alone
(Mark 11:22-24; John 14:13; John 15:7; Hebrews 4:19-20; 1 John 3:22; 1 John 4:14-15)

Chorus

The name of Jesus is mighty¹⁵ (John 14:13; Hebrews 4:19-20)
I don't have to wear bangles on my arm to be protected
(Psalm 23; Psalm 34:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:18)
The name of Jesus is mighty
He answers me when I pray even without sprinkling anointing water
(Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 62)

¹⁵ The meaning of "in the name of Jesus": <https://player.fm/series/sermons-from-tmai/conrad-mbewe-what-is-meant-in-scripture-by-in-the-name-of-jesus-acts-238>

The moment we shall realize Yahweh is mighty (Psalm 24:8 1 Chronicles 29:11; Jeremiah 10:6; Jeremiah 22:37)

We shall no longer put our trust in objects

(Exodus 20:4-5; Leviticus 19:4; 1 Corinthians 10:15; 1 John 5:21)

We won't need additional items [apart from putting all faith in God]

(Proverbs 18:10)

Verse 2

(Putting trust in something else other than God is sin. And some of us have fallen into this trap without knowing it)

Please understand me

There's nothing inherently wrong with anointing water, bangles or stickers

What's wrong is putting faith/hope in these objects (Exodus 20:4-5)

That's witchcraft, satanic, and magic (Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Isaiah 8:19-22)

Imagine practicing witchcraft without consciously being aware of it?

It's tragic!!

And, sadly, many of us are busy practicing magic without knowing it

We're placing our faith in other things rather than Jesus

(There's no biblical basis to legitimize ministries that distribute/sell objects like salt, anointing water/oil, stickers etc. to accompany/aid our prayers or worship)

Paul's handkerchiefs healed the sick (Acts 19:11-12)

But he never established a ministry that handed out handkerchiefs

In fact, even though people got healed

The power was in God and not in the handkerchiefs (Acts 19:11)

(All power belongs to God part 1. Place all faith in him)

Go ahead and anoint the sick with oil if you may

But Jesus is the healer and not the oil

A prayer offered in faith brings healing (James 5:13-15)

Let's place our faith in God alone

Otherwise, we're sinning if we place it in something else

(All power belongs to God part 2. Hence, our faith must be placed in him alone: the example of the woman with the issue of blood)

Jesus felt some power leaving him when the woman with the issue of blood touched his garment (Mark 5:30-34)

This shows power was in Jesus, and not the garment

Thus, there's no power in salt, anointing water, bangles, and stickers

Change comes about when our faith is placed in Jesus alone

(Mark 11:22:24; John 14:13; John 15:7; Hebrews 4:19-20; 1 John 3:22; 1 John 4:14-15)

(Back to the chorus)

XIII. BARA (Hebrew word for create)

Composed: 18/February/2017

Produced by S.A.M.U.E.L

BARA (Hebrew), in English “create”, is a song that declares only God is the Creator (Genesis 1; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 40:28; Romans 1:25). In that regard, it refutes the false teaching of “positive confession”, that is, the teaching that alleges Christians can speak things into existence. Further, **BARA** asserts that Scripture teaches Christians to ask the Father when in need of something through prayer and that he grants it if it's in accordance with his will, *“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”* (1 John 5:13-15). Positive confession thus robs the Christian of the blessing to commune with their Father in prayer.

Intro

(a sermon clip plays)

Samuel, you're crazy bro!

This beat is so nice!

Only God Creates

Only God Creates

Verse 1

(It is a lie believers possess the power to choose when to die through their words)

If truly Christians choose with their words when to die

Then some who died long ago would've still been alive today

The mortuary would've been empty of believers

We wouldn't have had Christians dying on New Year's Day

They [Christians] would drop out of school knowing their dying day

Because I've seen Christians dying with their graduation day around the corner

They died after they'd struggled to pay their tuition fees

Therefore, it is utterly a lie to claim Christians have the power to choose when to die? (Ecclesiastes 9:12; Proverbs 27:1; Job 12:10; Psalm 31:15; James 4:14)

(They call this kind of teaching: positive confession)

Pay attention!

They call this kind of teaching: "positive confession"

They claim a Christian has the power to create with their words

Apparently, all they've got to do is to declare and decree what they want

(The irrationality of positive confession)

Let's suppose we actually can speak things into existence

Where were then we when some parts of Africa were severely hit with the Ebola virus?

Why didn't we just command with our own words: "Ebola leave!!!"?

(Isaiah 45:5-12)

[Truth is we didn't do it because we don't have such powers]

Chorus

There's only one creator, God

Another creator apart from him is simply fake (Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 45:5-12)

Verse 2

(The meaning of proverbs 18:21: Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits)

We've got to read proverbs 18:20 to grasp the right interpretation of verse 21

We've got to look at its context to rightly understand it and to avoid heresy

When it says death and life are in the power of the tongue, the meaning isn't that a Christian is a creator¹⁶

For there's only one creator, Yahweh (Nehemiah 9:6)

The meaning is simply that the manner of your speech in relation to others will either result in positive or negative effects (Job 19:2; Isaiah 50:4; Ephesians 4:29; James 3:3-12)

E.g. people tend to stay away from those with a quarrelsome mouth

While someone who speaks kindly to others attracts friends

(Proverbs 10:11; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 13:3; Proverbs 18:6-7)

The verse isn't saying we can literally create with our own words

But that the way we talk can either gain us good or bad things; friends or enemies

(Proverbs 10:15; Proverbs 11:9; Proverbs 15:2; Proverbs 18:20)

Hence, use your tongue wisely

(Back to the chorus)

¹⁶ Don't forget that this is a proverb

Verse 3

(The meaning of Matthew 17:20: "...if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you")

"You shall speak to the mountain: move and be cast into the sea"

Firstly, note that the verse hasn't made any inference to creating with words

If anything, what's being relocated is already in existence¹⁷

But secondly, we ought to be careful not to interpret the verse literally

Such an approach leads some to claim Christians have the power to create

However, I absolutely deny that's not what's being communicated here

The theme of the story here isn't the ability to use words to create

Jesus is rather stressing the point that if the disciples had faith in God as little as a mustard seed, then they would have done mighty things¹⁸

(Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:22-24)

The illustration he gives is commanding a mountain to move and be cast into a sea

(Scripture teaches us to ask our Father through prayer in faith when we need something. It never says we should speak it into existence)

When in need of something we don't create it but ask God through Jesus [in prayer]

(Matthew 7:7-11; Mark 11:22-24; John 14:13-14; Philippians 4:6)

And if it pleases him, he grants it

(Psalm 115:3; Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42; Romans 8:26-27; 1 John 5:14-15)

¹⁷ I.e. whoever "says to this mountain"

¹⁸ And this, through the power of God, and not in themselves

#XV. ANA CHABE (humbly children)

Composed: July, 2014

Produced by DJ Megi

One popular teaching in Word of Faith circles is the concept that Christians are “little gods”. The teaching is commonly drawn from passages like Psalm 82:6, “*You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you*”; or John 10:35, “*If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken*”.¹⁹ Others quote Genesis 1:26-27 to support this belief. On the contrary, **ANA CHABE** (literally “humbly children”), argues that when God said **let us make man** in our image and after our likeness, he simply **created man** in his own image. A human being; and not a “little deity” (Genesis 1:26-27). It affirms the teaching of Scripture that Christians are at best sons of God/Children of God. For instance, Matthew 5:9 says, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*” John 1:12 says, “*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*” Romans 8:14 says, “*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*”

The song acknowledges the work of sanctification that God does in the hearts of believers. They are being conformed into the image of his son Jesus (Romans 8:29). They are being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator (Colossians 3:10). Nonetheless, this does not mean Christians assume some form of deity. It proves quite crucial for Word of Faith preachers to maintain that Christians are “little gods”. For only then does it make sense for them to claim believers shouldn’t fall sick. “gods” don’t get ill; do they? For then does it make sense for them to claim Christians can speak things into existence. “gods” possess the power to create; don’t they? But as far as scripture is concerned, “*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*” (Romans 8:16). There will forever be a distinction between the Creator and the creature, “*O Lord, God of Israel, there is no*

¹⁹ Follow this link to get a clear understanding of these verses
<https://www.facebook.com/229857173792473/posts/twisted-scripture-number-28-john-1034-the-scripture-jesus-answered-them-is-it-no/1157999900978191/>

God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart" (1 Kings 8:23).

Intro

(a sermon clip plays)

Verse 1

(The faulty analogy)

They argue when goats get together they make a goat
When cats get together they make a cat
Therefore, since God is God, he makes ["little] gods"
Christians are "little gods" coz they're his children

Let me speak for myself and not everyone
I hear stuff like this being preached quite often
They say a Christian is a god with a small g, coz his father has a big G
Unfortunately, we've taken biology as a tool to describe spiritual happenings

Chorus

(a sermon clip plays)

Verse 2

(A concise description of God's image)

Yahweh is holy (Psalm 22:3; Isaiah 57:15; 1 Peter 1:16)
And so he created man without sin (Genesis 2:15-17; Ecclesiastes 7:29)
Yahweh possesses intellect (Isaiah 1:18; Isaiah 43:26; Isaiah 55:8-9)
And so he created man with some intellectual capacity
(Genesis 2:19; Isaiah 1:18; Isaiah 43:26; 1 Corinthians 13:11)
The image of God doesn't mean Christians are ["little] gods"
It [partly] means Adam was created without sin, a replica of God's holy nature
(Ephesians 4:24)

It means he was created with knowledge, the capability to know God (Colossians 3:10).

(God is conforming Christians into the image of his son Jesus. But that's no proof they're "little god")

God indeed conforms us to the image of his son after being saved (Romans 8:16)
But still, we aren't ["little] gods" but humbly children (John 1:12; Romans 8:16)

#XVIII. GOSPEL VS. SECULAR FEAT SIR CREEDY

Composed: 17/February/2017

Chorus written by Sir Creedy

Produced by Martin Angels and Manifest

By and large, Christian Hip Hop has evolved in a whole lot of ways since it started. One of the changes has been the shift from the genre explicitly being a medium of evangelism and teaching of biblical truth, to also being a mere expression of art and dissemination of positive messages. In Malawi, that has been the trend too. However, the development left some circles perplexed over the biblical warrant for creating art that's not overtly expressive of Jesus in its lyrics. Unfortunately, the issue got some into unhealthy debates/quarrels. Against this background, **GOSPEL VS. SECULAR** attempts to remind Christians of one of the fundamental principles of the gospel: salvation by the grace of God, through faith in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-10). Hence, it is improper to determine if one is truly saved based on whether they mention Jesus in their songs or not. The Lord knows his people anyway (John 10:14, 27; 2 Timothy 2:19). Furthermore, the song cautions believers against ungodly debates (2 Timothy 2:16, 23); and the sin of gossip (Psalm 101:5;

Philippians 4:8; Titus 3:1-2; James 4:11).²⁰ The song concludes by stating that at the end of the day, the standard of God's word is the same for every believer. Regardless of the direction of their art, the bible says they are the salt of the earth. They are the light of the world. A city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. Hence, every believer ought to let their light shine before others, so that when they see their good works, they may give glory to their Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16). Christians are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, so that they may proclaim the excellencies of him who called them out of darkness into his marvelous light (2 Peter 2:9).

Intro

Sir Creedy begins:

Hey maso! It's high time we say something

Masomphenya responds:

Sir Creedy I see you

It's sad that unprofitable debates are now everywhere

Verse 1

(The manner in which the conversation, if not gossip is conducted)

Is Gwamba²¹ a secular or gospel rapper?

I'm confused, is he really saved or not?

How about KBG?

I think he backslid coz he no longer mentions Jesus explicitly in his music

Suffix* has collaborated with Martse*

And then he's defending himself saying we shouldn't judge him

This Suffix guy shouldn't waste my time!

I'd rather listen to the late Brenda Fassie²²

²⁰ Note: this was after the artist noted some Christians would spend days just debating whether a particular artist was saved or not, and if their music could be categorized as gospel or secular.

²¹ Gwamba, KBG, Suffix, and Martse are celebrated hip hop artists in Malawi

*Note: Suffix is generally held as a 'gospel' hip-pop artist; whereas Martse is labeled as a secular artist

²² The late Brenda Fassie was a famous pop artist in South Africa

(A response to the conversation/gossip)

As Christians, we're preoccupied with backbiting
All we do from morning till evening is quarrel on unprofitable topics
Honestly, Satan has duped us on this one (John 8:44)

Chorus

Nonsense is what we're spending time on
it's funny how we easily get entangled by lots of things
God's soldiers, don't let Satan entangle us (Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7)
Because confusion is one of Satan's weapons

Is it secular or gospel?
None of them can tell
Okay, alright, but don't forget we're in a warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)
Masomphenya, don't forget this is warfare

Verse 2

(Don't waste time on unprofitable debates/gossip: God is primarily concerned with an individual's personal relationship with him)

We're wasting time debating matters that aren't edifying us in Christ
(2 Timothy 2:16, 23)

Is so and so a secular or gospel artist?

However, Christ is primarily concerned with one's intimate relationship with him,
not music (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; John 17:3)

Of course some of these artists are causing confusion

But such is no excuse for gossip

(Psalm 101:5; Philippians 4:8; Titus 3:1-2; James 4:11)

In fact, Jesus died for gossipers too (2 Corinthians 5:21)

(Don't waste time on unprofitable debates/gossip: Believers are engaged in a spiritual welfare)

We Christians are in a battle (Ephesians 6:10-20)

We can't be wasting time quarrelling on trivial matters (2 Timothy 2:2, 16, 23)

Often times we're gossiping in the name of "debating"

Instead of praying and exhorting each other in the Word of God

(1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25)

(Don't waste time on unprofitable debates/gossip: God knows those who're his)

An artist who sings about Jesus, and yet their deeds conform to the ways of Satan doesn't belong to him (Luke 3:7-8; Matthew 7:15-20)

They can mention Jesus all they want

Don't be bothered by it, for God knows those who are his

(Matthew 7:21-23; John 10:14, 27; 2 Timothy 2:19)

(Back to the chorus)

Verse 3

(The standard of God's word is the same for every believer, regardless of the direction of their art: "the goal is the glory of God")

What I know is this, whatever we do, whether in private or not, Jesus should be glorified (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)

We are light in the darkness, we've light in our hearts (Matthew 5:13-16)

So Jesus must be seen in our deeds, and glory should go to him

(Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9, 12)

(The big picture)

There's a bigger picture

[Namely], every believer is a minister (1 Peter 2:5, 9, 12)

He shines in the world (Matthew 5:13-16)

When People see his deeds they render glory to Jesus (Matthew 5:13-16)

So it's immaterial to say am not a "Christian rapper" but a "rapper who's a Christian"

Because you're still a minister even though you're not a preacher man
That's the bigger picture

(Mentioning Jesus in a song doesn't mean the artist is saved. And not mentioning the name doesn't mean the artist isn't saved)

It doesn't mean those who mention Jesus in their songs are saved
(Matthew 7:21-23)

And it doesn't mean those who don't mention Jesus don't love him
Serving God isn't limited to preaching

(Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

But everyone who is saved bears good fruit
(Matthew 7:17-18; Matthew 12:33-37; Luke 3:8)

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)

#XX. AFTER DEATH

Composed: 20/October/2015

Produced by Chizmo

AFTER DEATH refutes the following false beliefs: purgatory; annihilation (the teaching punishment in hell will be momentary); the non-existence of hell; and the idea that hell contradicts the loving character of God. The bible clearly teaches that it is appointed for men to die once, after which they should face judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore, there's no other opportunity to believe in Christ Jesus and be saved apart from now, whilst we're still alive. Furthermore, God is holy and just. He must therefore give man what he rightly deserves (Psalms 62:12; Revelation 22:12). Sinners will thus be cast into hell because they rightly deserve to be there; whereas those who by grace put their faith in Christ Jesus, will on his

account inherit eternal life (Proverbs 11:18; Romans 6:23). Moreover, this punishment in hell goes on forever and ever, never ceasing (Isaiah 66:22-24; Matthew 18:6-9). Romans 2:6-8 states, *“He [God] will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury”*. In the words of Arthur W. Pink, *“The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. It is the displeasure and indignation of Divine equity against evil. It is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.”* Blessed is the one whose sins are forgiven in Christ Jesus (Psalm 32:1-2).

Verse 1

(There’s no purgatory. There’s no chance to be saved after death)

Allow me to begin by saying this:

It’s quite unfortunate for you who claim there’s purgatory

Truth is when one dies, what’s left is judgement before the King of glory

(Hebrews 9:27)

I’m afraid there are no more chances to repent after death

Now’s the time to repent from your sin, to get right with God

Now’s the time to believe in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:15)

(Hell is real and its punishment is everlasting)

Hell isn’t a jest (Mathew 13:49, 50; Luke 12:5)

Sinners will indeed burn forever (Mark 9:47-48)

They won’t burn out and annihilate (Revelation 14:11)

If such was the case I would’ve said it isn’t that bad

Since they would enter hell, burn for a while, and then cease existing

But No! The punishment goes on forever (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:47-48)

(Hell doesn’t mean God isn’t loving. He’s a holy and just God. Hence he must reward each man according to his deeds)

Of course, God is loving (Isaiah 49:10; 1 John 4:7-8)

And at the same he's the righteous judge
(Psalm 7:11; Psalm 75:7; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 4:12)
Therefore, hell is nothing but his wrath (Romans 1:18; John 3:36)
In his justice giving sinners their rightful reward
(Nahum 1:2-6; Isaiah 66:16 Romans 6:23)

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)

#XXI. DZUKA (wake-up call)

Composed: 17/January/2017

Produced by Chizmo

Metaphorically referring to Christians as soldiers, **DZUKA** ('wake-up call' in English) urges believers to be vigilant in the service of our Lord. It was inspired by Ephesians 5:15-17, *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"*. To underscore the importance of making the best use of one's time since "the days are evil", the song cites painful life experiences like death and also addresses some wicked and immoral acts in the context of Malawi. For instance, at the time the song was penned, people with albinism were being ambushed and murdered mercilessly, over the false belief that their body parts can bring good luck and wealth. In addition, in some parts of the country, it was alleged some "human-being", dubbed the "blood-sucker", was breaking into people's houses at night and sucking human blood (this was pure witchcraft of course). Beyond Malawi, the song cites atrocious persecutions of Christians in countries like China and North Korea.

Believers have come to the light through the atoning work of Christ. Thus, they ought to check how they conduct themselves, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. They ought not to be foolish, but understand the Lord's will.

Intro:

Wake up, soldier! Wake up!

Verse 1

(The days are evil)

Malawi has been traumatized

Innocent people with albinism are being murdered mercilessly

I also hear the "blood-sucker" has been stoned in the lower shire (i.e. in the southern part of Malawi)

More and more lives are being claimed through road accidents

Most nations don't fear God (Romans 3:9-18)

They seem to be pushing the devil's agenda

They say homosexuality is normal

Toddlers today are being exposed to filth

Pornography is now everywhere

Profane language is just normal

Dressing naked is fashionable

(Amidst the evils, Christians ought to faithfully serve their God)

But don't sleep, Peter wake up!

Can't you pray with me for an hour? (Matthew 26:40-41)

This is not the time to be idle God's soldier (John 9:4)

Let's get into the water we're fishermen

The harvest is plentiful in the field

Let's pray earnestly to the Lord to send out laborers into his harvest
(Matthew 9:37-38)

(If sinners gladly worship and serve their false gods, how much more us who claim we belong to the true God?)

The ungodly are busy serving their passions

How much more us who claim we belong to the true God?

(Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Acts 14:15)

Unfortunately, we're slacking in prayer (Isaiah 62:6-7; Isaiah 65:1; Hosea 7:7)

We don't spend time in God's word

(Deuteronomy 6:1-4; Exodus 33:13; Joshua 1:8; Isaiah 1:3)

Instead, we're loving the world (Jeremiah 4:22)

Let's seriously change our ways

(2 Chronicles 7:14, Romans 12:1-2 Colossians 3:2; 1 John 1:9)

(Christians, especially pastors ought to be concerned when they see fellow believers being deceived by false teachings)

Soldier, how come you're not concerned when God's sheep are being misled?

(Isaiah 56:10; Ezekiel 34:1-10)

God shouldn't raise stones to cry out (Luke 19:40)

Behold! Foxes have entered in the church (Matthew 7:15)

They're devouring the sheep right under our watch

Soldier, do something this is war

(1 Peter 5:14; Isaiah 56:10; Romans 10:14-17; Ephesians 6:10-20)

Let's proclaim the truth, even if it means persecution

(Ezekiel 3:17, Matthew 10:16-22: John 15:18; 2 Timothy 3:12)

(Let the testimonies of fellow saints who're faithfully serving God and suffering for him elsewhere encourage us)

Fellow soldiers are being murdered and slaughtered in China and North Korea

Our Fellow soldiers are being persecuted

Let us equally be stirred to serve God in our own local contexts

We're in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3-4)

We shouldn't let the devil deceive us (Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7)

(These are the last days/ Believers shouldn't be entangled in sin)

Soldier, we've no time to be playing around (2 Timothy 2:4)

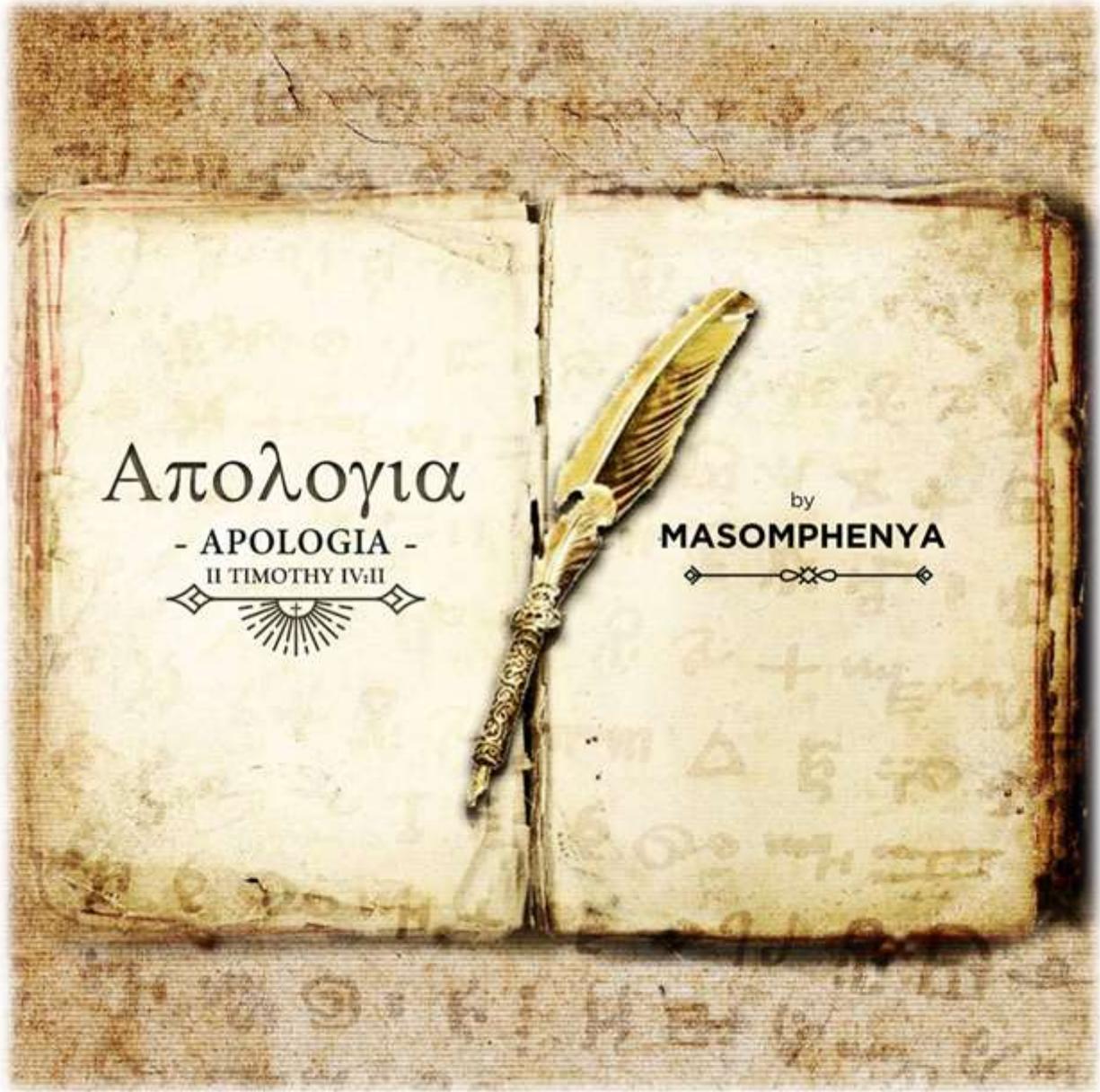
We've slept for too long

Let's rise up!

Preach the word! The end of all things is near! Jesus is coming soon! (1 Peter 4:7)

Outro

(a sermon clip plays)



Apologia artwork (font cover)



- I. Intentions
II. Osajaja feat. Tiya Joan
III. Osamangomez feat. Anyo Banda
IV. Senza feat. Saxess & Chrispine
V. Giving vs. Gambling feat. Emmax
VI. Umphawi ndi tchimo
VII. Sing'anga 'mkulu feat. Emmanuel Khumalo
VIII. Mulungu kulibe feat. Suffix & S.A.M.U.E.L
IX. Ziyankhulo
X. F.I.F (Faith Is a Force)
XI. Dzina la Yesu
XII. The dialogue
XIII. Bara
XIV. Christian gods
XV. Ana chabe
XVI. Biggy biggie feat. Ucizi Manda
XVII. Forms & Substance
XVIII. Gospel vs. Secular feat. Sir Creedy
XIX. Moyo wako
XX. After death
XXI. Dzuka

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