

“U.S. President Barack Obama has said there's no doubt that Syria launched chemical weapons attacks against its own people.”

Much of the news lately concerns Syria and the question is: what should the rest of the world do about it?

Raquel and I have been revising the Tagalog and Cebuano translations and over and over again in the Prophets and the Psalms we see God encouraging the leaders of the land to serve with justice, that is do what is right for the common man.

I have no idea what the countries of the world should do; all I can do is pray that they will act justly.

Just felt led to ask that you pray with me, for wisdom for the leaders of the world, and that they will be convicted to do His will, to do right by those He created.

For me as an American, but also living in the Philippines, I also pray that our leaders in America and the Philippines will also do right by their own people,

“to give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.

Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people.” [Psalm 82]

And along with the Psalmist, my prayer to our Father above is:

Rise up, O God, and judge/[rule] the earth, for all the nations belong to you. – vs 8 of NLT

Or as in another translation:

Do something, God! Judge/[Rule] the nations of the earth; they belong to you. – CEV

Note: “Rise up” or “Do something” reflects a common Hebrew imperative of encouraging the addressee to act.

Note: I added the concept of “rule” to “judge” since the Hebrew word “shapat” reflected in the English translations “judge” includes executive powers as well, and not just judicial as implied by the English word “judge”. Note that the “Judges”/“Shapats” in the book of “Judges” were also leaders and even generals. Hence “judge” is a little too restrictive.

Note: that most English translations read “gods” for verse 1 in Psalm 82. But more than likely the Hebrew elohim here means “powerful ones”, meaning earthly rulers in the context of Psalm 82, at least this is how Jesus seemed to have understood it -

(John 10:34,35). Also it does not seem to stand to reason that God would be rebuking the gods (that in actuality don't even exist) for not taking care of the poor and destitute.

Raquel and I continue to enjoy working with our team of translators, though I'll have to admit, by the time 5 PM comes around, I'm dead tired.

Praying you are doing well. And thanks again for your prayers. Raquel specifically prays that God will continue to give her health, that her respiratory system will be strong.

Yours,
Kermit and Raquel (praying that His will, will be done)