

Sermon: 4th Sunday in Advent

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 (v.16): (God said to King David:) “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Theme: The Son of David

Goal: The promise of an everlasting King was accomplished in Jesus

Dear Friends,

Introduction: To understand our text better we have to do a short review of Israel’s history. When Moses delivered the people from the slavery in Egypt, he took them to Mount Sinai, where they received the 10 Commandments, and where God ordered them to build a special tent, the Tabernacle, as a sign of His presence among the people. The 10 Commandments were put inside a golden ark, and this Ark of the Covenant was put inside the most holy place of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25). Wherever the people travelled, the tent was carried with them and pitched where they settled, till they reach the Holy Land. This had happened more or less 400 years before David. – Now, David had united the 12 tribes in one big and strong nation, had built his own house and palace from stones and wood, - but the Ark of the Covenant was still hosted in a tent. David decided to build a temple to host the Ark of the Covenant. He consulted Prophet Nathan, but after a while, God sent a message through the Prophet. And, what is amazing in this story, *in a beautiful play of words God says that David is not to build Him a house (temple); rather, God will build David a house (royal dynasty) that will last forever!* (CSSB p. 432). *This prophecy may be the peak of Israel’s history* (ABC 387). And this is the point which brings this text to this 4th Sunday in Advent, just before Christmas. The royal dynasty that would last forever was accomplished in Christ, the Son of David, and in His Kingdom!

I – The line of promise

We can only understand the Old Testament in view of God's promise to redeem humankind. From the very beginning after Adam's fall, the line of the Promise went through one of his son called Seth (Genesis 4:25,26). After the flood the promise was renewed to Shem, one of Noah's son (Genesis 9:26-27); then to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:2-3); then to Judah (one of Jacob's sons) and his royal descendant (Genesis 49:8-11); and now to David (CSSB p.420). This helps us to understand Jesus' genealogy at the beginning of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. It is not just a list of names, but it is God developing His salvation plan through people. Matthew is specific at the beginning of his Gospel: "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the Son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

David got two big promises from God in our text. The first one was: "When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name." And this was accomplished in Solomon, David's son who built the big temple of Jerusalem.

The second promise God gave to David was: "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." *And indeed, the house of David would rule for a phenomenal 400 years on the throne of Zion, a dynastic tenure which is virtually unheard of in the ancient world where kings were replaced like light bulbs in most countries.* (Phil Brandt, 4th Advent). But 400 years is not "forever"! What is behind this promise?

II – The accomplishment of the promise

This brings us to Christmas. The angel promised Mary the Son she would conceive: “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most high. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end” (Luke 1:32,33). The angel is echoing the words of our text. *Jesus is the fulfilment of a promise which God made to David. Jesus, the son of Mary, connected legally and biologically to David, fulfilled this promise God had made to David a millennium earlier.* (Phil Brandt).

We confessed with the Psalm 89 for today: “I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

One of the first Confession of Faith even during Jesus’ ministry was: “Jesus, Son of David.” Jesus was received by the people shouting at His Triumphal Entry in Jerusalem: “Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest” (Matthew 21:9) - which brings us back to Christmas again as we remember the song of the angels to the shepherds: “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). - Many sick people appealed for Jesus’ help pleading: “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us” (Matthew 20:31).

III – The Kingdom now

The eternal Kingdom promised to David and accomplished in Jesus is the Kingdom we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy Kingdom come”; and that we confess in the Creed: *I believe in the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.* Jesus established His Kingdom through His death and resurrection, and has been gathering His people since then, ruling over us with grace and love. People are

more important for Jesus than bricks and buildings, and the church exists with a physical temple or without it. By God's grace we were called to be part of His kingdom, and we are challenged to enlarge this Kingdom bringing more people to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Christmas is always a good opportunity to invite our relatives and friends to come to the church and to hear the Good News. Our prayer is that God would touch their hearts and enlighten all with the Light of His grace in Jesus.

Conclusion: Many Christmas carols and hymns mention Jesus as the Son of David and as the King. Take note in the hymns we are singing today, and search about this in the most common carols we sing and hear even in the shopping malls. Our special order of Service for Advent highlights before the Absolution: *From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Saviour! Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.*

*God has a much broader view than we do. David and Solomon thought that they had seen the salvation of God, but He was only beginning. The Son of David would build a much grander thing than the wooden and stone structure that Solomon had built for all its glory. Jesus would build His church **with people**, a structure some two billion people strong today, and He is still building. He will build until that last day when He takes His people home to be where He is, and as He is, perfectly and blissfully happy. It is bigger than I can imagine, but I can trust Him to do it. My life is in His hands and that is a really good place to be. (Phil Brandt). Amen.*

Pastor Carlos Walter Winterle, Cape Town, 21 December 2014