

FIRST MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

December 5, 2007

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Watertown, WI

JESUS IS A RULER FOREVER - 2 Samuel 7:11b-14

Jesus once said to the Pharisees, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you have eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have eternal life.” (John 5:39-40) So often when people read the Bible they fail to see Jesus Christ. They look at the Bible as a rule book that tells you what you have to do in order to get to heaven. That is not the purpose of the Scriptures. As the Apostle John concludes his Gospel, he writes, “These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

As we begin our midweek preparations for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we are turning to the Old Testament and see how the Scriptures do testify of Jesus. This year we will see that Jesus is a descendant of kings and a king himself. As we hear our Heavenly Father speak to King David about three thousand years ago we learn that **JESUS IS A KING FOREVER. I) David's Descendant Has Established an Eternal Kingdom and II) David's Descendant Is A Special Person with A Special Mission.**

DAVID'S DESCENDANT HAS ESTABLISHED AN ETERNAL KINGDOM

King David had built himself a beautiful palace in Jerusalem. God had allowed him to defeat his enemies and to secure his position as King of Israel. David looked at what God had allowed him to accomplish and then realized that he was living in a beautiful palace, but the place of worship where the Israelites worshipped God was a tent. This was the same tent that God had the Children of Israel build after He had given them his law on Mt. Sinai. David said to the Prophet Nathan, “This doesn't seem right. I am living in a beautiful palace with walls of cedar and the ark of God is in a tent.” (2 Samuel 7:2) Nathan told David that he should proceed with whatever he had in mind for the Lord was with him. Then the Word of the Lord came to Nathan and the Lord instructed Nathan that he was to tell David that David would not build a house for the Lord, but that David's offspring would build this house for the Lord. Listen to what God said, “The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you. When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one

who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (Vv. 11b-13)

Who is God referring to here? Well, first we have to say the Lord is referring to Solomon. Because David’s son, Solomon did build the beautiful temple in Jerusalem to the Lord God and the ark of God was housed in that temple until the time of the Babylonian Captivity, when the Babylonians destroyed the temple Solomon had built for the Lord. In fact, Solomon said when he began building the temple in Jerusalem, “I intend, therefore to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, my God, as the Lord told my father David when he said, “Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build a temple for my Name.” (1 Kings 5:5) So Solomon understood that what he was doing in building the temple for the Lord was in fulfillment of the prophecy that Nathan had given to his father, David.

The immediate fulfillment of part of this prophecy is found in King Solomon and his building of the temple. However, there is more to this prophecy. Jesus had told the Jews of his day, “and now one greater than Solomon is here.” (Matthew 12:42b) This prophecy is also pointing to Jesus. Jesus has built a house for the Lord’s name and the throne of his kingdom has been established forever. This house is not like the temple adorned with gold that Solomon had built. This house is made up of living human stones. It is the Holy Christian Church. Jesus Christ is a descendant of King David. In fact, when you read the genealogies of both Joseph and Mary, you find that they both are descendants of King David. That is why when Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor issued an order for a census and required that everyone go back to the hometown of their ancestors, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the home of King David and Joseph was a direct descendant from David as was Mary. So Jesus Christ is a descendant of King David. He did come from David’s body just as Nathan had prophesied. The house that Jesus built however was not like the magnificent physical building of stone, wood and adorned with gold that Solomon built. The house that Jesus has built is more wonderful and spectacular. The Apostle Peter refers to the house that Jesus builds. He writes, “You also like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

The house that Jesus has built and continues to build is his Holy Christian Church. In his great love God has made us members of that spiritual house. When you and I were baptized God placed us in his house and made us members of his church. This kingdom that Jesus has established is an everlasting kingdom. In all of our lifetimes we have seen nations rise and fall. Countries that once were considered world powers are no more. However, the kingdom that Jesus has established exists to this day and will exist after the end of time. The Holy Christian Church will continue throughout eternity. We will live and reign with Jesus Christ and all the saints forever. This is what God promised David his descendant would do. God told David his descendant would build him a house and God would establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

In Jesus we see God completely fulfill the promise he made to David. But there is more.

DAVID'S DESCENDANT IS A SPECIAL PERSON WITH A SPECIAL MISSION

Listen to what God also told David, "I will be his father and he will be my son. When he does wrong I will punish him with the rod of men with floggings inflicted by men." (v. 14) God reveals to David that his descendant would be a special person and he would have a special mission.

God said, "I will be his father and he will be my son." This child whose birthday we are celebrating in three weeks is not just a human being. He is the Son of God. The Son of God not like you and I are children of God. This is God himself taking on human flesh and blood and becoming one of us. As we read the New Testament and listen to Jesus speak about himself. It becomes very clear that this is no ordinary human being. Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. As Jesus even said to his enemies, "Before Abraham was; I am."

Not only is Jesus' person different from ours his mission is different than ours. Listen to what God says, "When he does wrong I will punish him with the rod of men with floggings inflicted by men." Now Jesus never did wrong did he? The Bible tells us that he was in all points tempted as we are yet he was without sin. Yet the Scriptures also testify that "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us. So that in him we might be the righteousness of God." Even though Jesus never sinned, God considered him the greatest sinner of all time when he laid our sins on Jesus and punished him with the rod of men and with floggings inflicted by men. Here in this prophecy we see the crucifixion of Jesus foretold for our sins and the sins of the world. So this descendant of David was a different person. He is the Almighty God. He also had a special mission. He came here to fulfill the promise that God had made to deliver the human race from the eternal punishment that we should receive for our sins. He came to establish a kingdom that would last forever. Jesus Christ is that King and he rules over an everlasting kingdom and his rule will never end.

What comfort and peace that gives to everyone of us here today. By the grace of God we are members of that eternal kingdom. Our king is an everlasting king. His rule over us will never cease. We won't wake up tomorrow and find out that we have a new leader. Our leader does not have to face re-election. He does not have a term of office that comes to an end and will have to be replaced. He is our Lord and Savior now and forever. For Jesus Christ is King forever

Amen.