

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

Psalm 119:9-16

I treasure your promise in my heart. (v11)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, & in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life & death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, & have cut off all your enemies from before you; & I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel & will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, & be disturbed no more; & evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; & I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled & you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, & I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, & I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, & he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house & your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do the following inform this promised kingdom? *Note: in 2 Kings 24 the historic Davidic dynasty ends after 20 kings. See Genesis 3:9-15; Psalm 110; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:1-18, 22:41-46; Luke 3:23-38, 20:41-44;*
2. As continue our consideration of the Old Testament covenants, Read *Hebrews ch4-10*; what is(are) the shortcoming(s) of the Old Sinai/Mosaic Covenant? What makes the New Covenant more (eternally) effective? *Hint don't get hung up on who Melchizedek is- see Genesis 14:13-20*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Today is St. Patrick's Day. It can be hard to separate mere tradition from truth in the lives of such legendary historic people. Review his Wikipedia page: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick Without his kingdom work in Ireland & Brittan, St. Boniface may have never been sent to Germany to convert our pre-Lutheran ancestors. What stands out to you about St. Patrick's life? What details of his life make him "relevant" all over again for our century as we face a post-empire, neo-pagan age? The manly hymn 450 ELW/ 188 LBW is attributed to St. Patrick.
4. Consider *John 12:24*. How do the citations in #1, 2 illustrate this point: that the death of the kingdom of David points to the inauguration of the Kingdom of God/Heaven? When has something in your life died for the gospel, only to be reborn better, fuller, & richer?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus says his death on the cross will draw all people to him (*John 12:32-33; cf. 10:17-18*). What makes a King who dies for his people more worthy than a ruler who sends people to die for him? What makes humans prefer governments that send them to die over a King who gives them his very own life?
6. "Sir, we would see Jesus" (*John 12:21b*) is carved into the pulpit of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA. How is this a good for our own everyday lives, interacting with "pre-Christians"?

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

03.17.24

Series: Guaranteed!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God doesn't go back on his word

A Father's Son

Even after the throne is given up, a son will return for it

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body, & I will establish his kingdom.
...I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (*v12b, 13b*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth & dies, it remains a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

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