

Third Sunday in Advent
Dec. 15, 2019
II Samuel 7:8-11, 16

In Christ Jesus, whose Kingdom is everlasting, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

The largest cities in our country are filled with them. They are taking over whole blocks, sidewalks, parks, and parking lots. I'm talking about homeless people! One of the many problems in our society is homelessness. Even in the midst of a great economy there are hundreds of thousands of people in America who have no home; and millions upon millions of people throughout the world who do not have a home as we have; with four walls, a roof, windows, heat and lights.

One of the most talked about expressions of Christmas spirit in our society is the feeding of the poor and the housing of the homeless. In fact there are advertisements that suggest that that is what Christmas is all about: feeding the poor, giving shelter to the homeless and less fortunate; showing physical love and bringing about physical peace on earth and good will between people on this earth

While all of these actions are important for us Christians to be concerned about and willing to support with our time, talent, and treasures, they do not adequately describe the true Christmas spirit.

Real Christmas spirit is not centered in such worldly concerns as the poor, the homeless, the needy and securing peace on earth; real Christmas spirit is centered in the GIFT of God—the Father's Gift of His Son, Jesus Christ on that wondrous night over 2,000 years ago. Real Christmas spirit is centered in that great gift of our Savior and in all of the other spiritual blessings we receive from Him.

One of those blessings is the gift of our **REAL HOME** seeing Jesus face to face. The home that Jesus has earned for us to live in forever is the **REAL HOME OF HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM.**

This Christmas let us realize that not only are the homeless of this world homeless here on earth, but they and all of us would all be homeless without Christ. So from our sermon text this morning let's:

LET CHRISTMAS REMIND US OF OUR REAL HOME!

II Samuel deals primarily with the rule of King David. In the six chapters prior to our text we hear about David's rise to power and his victories. We are told of how David was crowned as King over Judah in Hebron; how the followers of David increased and increased until he was anointed King over all of Israel. In the first six chapters we read of how David recaptured the city of Jerusalem and called it the "city of David." We read of his victories over the Philistines. In Chapter 6 we hear of David bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Through these 6 chapters we see again and again how God was with David and how God blessed David, giving him victory after victory over his enemies. In the first verses of chapter 7 we are told that David settled in the palace in Jerusalem and there was finally peace in his nation, a rest from warfare.

At this point, with peace and prosperity all around him, David decided to build a permanent home for the ark of the LORD; symbolizing the LORD'S presence among His people. Up until this time the Ark of the Covenant had been in the tabernacle or large tent that was moved around. We read verses 1-2: **NOW IT CAME TO PASS WHEN THE KING WAS DWELLING IN HIS HOUSE, AND THE LORD HAD GIVEN HIM REST FROM ALL HIS ENEMIES ALL AROUND, THAT THE KING SAID TO NATHAN THE PROPHET, "SEE NOW, I DWELL IN A HOUSE OF CEDAR, BUT THE ARK OF GOD DWELLS INSIDE TENT CURTAINS."** Nathan replied to David with these words: **"GO, DO ALL THAT /S IN YOUR HEART, FOR THE LORD /S WITH YOU."**

But the prophet Nathan spoke too soon. In the next several verses we are told that the LORD comes to Nathan and tells him to inform David that He does not want David to build a house for Him. We read verses 4-7: **BUT IT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO NATHAN, SAYING, "GO AND TELL MY SERVANT DAVID, 'THUS SAYS THE LORD: "WOULD YOU BUILD A HOUSE FOR ME TO DWELL IN? "FOR I HAVE NOT DWELT IN A HOUSE SINCE THE TIME THAT I BROUGHT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL UP FROM EGYPT, EVEN TO THIS DAY, BUT**

HAVE MOVED ABOUT IN A TENT AND IN A TABERNACLE. "WHEREVER I HAVE MOVED ABOUT WITH ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, HAVE I EVER SPOKEN A WORD TO ANYONE FROM THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, WHOM I COMMANDED TO SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, SAYING, 'WHY HAVE YOU NOT BUILT ME A HOUSE OF CEDAR?

That is where the words of our sermon text begin. In these words the LORD God clearly tells David that instead of David building a house for the LORD, the LORD would build a house for David, an everlasting throne and kingdom. As for a permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant, the LORD would use David's son, Solomon to build the temple. We read the first verse of our sermon text: **NOW THEREFORE, THUS SHALL YOU SAY TO MY SERVANT DAVID, 'THUS SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS: "I TOOK YOU FROM THE SHEEPFOLD, FROM FOLLOWING THE SHEEP, TO BE RULER OVER MY PEOPLE, OVER ISRAEL.**

The LORD God reminds David that it was He, the LORD--Jehovah who brought David from the flocks, the job of herding sheep and chose him to be King over His people. He is revealing to David that his rule over God's kingdom is all a part of God's plan of salvation. The LORD chose David and brought him to this position of power and prominence in order to establish a house, a kingdom whose rule would last forever.

We read verse 9: **AND I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU HAVE GONE, AND HAVE CUT OFF ALL YOUR ENEMIES FROM BEFORE YOU, AND HAVE MADE YOU A GREAT NAME, LIKE THE NAME OF THE GREAT MEN WHO ARE ON THE EARTH.**

What comforting words for David. It was the almighty God who showered His grace upon David in giving him victory after victory to establish his kingdom. This was all done as part of God's eternal plan to set up the house of David from whom the Savior of the world would someday come. The LORD would establish such a great kingdom that the name of David would be great, like the other great and powerful rulers on the earth. God would do this so that the term **SON OF DAVID**, given to the Messiah, would signify greatness, might and a powerful, protective rule over His people who would eagerly long for Him.

Do you remember the words of the crowd on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey? They cried out: **HOSANNA, TO THE SON OF DAVID, BLESSED IN HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.** Jesus is that powerful, almighty **SON OF DAVID!**

In verse 10 we read, **MOREOVER I WILL APPOINT A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND WILL PLANT THEM, THAT THEY MAY DWELL IN A PLACE OF THEIR OWN AND MOVE NO MORE; NOR SHALL THE SONS OF WICKEDNESS OPPRESS THEM ANYMORE, AS PREVIOUSLY.** These words were first fulfilled in David and Solomon's day when there was peace for quite some time, but again its ultimate fulfillment was found in the **SON OF DAVID**, Jesus Christ whose people are planted in Him, in His Word, into His Kingdom where He rules in their hearts and no enemies can oppress them. For in Christ's Kingdom we have perfect and eternal peace.

The LORD goes on to say in verse 11: **SINCE THE TIME THAT I COMMANDED JUDGES TO BE OVER MY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND HAVE CAUSED YOU TO REST FROM ALL YOUR ENEMIES. ALSO THE LORD TELLS YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE YOU A HOUSE.** Rather than David building a house for the LORD, it was the LORD who would be making a house for David and in verse 16 we find that that house and kingdom shall be established forever. We read, **AND YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR KINGDOM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOREVER BEFORE YOU. YOUR THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOREVER.**

If we were left with only these words of II Samuel, we may come up with some interpretation such as an eternal earthly rule in Jerusalem by David and his descendents or Israel being planted in Palestine

forever. But Scripture interprets Scripture, not man. In our second Scripture reading this morning from Luke 1 we heard the angel Gabriel give us the fulfillment of this Old Testament prophecy and show us the correct God-inspired interpretation of our text: We read again Luke 1:31-33: **AND BEHOLD, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BRING FORTH A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS. "HE WILL BE GREAT, AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE HIGHEST; AND THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID. "AND HE WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER, AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END."**

Yes, in our text the LORD God was speaking to David about his earthly kingdom, up to a point. God was promising to establish a double kingdom. One would be an earthly kingdom ruled over by David and Solomon and his descendents for many generations. But the second kingdom the LORD was talking about would be an everlasting kingdom, a spiritual kingdom ruled over by David's Son, not Solomon, but the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. This eternal kingdom would be a rule by Christ in the hearts of His people. It would be a kingdom of peace and harmony---sin, death, Satan and hell have all been defeated and it will be an everlasting victory.

Yes, God established a house for David and He has done this for each of us. The gift of the Christ-child assures us of this fact. So this morning our text again lays on our hearts this thought:

LET CHRISTMAS REMIND US OF OUR HEAVENLY HOME

I: A HOME GRACIOUSLY PREPARED FOR US BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

Just as God faithfully worked things out in David's life to fulfill His promise of a kingdom, a house to rule over, so also He will faithfully work things out in our life so that we can receive that heavenly home prepared for us. God said to David, **I WILL MAKE YOU A HOUSE**, and He says to us: **I HAVE MADE YOU A HOME, A HOME IN HEAVEN!** That's also what Christmas says to us. Christ made His home here on earth so that we would have a home with Him in heaven. The Lord has taken us homeless, lost, refugees, living in the depths of sin and despair and made us to be His children, children of the King.

II: THIS HOME HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE SENDING OF HIS SON.

Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the King of heaven and earth, the Prince of Peace has established His Kingdom, His rule in our hearts through faith. His kingdom of loyal subjects, His believers shall never come to an end. We shall be taken from this world to the world that is to come, to our **REAL HOME** in eternity. And what a home!

III: IT IS A HOME OF EVERLASTING PEACE AND REST

Today there are many broken homes. Broken because of man's sinful pride, arrogance, stupidity, foolishness, hatred, envy, selfishness, greed, anger and self-love. Even in Christian homes there is at times disharmony, anger, pride, rebellion and lying. No home is filled with perfect peace and how many are at rest, especially at this hectic time of the year. Life's problems, frustrations and catastrophes cascade down upon us every day.

But the Lord, who has been with us every step of our way, has granted us true spiritual peace and rest from our worst enemies and greatest fears: the power of Satan, the curse of the Law, everlasting death and damnation. Our home is already secured and being prepared, all that is left is for the Lord Jesus to return, to come again and take us to our **REAL HOME OF PEACE AND REST.**

Yes, the Christmas message of Jesus Christ should fill our hearts and move us to proclaim it to others. But what do we proclaim?

"Help for the homeless?" **YES!** Jesus Christ has prepared for us a home, a real **HOME IN HEAVEN.**

Do we declare "peace on earth?" **YES!** There is real peace on earth, peace between God and man because the barrier, the dividing wall of sin has been removed by Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

Do we proclaim "blessings for the poor?" **YES!** The greatest blessing for the poor in spirit has been given, forgiveness of all sins!

What a tremendous truth we have learned this morning. It is not we who have built an eternal house for our God. This house we are in this morning will not last, eventually it will be destroyed. It is God who has built an eternal home for us through His Son, the One who came into this world and tented

among us who never had a house of His own. The homeless Jesus earned for us and established for us our **ETERNAL HOME**.

Let us ponder on these words and that great truth when we lay down to sleep in our warm, cozy earthly homes this Christmas Eve.

Amen.