

## “Royalty Revealed” Adv4B 12-24-17

David wanted to build God a house. He had in mind a physical structure to house the Ark of the Covenant. He had just rescued it from the Philistines and brought it in grand procession back to Jerusalem.

The Ark or box, contained items that reminded the Jews of God’s covenant relationship with them. In it were the unbroken tablets of the law given to Moses. There was also a golden pot of manna, reminding the people of how God gave them daily bread in the wilderness in spite of their grumbling. These joined Aaron’s staff that budded almonds overnight as a sign that God chose him to be His Priest. They foreshadowed Christ, who broke no commandments and provided for his people both earthly needs and a priestly sacrifice for sin.

Rather than request that David build a house for the Ark, God promised to build David a house. This was not the physical shelter, but a dynasty that would end with Jesus Christ, the King of kings. His ancestry already reached back to Adam and included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and, Judah, whose ancestral land included Jerusalem, the city of David.

But it wasn’t until David became the first king in that lineage that the Messiah take on royal expectations. As Israel’s greatest King, David was a fitting figure to foreshadow King Jesus. As a courageous and yet humble protector, he shared imperfectly those qualities found perfectly only in Christ.

Strangely enough, those who thought themselves as children of Abraham did not accept Jesus as David’s son, or any kind of King. Yet, Pontius Pilate, who had him crucified, did call him a king. So did the Palm Sunday crowd that welcomed him as a king in David’s line. What about us? Do we see in Christ a royalty revealed? For what kingly qualities do we praise Him and depend on Him today?

If wicked kings were our only source of evaluating the role of a monarch, we would perceive kings as ruthless, selfish dictators. During the time of the judges, the Israelites asked the last judge Samuel for a king. God warned them that kings would be harsh taskmasters, but told Samuel to give them a king. After God dethroned the first king Saul for his disobedience, He tells Samuel to anoint David as next king.

God called David a man after His own heart. David and the Son of God shared a warrior mentality. While they still were able, the ancient kings led their armies into battle to protect their people and expand their kingdom. David was such a warrior king, even from the time he protected his sheep from predators and later saved Israel from Goliath. He enjoyed many military victories throughout his life.

Our warrior King Jesus wielded no sword but the Word of God against the fiercest enemy, Satan. He resisted Satan’s temptation to sin, which would have disqualified him from the role of being a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world. His name, which means Savior, would have become meaningless. He also verbally rebuked Peter, who agreed with the Satan that Jesus should not suffer on the cross and die. To redeem us, Jesus allowed his crucifixion even though he was able to stop it. As the greatest warrior King, He won the greatest war of all.

A good king is like a good shepherd, and David and Jesus were both. By taking our sins on the cross, Jesus saved us from straying like lost sheep. His forgiveness allows us to return like the prodigal son. He does not scold us, but rather anoints our head with the healing oil of grace. Like a merciful king, he pardons our sin.

Another quality of a king is that they reign until they die. Well, guess what? Though Jesus did die once to suffer our punishment, he lives and will never die again. As Gabriel told Mary, *“he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

The closest thing we have to a king can change every four years. We spend so much money, energy, and worry over who will rule next. How refreshing and secure to know that whoever reigns in Washington, Austin or city hall, Jesus is the King of all. We know His record. He has proven His love and faithfulness. He cares, and is completely able to protect, rescue, and redeem us.

Best of all, His kingdom will never end or depend on a popular vote. The promises to David and Mary show that Jesus is King forever. May we give him glory for now and forevermore. Amen.