

Pentecost B-5, 2006, King David Series

July 9, 2006

2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10

Title: Rule

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's begin with a brief quiz on our knowledge of King David. Here's how it goes—I'll ask the questions and give the choices. After hearing the choices, you shout out your responses.

Question # 1. David began his reign in what year?

- A. 1000 BC
- B. 940 BC

Question # 2. True or false: David was the first king of Ancient Israel?

Question # 3. When David took Jerusalem as the capital the people who Lived there were the

- A. Jebusites
- B. Jerusalemites

Question #4. True or False. The two kingdoms of Ancient Israel were known as Judah and Israel.

Question # 5. These two kingdoms would remain united until

- A. 922 BC
- B. The time of Jesus

Bonus question: The Millo mentioned in 2 Samuel 5: 9 is

- A. The best housing reserved for clergy
- B. An earthwork of some kind

Imagine no protracted election campaigns. No long and laborious effort to pick the next leader. No primaries, no spin doctors, no digging up dirt on your opponents past, no expenditure of vast sums of money to be elected.

Just the simple process of all the elders coming together in one place and anointing David King. Most of taken only one day. Imagine that!

And it was a simple process. But part of what makes David a supreme political leader is his understanding of people management. Why Jerusalem as the capital of a united kingdom? Because it was neither the capital of Judah or the capital of Israel. Location, location, location.

The political king consolidates his power in a new capital. And in ancient Israel's memory of their kings David looms large because hardly any of the rest measured up to David. In the Books of Chronicles there are only 4 kings over a period of 700 years revered—David, Solomon, Uria, Josiah. They were the Abraham Lincolns, the George Washingtons, the Franklin Roosevelts of their day

The rest didn't measure up. They got tangled up with foreign Alliances, foreign gods and idols, assassinations, jealousy, Economic mishaps to name a few.

In the memory of Ancient Israel political David, King David looms large—the benchmark for all others. And this story in 1 Samuel 5 concludes David's rise to power.

In what ways does this ancient story of King David impinge on us? How is it used today?

Do not some people look at this story and say here, here is reason to Support current day Israel's claim to all the land of Palestine? That God ordained it?

Read further into 2 Samuel 7 and there God promised that David's descendants would rule

In an unending dynasty the territories?

Do not some people look back at that time when there was a theocracy—a union of the political and the religious and hold that same desire over Our current day? If we could only return America to it's Christian roots, if we could expunge this post-modern malaise of cultural accommodation We'd save this place. Bring us a King David or at least a President David, Someone with whom the Lord of Host is with!!

These are not the kind of questions we normally hear at church, on Sunday from the pulpit. Yet they surface here precisely because King David is Our ancestor. And because the land over which David ruled and the kind of leadership style of David are hot topics

And what of David and our Lord Jesus? Rule? David the King; Christ the King.

Both of Bethlehem; both about 30 when their work began  
Jesus clearly a descendant of David.

One a writer of prayers and songs— psalms; Jesus steeped in  
David's verse—even uttering from the cross  
Words from a psalm "Into your hands I commend my spirit"  
And the messianic hopes  
Of ancient Israel consolidated around someone from the root of  
Jesse's son David....Jesus going to Jerusalem to enact his kingship

But the contrasts between David and Jesus need uttering. They loom larger.

David takes the Jebusite city Jerusalem by force. I Samuel 5: 6-8 says it this way:

"The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites...  
Who said to David, 'You will not come in here, even the blind  
And the lame will turn you back'....  
Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion....  
David had said on that day, 'Whoever would strike down  
The Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack the  
Lame and the blind, those whom David hates.'"

Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem and heals the lame and the blind and sends disciples to continue that work.

There is a racial and ethnic identity attached to David's  
Rule. The first thing the elders from the north say  
To David is 'we are your flesh and bone.'  
Jesus says his brothers and sisters, his family are those  
Who do the will of God.  
David builds borders and strongholds; Jesus crosses  
Over borders.

Whenever we renew our Baptism into Jesus let us recall that we follow the  
one who crossed over from death to life abolishing the boundaries  
Which separate us from our neighbors. The theme of the national youth  
Gathering Cruzando—means crossing over—so that our youth are being  
Renewed in their vocation to follow this Jesus, to rule in their lives.

David became greater and greater. And surely he was.  
Whenever Jesus disciples come asking to be greatest in  
His kingdom, they are reminded by our Lord that

Those wanting greatness can have it---by being a  
Servant, by using their power by giving it away

By allowing the cross to rule in our lives.

Jesus redefines David.

Jesus is redefining you and me.

He is with us; he is guiding us; he is calling us to follow; he is sending you  
and me out to bear in our lives good news.

Yes, you and me. Wounded, compromised, one step forward  
Two steps back,  
Coming to our Jerusalems where we want to  
Consolidate our power---build a little kingdom,  
Insulate ourselves, build a name for ourselves,  
And giving us something far better---a life of grace  
And mercy, his name, his work,  
Our true home.

How Jesus seeks to rule in our lives is not by force but by faith

How Jesus seeks to rule in our lives is not with armies but with the gripping  
power of repentance

Jesus comes to save us from ourselves, so we may become little Christ in the  
world, our true selves.

King David ruled for 40 years; King Jesus, Prince of Peace, the Alpha and  
Omega, rules without end.

You and I are His Jerusalem. And the real question is centered in the very  
prayer He taught us...."Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth  
As it is in Heaven."

Amen.