

Sermon Outline

PRAISE DAVID'S SON.

- I. We praise David's Son because of who he is.
- II. We praise David's Son because of what he has done in the past.
- III. We praise David's Son because of his present and future activity.

Sermon

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Old Testament lesson of Second Samuel chapter seven, verses one through eleven and sixteen.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well today. Do you enjoy Good news? I am sure that you do. Good news like dad brought home ice cream. You got an A on your homework. You have no school for a whole week. Granny and Gramp are coming to visit. There are lots of good news. David gets good news as well. Even for a king. Even for a man who "has everything." In our text God is giving to David, who was king of Israel, news that was still brand new—and good indeed. Through the prophet Nathan, God is making a wonderful promise to David. This promise concerns one of David's descendants, one of his distant grandsons, who, using biblical phraseology, can be referred to as a "son of David." As we learn about this special descendant on the basis of God's Word, what is our response to David's Son? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

I.

Our response is one of praise. We praise David's Son because of who he is. In our text, God is stating that he, God, will build a "house" for David. "House" here does not mean a structure of wood and stone but rather a "dynasty." God promises that he will make David's dynasty perpetually endure, that kingship, and a kingdom, would forever be associated with his family line. In that way, as God says, David's "throne" would be "established forever."

In the history of the ancient Near East, where Israel was located, there were many ruling houses, or dynasties, in various countries. Each of these dynasties lasted for a period of time . . . and then came to an end. Egypt. Assyria. Babylon. Each had its series of kings who led them to power and then were buried, as it were, in the passing sands of history. Yet in God's promise to David, the concept of "forever" is strongly emphasized: "your house and your kingdom will endure *forever* before me" (v 16, emphasis added). What was God indicating to David?

God was indicating that one of David's descendants would be no ordinary ruler. God was telling David that one of his family line, one of his sons, would be the Messiah, the promised Deliverer. The people of the Old Testament period knew, as we know today, that the Messiah would reign forever. His kingdom would never end. That is how kingship could, and would, be connected forever with the line of David.

We praise this special Son of David, then, because he is the Messiah, the Savior of the world, very God, the Son of God, who became man. Jesus Christ, according to his human nature, was an actual descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, *and* David, through the Virgin Mary.

It astounds us, and comforts us, that the Son of God became one of us—a flesh-and-blood human being—in order to be the Deliverer. He entered fully into this earthly existence, with its noises, smells, dirt, and sweat. Jesus had a busy schedule—he experienced hunger, thirst, tiredness, and discomfort, as well as opposition and rejection. He thus knows what we go through in our daily lives; he understands our needs; he sympathizes with us in our times of difficulty. Praise David's Son!

II.

We praise this Son of David not only because of who he is, but also because of what he has done. The Son of God became a descendant of David in fulfillment of the promise to David, *and* in order to be the world's Redeemer. This God-man never once sinned. Rather, he took the sins of all people upon himself.

These wrongs included those of his ancestor David. We know about David because of what has been recorded in Scripture. Although David was a great man of faith, he nevertheless was guilty of many sins, including adultery and murder.

The Messiah, Jesus Christ, likewise bore our transgressions. Our sins have not been recorded for all to read about. Some of our wrongs may be known only to a few other people; some may be known only to us. But God knows about all of our violations of his holy will with our minds and tongues and actions.

The Gospel news is that the God-man, Christ Jesus, made full atonement for the sins of David, you, me, and the whole human race. As the bearer of the world's trespasses, he endured the penalty those sins deserved. He paid the total ransom with his own suffering, his own blood, his own death. Then he arose from the dead, guaranteeing that the payment was complete, that nothing remained to be done for humanity's redemption. The resurrection of Christ proved that he was indeed the Savior of the world and the Son of God. The

apostle Paul wrote concerning Jesus that he “was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom 1:3–4 NKJV).

Illustration: Melito, Bishop of Sardis (died ca. AD 190), wrote in his *Homily on the Pascha*:

For, as a Son born, and as a lamb led, and as a sheep slain, and as a man buried, he rose from the dead as God, being by nature God and Man.

For he is all things: inasmuch as he judges, Law; inasmuch as he teaches, Word; inasmuch as he saves, Grace; inasmuch as he begets, Father; inasmuch as he is begotten, Son; inasmuch as he suffers, Sheep; inasmuch as he is buried, Man; inasmuch as he is raised, God. This is Jesus the Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Melito of Sardis, *On Pascha and Fragments*, trans. and ed. Stuart George Hall [Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979], 3, 5, 7, used by permission.)

Praise David’s Son!

III.

Besides praising the Son of David for whom he is and what he has accomplished, we praise him for his present and future activity. This descendant of David is reigning, just as God foretold. Our text, from 2 Samuel 7, is the background for a number of well-known Scripture passages, all of which Christ is fulfilling with his Kingship. For example, the prophet Isaiah wrote in ch 9 of his book, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (v 6), and then he went on to predict, “Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David” (v 7 ESV). As we heard in the Gospel, the angel Gabriel promised the Virgin Mary concerning the Son she was going to bear, “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David” (Lk 1:32 ESV).

Christ is reigning as a Successor of David, as the final Ruler of the House of David, but his kingdom is far greater than that of his ancestor. Christ’s kingdom, the one implied in our text, consists of all believers, all who have faith in him—both those here on earth and those in heaven. This kingdom is referred to in our New Testament era as the Christian Church. Further, Christ, also the Monarch of the universe, is governing and controlling all things in world history for the good of this spiritual kingdom, his Church.

The Son of David, Jesus Christ, brought us into his kingdom through his Gospel Word and Sacrament of Baptism. He keeps us in his kingdom—that is, he preserves us as believers in him—through his Gospel Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion. What blessings do we enjoy as members of Christ’s kingdom? What gifts does our King bestow on us because of his grace, his undeserved kindness?

Christ gives us the forgiveness of all of our sins. He bestows on us the saving righteousness that he acquired with his perfect life and innocent suffering and death. He grants us peace and fellowship with himself and the Father and Holy Spirit. He gives us his guidance during our earthly lives; he leads us as our Good Shepherd.

His care for us never ends. Remember, he entered fully into our earthly existence; he knows what we go through. In response to our prayers, he can and does give us the help we need, whether we are at home, at school, on vacation, or in the hospital. Our King will never leave nor forsake us, the members of his kingdom, whom he dearly loves.

Our King also bestows on us everlasting life. After our time in this world is finished, Christ will take us to the splendor of heaven.

As God indicated to David, his Son, the Messiah, our Savior, will reign forever. The Christian Church, Christ’s kingdom, will never end. On Judgment Day, when every other kingdom will vanish, Christ’s kingdom—made up of you, me, and all believers—will endure. It will continue forever in the glorious new creation which he will bring about on the Last Day. We will enjoy this new creation, in our resurrection bodies, which our King will give to us. How blessed we are to be members of Christ’s kingdom!

God’s wonderful promise to David is also good news for us. David’s Son is King! His reign is everlasting! Since we know who this Son of David is, what he has accomplished, and what he is doing and will do for us, what is our response? We praise David’s Son—Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.