

JESUS: SON OF DAVID

1 Chronicles 17:11-14

INTRODUCTION

More people, 132 million, voted in this fall's presidential election than have ever voted in any election in U.S. history. Barak Obama won the election by about 10 million popular votes. Regardless of what you think about President elect Obama's politics it is quite evident that he was able to generate an enormous amount of enthusiasm and participation among normally apathetic voters. He was able, through his organization and millions of dollars spent on advertising, to impress tens of millions of Americans with both his person and his promises. Most of those whom he impressed only gave him their vote but there was also a significant minority of his followers who not only gave him their vote but also their time and their money. They were so delighted with him and his program that they were willing to give their lives for the past year to working for his election as President. In other words, their faith in Barak Obama led them to willingly work to promote his glory.

It is my happy task this afternoon to seek to persuade you that the baby born to the Virgin Mary some 2000 years ago, whose birth we are here to celebrate, is infinitely more impressive than the most impressive of human beings so that you willingly live your life to promote his glory. It is my aim, as it is the aim of every Christian preacher, to set before you today the greatness of Jesus so that you trust him alone and then live as if everything depends upon him. I do not have any advertising agency to assist me I simply have a book that God wrote by the hands of men for this exact purpose. This Bible sets forth the glory of Jesus in a multitude of ways. Today I want to briefly consider with you the splendor of Jesus as he is revealed to be the Son of David. The NT begins in the very first verse by declaring that Jesus is the promised Son of David. This identification is repeated dozens of times throughout the NT. The NT ends with Jesus declaring to the apostle John in his "revelation", "I am the Root and Offspring of David... (Revelation 22:16)."

David is one of the most famous of OT characters. The youngest son of the seven sons of Jesse he was picked by God to replace corrupt King Saul as King of Israel. After Samuel anointed him king and while yet a young person, most likely a young teenager, he became famous in Israel and through all history for his stunning defeat of the giant Philistine warrior named Goliath with no weapon but his slingshot and five smooth stones. Following his defeat of Goliath he suffered many years of persecution at the hands of jealous king Saul before he was finally crowned king of Israel. Shortly after he made Jerusalem the capital of Israel, he told the prophet Nathan that he wanted to build a temple for the worship of God in Jerusalem. God responded to David's intention to build him a "house" by speaking to him through Nathan. What God told David is recorded in the passage we are going to consider today, in 1 Chronicles 17. God tells David that he is not the one to build him a house but rather as he says in v. 11, God is going to build his "house" by raising up one of David's offspring, one of his sons who will build God a house and God will establish his throne, his rule forever.

As we will see, this promise is not referring primarily to David's son Solomon or the temple he built for God in Jerusalem. Rather, as the OT prophets indicate and as the NT confirms, this Son of David was to be a unique person, far greater than any merely human descendant of David ever could be. The house he would build is not a house made of bricks and stones and the throne he will rule upon is no mere earthly throne. This Son of David and the house he will make is infinitely more impressive than any human being or human construction.

MAIN POINT

Jesus, the Son of David, is the most impressive person in the universe because...

I. He is building God's house (v. 12a)

In the immediate context of 1 Chronicles 17 the house that David's son will build is the massive temple, built over a seven year period in Jerusalem by David's son, Solomon. However, the text itself shows us that this is

not the son, nor is this the house to which God is ultimately referring. Four times God says that what he is going to do for David's son will last "forever." Also, God says that he will never take his love away from this Son of David the way he took his love away from Saul, the corrupt king who preceded David. Yet, if you were to read the rest of the OT it is quite clear that Solomon's reign did not last forever, that the house he built did not last forever and that God did in fact remove his love from Solomon just like he did from Saul because Solomon proved to be a faithless king, worshipping the false gods of the surrounding pagan nations.

Solomon and the temple he built, like the whole history of Israel, are but a foreshadowing, a type of the ultimate son and house that was to come. God said that the temple in Jerusalem was the place where he lived among his people Israel, the location from which he spoke and the place where he was to be worshipped. In the NT the "house" of God or the "temple" of God is quite clearly not a building but a people, the church. Jesus, in Matthew 16:18 uses the same verb that is used here when he says that he is going to build his church. Repeatedly in the rest of the NT the church, the gathered people of God is called the house of God and the temple of God. Consider just these two examples: Ephesians 2:21-22, "In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." 1 Peter 2:4-5, "As you come to him the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him, you also, like living stones are being built into a spiritual house..."

So when God tells David that his son will build God's house he is referring to, ultimately, the fact that Jesus by his death on the cross, sending of the HS and proclamation of his gospel is constructing a temple made up of a countless number of individual human beings. In each and every local church formed by his Word and Spirit God lives, each one is the place from which God speaks and each one is the place where God is worshipped. We marvel at corporations that have been able to sell their products all over the globe; companies like McDonalds or Starbucks or Nike. However, convincing people from a variety of cultures and languages to buy your hamburger is nothing compared to what Jesus has done. He has persuaded multitudes of people from a diversity of cultures and languages to spend their time and money to rejoice in and promote his glory. He has established a multi-cultural organization which is devoted to him and his word and living in anticipation of his return that is rivaled by no other human society or organization. Barack Obama's ability to persuade 70 million Americans to vote for him is nothing compared to Jesus' ability to persuade over 2 billion people from a countless number of cultures and languages to profess loyalty to him. If you want to get on a bandwagon, then don't waste your time climbing aboard some small potato franchise like the Democratic or Republican parties or some sport team or some bands fan club or video game group but join with the greatest human society on earth and in heaven, the house that Jesus is building, his church.

Jesus, the Son of David, is the most impressive person in the universe because...

- *He is building God's house*
- *And because...*

II. He is God's beloved Son (v. 13)

In v. 13 the greatness of the Son of David is revealed in that he is not only David's son but he is also God's Son. This human Son of David is also the divine Son of God. We are so familiar with this language of calling Jesus the Son of God that we have forgotten the wonder of it. Here at Christmas time is that particular time each year where we are to give more special attention to this most wondrous fact. Listen again to what the angel Gabriel said to Mary about the baby to be conceived in her womb: Luke 1:32-35, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." He is fully human as he is conceived in the womb of Mary and comes forth from her womb as every human has done since Cain was born to Eve. Yet he is also fully God, the second person of the Trinity, the eternal Son of God. He is not two persons in one body but he is one person who is fully God and fully man at the same time. This is the manner

in which the Son of God will exist for eternity. From the moment of his conception in Mary's womb and now throughout all eternity he will be the man who is God and the God who is also man. How this is able to be is beyond our comprehension. Is it not clear to you that he is more impressive than any other being in the universe?

He is not only great by virtue of his incarnation but he is also great by virtue of his relationship to his Father. It is the eternal love of the Father for the Son and of the Son for the Father that is the ground of our salvation. Jesus says in John 10:17, "The reason the Father loves me is because I lay down my life--only to take it up again." Then he says in John 14:31, "...the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." The reason that God removed his love from all the preceding "sons of David" is because none of them were perfectly obedient to God. However, Jesus, the ultimate Son of David always obeyed his Father, even to the point of death on the cross. He obeyed because he loved his Father and his Father loved him because he obeyed. The death of Jesus is the culmination of the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father and it is this death which guarantees the salvation of all who trust Christ alone. No one else has so loved God that he was willing to lay down his life in obedience to him. Thus, there is no one greater than him that you can trust and give your life to.

Jesus, the Son of David, is the most impressive person in the universe because...

- *He is building God's house*
- *He is God's beloved Son*
- *And because...*

III. He is God's king (vv. 12b & 14)

Five times in these three verses God the Father promises to establish this Son of David as the greatest of all kings. God promises to establish the throne or kingdom of Jesus so that he can rule over God's own kingdom. So here we see the unity of purpose of the Triune God. The Father will establish the Son's throne, or his kingdom or his rule forever and that throne is the place from which Jesus will rule over God's house, God's kingdom. As the resurrected Jesus said to his disciples just prior to his ascension, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." He is, as John is told in his vision, "King over all kings and Lord over all lords." Or as Paul says in Philippians 2 that because of the Son's obedient death, "Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Right now God has set Jesus upon his throne to rule over God's house, his kingdom because he obeyed God by dying for our sins.

How is Jesus exercising his power at the present time? He is now exercising his sovereign rule through his church by the proclamation of the gospel with the result that his captive people are being set free from their slavery to sin, Satan and death. Christ is victorious over every earthly power and he exhibits his victory by conquering rebellious human hearts and overruling all the schemes of the devil. Also, he is establishing local churches throughout the world which are outposts of his kingdom, displaying his kingdom power by their love for one another and their bold proclamation of his glory. I know we are not much to look at. However, the fact that each of us has individually recognized our sinfulness and has turned away from our sin and embraced Jesus as the treasure of our lives is the effect of his sovereign power, which God gave to him. He has subdued our rebellious hearts and made us his own children. In addition he has given us love for each other so that we do actually love one another. He has given us the desire to promote his glory and to live our lives in obedience to him. There is no explanation for these facts other than Jesus exercising the authority he has been given by his Father to rule over God's house, which is us.

Finally, there is a great and final day coming when Jesus will return and he will visibly manifest his right to rule over all the kingdoms of this world. Listen to how that day is described in Revelation 19:11-16, "I saw heaven

standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

This is a description of the future rule of this baby born in a manger in the town of Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. You and I are to be more impressed with him than everything and everyone else. If you are not impressed by him now as you hear of him, you will be terrified by him when he comes again. So I urge you to abandon all other candidates for your affections and embrace Jesus as your only hope and so live to promote his glory.

Jesus, the Son of David, is the most impressive person in the universe because...

- *He is building God's house*
- *He is God's beloved Son*
- *He is God's king*

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