

David's Offspring

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-7

1st Scripture: Isaiah 53

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 3:1-5

Hymn Insert- *Majesty*

Hymn Insert- *Speak O Lord*

Hymn #178- *O Sacred Heart Now Wounded*

Introduction:

David has been anointed king of Judah. Contrary to the revealed will of God, Abner, set Ishbosheth up as king over the rest of Israel, and the two kingdoms were at war with each other for the duration of Ishbosheth's reign. However, gradually, "David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker" (vs. 1). For God was with David, and He was moving him toward reigning over all Israel.

On the heels of this summary conclusion, we are given some information about the offspring of David, before continuing on with the events that lead David to reign over all Israel. And brethren, it could be very easy for us to merely skip over this information, seeing it as just that, "mere information," so that we can move on to the next scene of action. But we, believing in the sufficiency and relevance of all of Scripture (which is God breathed), know that an essential purpose must be attached to the information that we are given in our main text for this morning. [Ill: A Philippine man, named Canao, who having heard the Gospel for several years, was finally converted by use of the genealogy, found in the first Chapter of Matthew's Gospel!]. Needless to say then, brethren, "All Scripture is God breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...etc" (2 Tim. 3:16).

And so, this morning, we will seek to draw out principles, from this short Scriptural insert, which tells us of David's male offspring, born to him at Hebron.

I. David's Offspring

"Sons were born to David in Hebron" (vs. 2a). Why is this statement significant? And furthermore, why is this inserted *here*, along with a list of those sons born to him at Hebron? It kind of intrudes upon the narrative a bit, doesn't it? We have learned about these wars between Israel and Judah; we have learned that David is growing stronger and that Saul's house is growing weaker, and we are looking ahead with anticipation, to God fulfilling His promise, in bringing David to reign over all Israel, the build up of which, is to take place in the next

sequence of events. Why then this informational insert, regarding the male offspring of David, right here?

Well brethren, I want to suggest to you, two reasons for this important informational insertion:

1) It is one of the ways in which God's blessing was evident upon David, in accordance with the summary statement, given in verse 1. We were just told that a long war continued between the house of Saul and the house of David, and that, David grew stronger and stronger, while Saul's house grew weaker and weaker. And here, we find one of the providential evidences, confirming that reality. Here David, once fleeing in the wilderness and constantly living as a fugitive (because of Saul), is finally able to settle down and build a house. Indeed the tables have turned. Saul's sons, Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua have died in battle (against the Philistines). And Ishbosheth, who is already incompetent, will soon be removed as well. Saul's seed is fading; his house is weakening. But David, who was without offspring; who was without physical, successional heritage; indeed, without the strength of a man, put forth in a legacy of offspring, had begun to have sons. And in that very significant sense, David's house was growing stronger as well, while Saul's was growing weaker.

2) And second brethren, though already stated in the first reason, I believe it is worth noting on its own, that, here, we have a glorious picture of David celebrating a time of reaping and rest, from his labors, as it were. He has some sense of security here, which he could not enjoy before, when he was constantly on the run. His faithful labors in the Lord, have now brought forth a fruitful reward, offspring, and especially male offspring. Though David was married to Michal, Saul's daughter, he was forced to run away from her, and Saul had given her to another man, in marriage. Though David was married to Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail (the widow of Nabal, the Carmelite), he could not settle down and enjoy offspring with them. For, he was constantly in distress and on the run. But now, having been divinely established as the King of Judah, he can build his house. And so, he does, as Saul's is crumbling.

And so, we are meant to see here, that it is in Hebron, that David begins to build a house; *one* of the signs, indicating that David's house was growing stronger and stronger, while Saul's was growing weaker and weaker [Obviously, the broader sense of the stability and strength of David's kingdom, in opposition to Ishbosheth's kingdom, is clearly implied here, as well].

But brethren, I want to suggest to you as well, that there are also "seeds of concern," beginning to take root here, which will manifest themselves more clearly (as full grown plants/trees), later on. And I think, if we begin to consider these concerns, when they are seeds, we will be able to recall some of the roots, which serve to produce some of the major problems that David has later on.

II. David's Polygamy [Let us look again at verses 2-5]

Here, we find that David has offspring, by means of six different women. That is to say that, David has six wives at this point. Now clearly, God was especially gracious to many, very godly men in the Old Covenant, in that he did not greatly emphasize the sin of polygamy, which was practiced by many. But, there were often harmful consequences that came with the practice, because, after all, it is still unnatural and contrary to the revealed will of God. From the beginning, God designed one man to be united to one woman, such that the two (not six), would become one flesh. And this design was meant to be reflective of the union that takes place between Christ and His bride (not brides), the Church. Not only does polygamy provoke unhealthy competition and bitterness between rival wives (see Jacob, to confirm this), but there are other consequences as well, which I believe can be tied to some of the major problems, David (and Solomon) will have later on. [First, consider Deuteronomy 17:14-20 with me, before we address some of these significant problems; emph. vs. 17]

Now brethren, consider some of the problems, which resulted, at least in part, from David's practice of polygamy. [Note: And should you be tempted to say, "What relevance has this to do with us in the year 2013?--none of us are polygamists here--", understand, that all of this, will spill over into a very relevant application for us, brethren]

Let me leave you with three consequences of David's polygamy:

1) It inevitably produced a lack of contentment in the heart of David, which always presented him with the option of pursuing more wives. Why is one not enough? What happens when you have more than one wife? Do you not then begin to covet more, rather than learn to be content with what you have? How is it that David later finds himself gazing upon the beauty of Bathsheba, when he already has an Ahinoam, an Abigail, a Maacah, a Haggith...etc, to behold? Does not the multiplication of wives, like wealth, actually produce discontentment, rather than contentment, and rather than an appreciation for what you already have in one wife?

And is it not true, therefore, that living with the assumption that polygamy is ok; that practicing polygamy, will inevitably open the door for considering additional wives? Now, while adultery is certainly committed by those who have only one wife, can you see how leaving the door of polygamy open, presents the temptation, at an even greater and stronger level? It is no wonder that a man cannot meet the qualifications for a church office bearer, if he has more than one wife. Suffice it to say that, David's practice of polygamy, certainly, greatly contributed toward provoking him unto the sin of adultery with Bathsheba, further leading to the murder of her husband Uriah, who was committed to his one wife.

2) Having several wives, with several children, by those different wives, increases the potential for incest to take place among the offspring. Is it not likely, that a brother might covet the nakedness of his half sister, who was birthed by a different mother? And is this not what happens with Amnon, later on? Could it be, brethren, that David's polygamous practices, contributed to the sin of Amnon, who raped his half sister, Tamar?

3) Consider that David's son, Solomon, later has 700 wives and 300 concubines, and this is what ultimately pulls his heart away from the Lord, and into gross idolatry...because, several of his wives were foreigners. Where did Solomon learn the practice of polygamy? Did he not inherit its approval, first from his father David? And while Solomon's sin in this area was far greater, can we not see the momentum of his regression, thrust forth, first by David's own regression in this area?

Suffice it to say, brethren, that here in our text, we at least find some poisonous seeds, which will erupt into significant problems later on, for David and his family. Polygamy, even in the Old Testament sense, where God, patiently endured it in His people, as it were, had its inevitable consequences. And so, while the primary emphasis of our text, at this point, is positive (in so far, as David is establishing a home), I thought it would be good to pull out some of the negative, in preparation for later events.

III. Closing Thoughts and Applications

Brethren, before closing, in consideration of this brief text, let me then leave you with three concluding thoughts and applications for this morning:

1) On that very positive note brethren, see the Blessed and Beloved Christ, yet again, reflected in David here! At Hebron, we are told, "David had sons!" When he began to reign, he

finally could build his house! And, in Isaiah 53:10-12, which we read earlier, we were told of Christ's offspring, which came by His cross, and upon His exaltation to the throne! [Read Isaiah 53:10-12 again]. See here then, brethren, in David's securing of *physical* offspring, at the beginning of his reign in Judah; in a finite and imperfect way, a reflection of Christ's securing of His spiritual offspring, at the beginning of His reign in glory! The strength of David's Son's kingdom is seen in the building and expanding of His church!

2) Brethren, recognize how, often times, the sins of parents, affect their offspring, in very tangible ways. Now, if I were to say to you, "How many of you would enjoy seeing harm come upon your child," I believe that every parent here, would sternly respond, "Of course not, Pastor! How could you even ask such a question? I love my child, and dread the thought of any harm coming upon him/her!" "When my child screams in pain, I run immediately to his aid, and my heart races, until I recognize that he is safe and well!" Now brethren, we would all be very sincere in such a claim, of course! [*Nathaniel example: fell face first into bed]

But, how many of us consider, even more so, the spiritual well-being of our children, and especially, how our sins can affect them? Now, it is bad enough that we find some of our deepest sin struggles, in them, naturally engraved in their personalities, "Oh boy, he has your stubbornness, and she has your pride, and he has your strong-will...etc," but furthermore, we have to realize that, how we live before our children, is perhaps one of the greatest teaching tools, that will train their hearts for the way in which they will live. It's the classic, "Mom doesn't realize that simply dropping Johnny off at church, while she goes out, running other errands, is ultimately going to be seen, by Johnny, for the hypocrisy that it is." Right? The, "Do as I say and not as I do, only works for so long." Genesis 5:2-3, "[God] created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day that they were created. And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son *in his own likeness, after his image*, and named him Seth." Uh, oh! There's a problem here, isn't there? Isn't Adam fallen? Well, yes! And Seth is born *in his likeness!* Right! What will Seth do, then? He will sin, like his father Adam!

And sadly, brethren, often times, the regression of sin gets worse, as generations pass. Adam begets Seth in his image, but down the road, God is going to destroy all of mankind (with the exception of Noah and his family) by flood, because all of the intents of his heart will be evil! David has six wives (and adds more), and Solomon winds up with 1000! Now brethren, this

should produce a tremendous "begging" quality in us, because we know that God has a way of exposing and putting to death our negative influences, and God has a way of shielding our children from our negative influences. And so, prayer is key here! Ongoing, constant prayer! But along with this, ought to at least be, the regular consideration of what kinds of, "life patterns," we are leaving for our children to follow. Are we setting up Amnon and Solomon and others for failure?

How do your children view devotions; personal and family? Do they see you in the Word, privately and with them? Do they see you in prayer? Do they see you leading the family in setting Christ at the center of the home? Brethren, what do they SEE as most important and pressing in your life? What matters most to you, from their vantage point, in accordance with how you are living? Do they see a passion and zeal for Christ and His work? Do they see involvement and commitment to Christ's church, as a fervent priority in your life? Do they see you as honoring the Lord's Day; do they see it as a Day, like no other, in the eyes of their parents? What is ruling your life? What is the primary topic of concern/conversation in your home? Sports, politics, work, money, cars...etc? What do they see you treasure? You see, brethren, if we are not presenting a glorious Christ to them, evidenced by how we are living, and by what is central in our lives, no matter what we teach them by word of mouth, they are not going to comprehend any reality of a glorious Christ! If they don't see the "bearing of a cross" in your life, how will they ever bear their own? And so, consider brethren, how your lives are teaching textbooks for your children, and make any necessary changes and adjustments! Get on your knees, confess your sins, and ask Christ to restore any years that have been eaten away by the locusts of a "this life" and "this world" focus and emphasis!

And brethren, just when you might be tempted to say, "Well, God will have mercy on my children, even as He has me," consider that there is no evidence that any of David's offspring here, were saved. On the contrary, there is every bit of evidence indicating, that at least three of the six (half of them) were condemned, and the other three, we are told nothing about, one way or the other. Consider this reality now, in our final application for this morning.

3) David's firstborn was Amnon. Amnon raped his half sister Tamar, and was later murdered by his half brother (Tamar's full brother) Absalom. Absalom murders his brother Amnon, but later on, he sways David's subjects away from him, and steals the throne from David. From there, he makes every attempt to kill his father, David, but fails, and winds up

cursed, hanging by his head, stuck in the branch of a tree. And Joab then spears him through, and kills him. Adonijah, contrary to the will of his father, attempts to set himself up as king, instead of Solomon, who was decreed to follow David, as king. He winds up being executed by Solomon. And so, it seems pretty clear that Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah had no true relationship with God, ever. Regarding Chileab, it is believed that he died young, and along with Shephatiah and Ithream, we are just not given any information about their spiritual condition.

Friends, these were David's sons! The man after God's own heart! Will we presume upon God with our own children, by neglecting their spiritual well-being? And young people, you think that, because your mom and dad are Christians, that you are a "shoe in," and that you can put things off until a later time...think again! There are many families separated by the great gulf, which stands between heaven and hell! You would do much better to get on your knees and plead God to save you, in Christ, before it is too late! You are not guaranteed salvation, young people! You say, "But my parents are Christians...they have favor with God! I have been raised in the church...etc!" God can make such people out of stones! You need Christ, as your own personal Lord and Savior! Your parents can take you no further than the grave; they are indeed a gracious blessing, in that they bear the light that you need, but only Christ Himself can save you! The light of your parents can speak volumes to you, but unless it drives you, yourself, to Christ, you will perish in your sins, young people! In fact, your judgment will be greater, because you had godly parents! Don't fall into the mistaken presumption of the Jews!

May God give you the grace to repent and to flee to Christ, while there is yet time!

AMEN!!!

Benediction: Ephesians 3:14-21