Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner

Year 2/Cycle B

Monday, December 25, 2017

2Sam.1-5,8-12, 14-16; Lk:1:26-38

Advent Week 4/ Nativity 25

Born For Us…

In this our liturgical year there is an anomaly where we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and later the same night we welcome the Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It does not happen often, but when it does it demands coordination by all aspects of the liturgical celebrations. So today we reflect upon, 4th Sunday to Nativity. 'For unto us is born a Savior'. Yet, this was not an overnight event, this took thousands of years in the making, countless wars, numerous prophets, kings and years of captivity. Yet, God is faithful, He did deliver. The first reading from the Old Testament from the 2nd Book of Samuel spoke of a promise made to Jesus' ancestor, King David.

"I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,
and I will make his kingdom firm.
I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me." (2 Sam.7:12)

David believed by the Jewish people to be the best example of an earthly king; was to see the upholding of the Covenant Promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was a promise fulfilled to Abraham, in that God Covenant stated that kings will be among his offspring. God also gave David the assurance that the Kingdom which was being established at that time, would not end and will continue forever.

"Your house and your kingdom are firm forever before me;
your throne shall be firmly established forever." (2 Sam.7:16)

Some thousand years later, a strange coincident was to take place. A young girl was to change the course of salvation history and to align her will to God's Will. Who was this young girl? What was asked of her? This young girl's name was Mary, a Virgin, consecrated by her parents, to follow the Will of God. Yes, of course this girl,

"A virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary."   (Lk. 1:27)

The Promise to David, reaching across centuries and to descendants of the same King David, extolled in the Book of Samuel. *Unto us a Child is born,* was guided in each age by the very hand of God. Selecting Abraham as the Father demonstrating *'walking in faith'*; then to Moses to lead His people out of enslavement in Egypt; protecting the little shepherd boy, to guide him to become the most victorious king every recorded by the Jews. Moving through ages to have the messenger angel, Gabriel announce to Mary

"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Lk. 1:28)

God's angel, Gabriel goes on to explain the significant role she was about play.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus." (Lk. 1:31)

This child according to the angel
"He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High..." (Lk. 1:31)

In the midst of Mary's confusion, she was able to voice,

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Lk. 1:46-47)

Through her acceptance the Will of God, His Promise to mankind at the time of Eve could be fulfilled and we thousands of years later now have the hope for Eternal life.

My Nativity wish for you, is that in the confusion of this life, you will find that small voice in your heart to proclaim the greatness of God and still rejoice...

Nativity Blessings upon all who pause to read this.

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May we continue to pray for blessings, love, forgiveness and healing among our families, friends, our neighbors, communities, state, country and in our world.

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