

MIRACLE OF INCARNATION

Psalm 89:1-4

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

In Psalm 89 **God** is quoted thusly: “I have made a covenant with my chosen one” Immediately one thinks God must be talking about Jesus, the Messiah. But verse 3 shows that one is wrong. ...”I have sworn to my servant **David**, ‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.”

Now we know that David’s actual throne was far from being “firmly established through all generations.” According to Matthew, the throne collapsed after only fourteen generations. So was Ethan the Ezrahite misquoting God? Probably not. It’s just that we, like the Israelites, are so focused on Earthly things that we can’t see God’s true intentions.

Matthew apparently loved genealogy; he was so careful to show his Jewish readers that Jesus was descended from David. But that line of succession also missed the point. Later Matthew quotes John the Baptist to indicate that spiritual lineage beats physical genetics. (Matthew 3:9)

“David’s line” mentioned in the psalm refers to you and me, not to the physical offspring of David and his descendants. Through the miracle of the incarnation, you and I and all who place our faith in Jesus are the true children of the promise. That’s what we celebrate in this advent season – that through the Son of God and his redemptive life, death, and resurrection, you and I have entered the true family of God. The line has continued not through flesh and blood, but through the spirit acting in and through the body of Christ – again, you and me. The line will continue, as God promised, regardless of what I do, but I want to do my part. I want to be an instrument that allows the Word to be spread to others, so that they too may become part of the “line of David” and become heirs of the promise.

Our celebration of Advent offers the perfect opportunity to gently inform the world of the King and his Kingdom. Let us be careful to celebrate in a way that draws people in, and not in a manner that makes them feel excluded.

Prayer: Lord, prepare the hearts of the people we share the Good News with, to be receptive. Amen.

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