

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 9 June 2024

PENTECOST 3

CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of the God within us, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Who is your favourite King? What do you like about them?

Worship 🎵

Choose your favourite songs this week;

We are your people
Come down O love divine

Pray this prayer together :

Father, reveal who you are
Set the world right
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others
Keep us safe from ourselves and the evil one, Amen. (The Message)

Word: Psalm 138

¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

³ When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.

⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed.

⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.

⁶ Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.

⁸ The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever - do not abandon the works of your hands.

Word: 1 Samuel 8:4-15

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

⁶ But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.” ¹⁰ Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.

¹¹ He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. ¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants.

COMMENTARY **A king is a strong wall protecting us from whatever we fear the most: marriage problems, a faltering economy, illnesses, crime, or drugs, for example. Anything that threatens to destroy us is chaos. A king promises to bring order out of chaos. Whatever we are afraid of in this world, there is a king to tell us why we don't need to be afraid. For Christians, OUR KING IS JESUS. Jesus came to give us the protection we need in the form of a restored relationship with God.**

Q 2 The leaders of Israel wanted a king. Samuel did not think it was a good idea. Why do you think he thought this?

Q 3 The people were insistent. Samuel warns that it would mean conscripted armies, tithes and taxes. Samuel gave them what they wanted but warned them of the implications for many generations that followed. Please discuss these implications

Q 4 What are the consequences of the good and bad choices we make?

Q 5 Do you involve God in the decisions you make?

Works

Who can we visit this week? Pray for each other and pray for the state of our World.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled so many with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the greater church with new affirmations of God's power and presence, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)