

### **“The King is Coming”**

In last week’s Gospel, John the Baptist set up for us the greatest anticipation of all time of the awaited Messiah, who is the Word of life, and the Light of the world. In today’s Gospel reading, we heard about the annunciation of Angel Gabriel to Mary of the coming of long expected Savior.

God used Moses to bring the Jews His chosen people out of slavery in Egypt. While they grumbled and rumbled through the desert for 40 years, God assured them of His special love and insisted on their total obedience to Him. God made a covenant with them and that covenant is the 10 Commandments which was put in the Arc of the covenant. The Arc of the Covenant kept in a tent for about 300 years is a symbol of God’s presence amongst His chosen people.

King David who after fighting many wars was now living comfortably in his palace in Jerusalem wanted to build a Temple for God; this brings us to our first reading today. God told David that he could not build a temple for Him; and that it is David’s son who would rule after him that would build the Temple for God. However, God told David that He would build an everlasting kingship for him.

For about 400 years, all the kings who ruled God’s chosen people came from David’s line. However, some of them were not faithful to God and they led God’s people away from God. Each time they strayed away from God, God allowed their enemies to oppress them and when they repented and returned to God, God would raise up a leader who would bring relief for them. However, the people did not forget the promise that God made to David. They kept hope alive that God would raise up a king for them from David’s line who would rule them.

This brings us to our Gospel reading where we heard Angel Gabriel announce to a young Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of a Son. **“He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

From the message of Angel Gabriel, we garnered two things. First, that Mary would give birth to the Son of the most High, pointing to His Divinity. Second that David would be his father pointing to His humanity.

According to the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew, there were 28 generations between the reign of King David and the coming of the Son of Mary, Jesus the King of kings, the Lord of lords, our Redeemer, and the light of the world. It would be approximately 1000 years before the coming of the Messiah. Can you imagine waiting for a promise for 1000 years! That is what the Jews had to do.

At the moment Mary said yes to Angel Gabriel, the Son of God took on human flesh so He could be like us in all things except sin. It was the obedience of a 14 or 15 year old girl that God used to fulfill the promise He made to king David. A young woman despite the possibility of being stoned to death chose obedience to God’s request.

Sometimes we too might feel we cannot be used by God. Well, God can use anybody at any time to accomplish His purpose if we would let Him. He has given us free will to accept or reject His plan for us. Sometimes what He might ask of us could lead to painful experiences for us.

We can think of prophets such as Elijah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist or of Peter, Paul, and the rest of the Apostles, they faced persecution and most of them, even death. Mary too faced being ridiculed by her peers and Joseph wanted to abandon her. Her acceptance of being the mother of God led to much pain. Her Son would be rejected by the people He came to save, condemned to die a horrible death and was murdered.

Mary said yes to God's call by saying, **"Do unto me according to thy word."** We can learn from Mary that loving God means being obedient to His call. If His call leads to sorrow or pain we can think of Mary. Our desire should be to offer ourselves willingly to God like Mary did, even when we might be facing danger.

As we come to receive the Body and Blood of the Son of God, let us give thanks that Mary said YES to God's call.