

THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID

"I will give you the sure mercies of David,"

Act 13:34.

This promise in the Book of Acts refers to Jesus. Tying Jesus to David and all the blessings given to David, sits well with Jews. They think of the Messiah as a man and, there's no better man in all of Israel than David.

The "sure mercies of David" are like all of God's blessings in His word - the promises are guaranteed. But, the writer of Acts wants us to see that David was only a type of Jesus and His Kingly rule. David, merely represented Jesus.

To understand David's limitations is to follow Luke's writing further. **"For David, after he served his own generation...fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers and saw corruption," 13:36.** But, Jesus, **"whom God raised again, saw no corruption," verse 37.**

Thus, while God gave promises to man; whether, Abraham, David or Solomon, as representatives of God's plan, it would be Jesus that God always had in mind, in order to insure that His plan would be guaranteed. For, without Jesus, man would have nothing. Without Him, life would be hopeless!

Yes, the Lord God loved David, the shepherd boy turned king. But, let's not forget that without God's **"sure mercies,"** David would not have made it.

Yet, what a man to represent the Lord, Jesus. David loved God. And, with God, love comes before anything else. God blesses reciprocity - that loving interchange between the Lord and those His grace favors.

God loves, then He elevates man to such a high degree as a king. However, love has no boundaries. It doesn't matter if we are tending sheep, on some ruling throne or at work at home. God elevates us, right where we are.

Thus, when God looks for someone to lift up, He searches the heart - **"...the Lord hath sought Him a man after His own heart,"** (I Sam. 13:14). David was the man!

The Lord loved David and, in turn, David loved the Lord. Therefore, love is God's seeking-element that makes the connection between God and man. When we tie just two Bible passages together - **"For God so loved the world..." Jn 3:16,** along with, **"We love Him because He first loved us," 1st Jn 4:19,** we are shown that God's faithfulness is positively, absolutely and unequivocally sure to all who trust Him.

And, that's not just in David's case, only. Love is demanded in every case of service. Jesus said, "**Thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, Mt 22:37.**"

Thus, in the final analysis, we must understand that it is God's love. And, we shout, "**To God be the glory.**" Although David was special - Abraham, as well, it is God's faithfulness, His "**sure mercies**," that gets the job done!

Of course, men are used by God because of the condition of their hearts. This lines up with Hebrews 11:6: "**But without faith it is impossible to please Him.**"

And certainly, that's why Abraham, David and other like hearts were chosen to be anchors in the God's service of revelation. Many of other blessed names are in Hebrews 11, as well.

For us, it pays to observe carefully the faithful men who walked under God's control. In each account, we may see God's plan open up, becoming wonderfully lucid. Whether, it's Abraham or David, we understand why God chose those representatives to reveal the Son, Jesus Christ. They believed - and did it, just like God said.

There are many Old Testament men chosen to reveal what Christ would do. David shows the Kingly office of Christ; while, Abraham's promise is "**sure to all**" because of Christ. But, in the end, it is the Lord, Jesus Christ. He's the One that fulfilled all of what God demanded; as it was revealed to us through men of faith.

Therefore, while we see failure in the first man, Adam, we also see Jesus, the Second Adam. He restored back to man what Adam forfeited. Now, man may continue living; now, even throughout eternity. Amen!

Because of sin, we see God's people enters into bondage. But, we watch as watch Moses takes Israel out from under bondage through a blood sacrifice. Then, next representative, Joshua, takes Israel over the Jordan River.

But, the blessedness of God's plan is that God's people continue to on. They inherit a prepared land, divide the country into tribal sections and choose a king - all part of God's plan which, Jesus will do for us on the Spiritual level. He will defeat Satan, pay for our mistake and rise, again.

Yes, there are many failures in man's life; both, in the Bible and, in our present day service. But, we can't let go of the "**sure mercies**" given to Jesus; for, they are the basis of a better Covenant.

In order to see God's word come alive, we need to study each life that reveals the work that Jesus will do. It makes us thankful for the ones used

by God. In fact, it's as if we live through each portion, ourselves. And, we love it!

Through faith, we pass through the Red Sea, watch God lower the walls of Jericho or Washington, D. C., subdue kingdoms and wax valiant in fight. In short, we "**look for a better resurrection, not accepting a (mere fleshly) deliverance**" the world may offer," Hebrews 11.

In the beginning, Adam failed. All men do, too. But, because of Jesus, the Second Adam, man ends up in the winner's circle. At the end, a restoration is coming through Christ's skillful handling of His Father's will.

This brings hope and our Biblical interest becomes contagious. Due to men, such as David, we zoom through the Bible, looking for everyone that represents Christ. These faithful men bring the promises of God down to a human level; while, at the same time, magnifying the spiritual work that Christ will accomplish. Galatians 4:28 tells us that Isaac's promise is our promise. Because of Jesus, we are "**the children of promise.**"

Is God as interested in man, today? What about God's service in this time-frame of 2009? Will God use us in fulfilling a portion of His work? Boy, doesn't this GoodNews Letter make it hard for us to wait?

But, wait we must, if we are to be His representatives, today. And, that could very well depend on how His work is understood. First, we must realize that His work is much different from those of the Old Testament (Covenant).

In their physical life, Old Testament servants showed forth how the Lord would bring about the needed spiritual work in the Person of Christ, at His arrival.

A fine example of this would be how Moses led Israel out of bondage. It was physical. But, in Jesus, mankind is led out of the world of sin; not, physically, but in spirit and truth (reality).

Moses was a type of Christ. He, and others of the Old Testament, could show only the physical side of God's spiritual work. While, they all walked in faith, it still remains that it's like taking a dollar sign (\$) to the bank. We plop down a \$, but the bank refuses to exchange it or give us credit for anything.

On the other hand, the finished hand of God, representatives of the New, show forth what Jesus did - what He accomplished for us within the spiritual side of life.

When we take His blood to the bank of heaven, all debts are canceled; both, the sin of death and the sins we commit while we walking in the life of

His service. That's what John tells us. "If we confess our sins, He is just to forgive us of our sins," I John 1:9.

But, duty demands that we show forth what has taken place in us when Christ called us to serve. And, here, we are to reveal much more than merely a claim to be saved from condemnation. The Word of God demands that we declare ourselves "dead indeed to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 6:11.

You see, we have Christ and He has the sure mercies of David. Here, we learn of God faithfulness; which, we receive by faith. But, we also need teaching. We need doctrine, too.

Without question, it is our place to learn what Jesus has done for mankind. Then, stand for what He has given to us, and next, preach to the world what He has done so they may also represent Him.

And, just as it was in the Old, so it is in the new. Anyone representing His work, even the casual Bible reader, learns that every believer is inextricably tied to the people of God. Thus, Abraham's promise wasn't just for him but to his heirs - Isaac, Jacob, Israel and all of faith.

In the same manner, Moses led God's people out and of Egypt while, Joshua took them into the Promised land. Both men were called to lead people.

So, we don't serve God apart from His people; His covenanted people. In the Old, Jesus was seen within the witness of Israel. Today, Jesus is revealed in the church.

And, this is why Jesus came! He loves people. In bringing spiritual work to man, Jesus taught that He is the way, the truth and the life; that no one comes to the Father but through Him. The Savior secures man and, at the same time, expecting us to love God and become His people.

As we remember that Jesus is alive, today. What would He want us to do? **Number 1**, Pray to Him; for He mediates for us. **Number 2**, Follow Him in the church; for, He heads the church. It is His body. **Number 3**, "Go;" for, Jesus sent His people to teach, baptize and teach all things to the world; even the things of the coming kingdom (Mt 28:19-20).

And so, the sure mercies of David were given to Christ so we may learn of how God will use His Son. We learn by studying David's life. In David, we truly see that God's faithfulness, His "sure mercies" would finished the course, giving life to all mankind for all who trust in Jesus.