

The Annunciation to Mary 4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16—The Prophecy of David’s Kingdom

1. God’s Promise: to give David a dynasty (“house”) (7:8-12)
2. Son of God: “Seed” of David and “Son” of God” (7:13-14)
3. Everlasting Kingdom: “Your house and your kingdom” shall be “forever” (7:16)

1000 B.C.	King David Promised an “Everlasting Kingdom”
922 B.C.	Kingdom Splits in Two: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Israel</u>: Northern Kingdom (10 Tribes) 2. <u>Judah</u>: Southern Kingdom (2 Tribes)
722 B.C.	Assyrian Exile: 10 Tribes scattered among Gentiles (2 Kgs 15-17)
587 B.C.	Babylonian Exile: 2 Southern Tribes Exiled; Jerusalem Temple Destroyed
538 B.C.	2 Tribes of Judah: Return from Babylonian Exile
30 A.D.	10 Northern Tribes? Remain “Lost”; Rome Rules; Royal Family ‘Hidden’

Psalms 89—The Covenant with David

1. “Covenant” with David: “I have made a covenant with... David my servant” (89:2-3)
2. Everlasting Throne: God will “build” David’s “throne” for “all generations” (89:3)
3. Son of God: the future king will call God his “father” (89:26, 28)

Romans 16:25-27—The Mystery of the Prophecies

1. Gospel: the “revelation” (Gk *apokalypsis*) of the “mystery” (Gk *mysterion*) (16:25)
2. Prophecy: “kept secret for long ages but... now disclosed...” (16:26)

Luke 1:26-38—The Annunciation of the Davidic King

1. Royal Joseph: “of the house of David” (= royal family!) (1:27)
2. Gabriel’s Announcement: fulfillment of Nathan’s Prophecy to King David (2 Sam 7):

Prophecy to David (2 Sam 7)

1. I will make for you a *great* name
2. I will establish the *throne of his kingdom* forever
3. I will be his father, and he shall be *my son*.
4. Your house and your *kingdom* shall be made sure *forever*.
(2 Sam 7:9, 13, 14, 16)

Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1)

1. He will be *great*...
2. the Lord God will give to him *the throne of his father David*.
3. and will be called *Son of the Most High*
4. of *his kingdom* there will be *no end*.
(Luke 1:32-33)

The Catechism on the Annunciation

The Catechism: The Annunciation to Mary inaugurates “the fullness of time,” *the time of the fulfillment of God’s promises and preparations*. (CCC 484).

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)

1. Go back and reread the entire chapter in 2 Samuel 7. List which elements of the prophecy seem to only have been fulfilled by Jesus, and which seem to reflect the time of David and Solomon.

2. Why was the collapse of the kingdom of David such a problem for first-century Jews living at the time of Jesus? Why did it look as if God’s promises had failed? What then does the Catechism mean when it says that “the Annunciation to Mary inaugurates ‘the fullness of time,’ the time of the fulfillment of God’s promises and preparations” (CCC 484).

3. How does it affect the way you see the Holy Family to think of Joseph as a rightful member of the “royal family”? How does it affect the way you see their poverty, as well as the joy of the Annunciation?

For Further Reading

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: the Annunciation (CCC 484-86, 494)
2. Edith Barnecut, *Journey with the Fathers: Commentaries on the Sunday Gospels Year B* (Hyde Park: New City Press, 1993), 16-17. Excellent commentaries from the Church Fathers on the specific readings of each Sunday.