

Dear Friends,

We recently celebrated 25 years of service to our King with delight. Indeed, it is a celebration of God's faithfulness to us. Children of Abraham Ministry would not be here today if not for Him and Providentially for your faithful prayers and support. The journey of these twenty-five years was not without challenges, but God never left us alone.

We have seen a growing increase in opportunities for ministry since COA started in 1997 and a steady growth in responses to the Gospel. We echo that missionaries on the ground testify: Despite the increasing conflict...all over the Middle East, God powerfully is a work, as Muslims are coming to Christ."

I am delighted to see the Arabic Study Bible increasingly distributed in the US, Europe, and overseas, particularly in the Middle East. It brings joy to my hear to see Christian leaders and new converts holding the ASB in their hands in some closed countries. Our goal is to send at least another 5000 this coming year. This goal will cost and \$175,000. Let me encourage you to prayerfully consider helping the Children of Abraham Ministry to put a Bible I the hands of those who never read the living Word of the Living God.

As you can see the needs are growing significantly, but we trust God to supply through your sacrificial giving.

Have a blessed New Year dear friends, and thank you again for your encouraging partnership.

Yours in Christ,
Basaam Chedid.

Northpointe Presbyterian Church
920 Windmill Drive
Meridian, MS 39305

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



January 2023

From the Pastor

Covenant of Grace 1.5

We are working through the biblical covenant of grace in order, first, to better understand the character of the God who enters relationship with mankind, and second, to grow in our appreciation for the redemptive unfolding of history climaxing in the Christ. The LORD first announces the covenant of grace in the *Proto-Evangelium* (the first announcement of the gospel) of Genesis 3:15 directly in response to the failure of Adam to uphold the covenant of works. Genesis 3:15 tells of the Seed of the woman who will crush the head of the seed of the serpent. After God promises broadly to sustain his creation and specially to maintain the promised Seed through a covenant made with Noah, the LORD covenants with Abraham with a promise of widespread blessing realized in the Seed of Abraham's family. Then the Mosaic covenant highlights "promises, prophecies, sacrifices, ... and other types" that point ahead to the work of the Seed who is Christ. Each of these unfolding layers of the one covenant of grace we have called a new administration.

We come now to the penultimate administration of the covenant of grace—that is, the Davidic covenant. It is through this administration that the promised Seed is woven together with the important idea of kingship. When Israel asks for a king in 1 Samuel 8:5, the LORD says to Samuel in 8:7, "they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them." The LORD had named Israel as his chosen people and had functioned over them as a King—governing, guiding, and guarding them. He established them that he might flourish them. But Israel had rejected their King. In grace, he gives them what they seek—Saul becomes king. After Saul proves an unfaithful king, the LORD rejects him and orchestrates the raising up of

a king "after his own heart" (1 Sam 13:14). That king is David, who is made to wait many years before the LORD brings him to the throne (2 Sam 5).

Then we come to 2 Samuel 7:4-16 and to the administration of the covenant of grace with David. Like other administrations before it, the word *covenant* (Hebrew, *berith*) never appears in the passage. Scripture must interpret Scripture for us to see the words of 2 Samuel 7 as the words of the LORD's covenant with David. "The last words of David" declare that the LORD "has made with [David] an everlasting covenant," one that is "secure" (2 Sam 23:1, 5). Through the psalmist, the LORD says, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations" (Ps 89:3-4). Even as Scripture interprets the words of 2 Samuel 7 as the covenant between God and David, it also highlights for us the nature of this Davidic covenant.

The Davidic covenant is about David's offspring reigning on an everlasting throne over an everlasting people. When we look to the words of 2 Samuel 7:4-16, it becomes apparent that the promised offspring has both a *proximate* and *final* fulfillment. The LORD says to David, "I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom" (7:12). This covenant promise is proximately fulfilled in David's son, Solomon. Solomon is the direct descendant of David, the LORD establishes the kingdom of Solomon with extravagant wealth and rest from enemies, and it is he who builds a house for the name of the LORD (7:13, 1 Kings 6:14). But Solo-

mon is not the final fulfillment. For the LORD also promises to David, "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." Solomon, like all earthly kings before and after him, will die. Thus, there is need for another who will come as the kingly offspring over a forever kingdom. The Davidic covenant promises such an offspring (i.e., Seed).

Psalm 89:38-51 highlights the tense perplexity felt within Israel when a man in the line of David no longer sits on the throne during the exile. At the height of the perplexity comes this question in v. 49: "Lord, where is your steadfast love of old, which by your faithfulness you swore to David?" But the perplexity must be read in light of vv. 19-37, which outline the absolute sureness of the LORD's faithfulness to himself and his word. The LORD declares, "Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me" (89:35-36). The LORD will not break his promise for a king to reign over an eternal kingdom. It will not be until Zechariah prophesies that the LORD "has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David" that Jesus the Christ, the Seed of the woman, of Abraham, of David, is revealed as the final fulfillment (Luke 1:69). The one whose star wise men see and to whom they bring kingly gifts is *the horn from the house of David*. The one whom Paul says is seated at the right hand "in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1:20-23). The Davidic covenant discloses the kingly reign of Christ. In and through Christ, God reigns over his people as King, with justice, mercy, and *grace upon grace*.

Pastor Kevin Vollema

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 No Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30 am No Evening Service	2	3 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	4	5 WIC Prayer Time 7 pm (Madeja Home)	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	9 Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	10 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Session Meeting 6 pm	11 Wednesday Night Activities Resume 5:30 pm	12	13 Readers Game Night 6:00 pm (HILL Home)	14
15 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	16 Youth Fellowship 6 pm Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	17 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Women's Book Study 6:30 pm (Welti Home)	18 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	19 WIC Prayer Time 7 pm (Madeja Home)	20 Parent's Night Out 6:00 pm	21
22 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	23	24 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Women's Book Study 6:30 pm (Welti Home)	25 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	26	27	28 Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast 8 am
29 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Fifth Sunday Fellowships 6 pm	30	31 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Women's Book Study 6:30 pm (Welti Home)				

REMINDERS

- The Readers Game Night will be **January 13**, @ 6:00 pm in the Hill home. [7989 Poplar Springs Dr]
- There will be a Session Meeting on **January 10**, at 7:00 pm.
- Women's Prayer Time date this month is at 7 pm, on **January 5 & 19**, in the home of Carmel Madeja. [420 Eastwood Street].
- Men's Prayer Breakfast dates for this month are: **January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 @ 6:30 am**.
- Parents' Night Out will be **January 20** from 6-9 pm. Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.
- Women's Tuesday Book studies will resume on **January 17** at 9:30 am [church] and 6:30 pm [Welti Home].
- Men's Monday study dates are: **January 9 and 16** at 7 pm in the Madeja Home [420 Eastwood Street].
- Men's Saturday Breakfast Discussion **January 28** at 8 am.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Russel Phillips
- Stephanie Denham
- Dawson Boes
Luke Gunn
- Brenda Stevens
- Tripp Morrow
- Betsy Hill
- Emma James
- Noah James
- Sylvia McEachin
- Stacy Thaggard
Hannah Elliott
- Rhonda Morrow

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will be observing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, **January 8**, during the morning service.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Hello Northpointe Youth! Northpointe Youth! We will have youth group on **January 16** from 6-9. We will have supper, games, and go over Acts 21 and 22. Looking forward to seeing you there! [5323 Linmoor Drive, Marion]

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES RESUME

Mark your calendar. Wednesday night activities will resume on **January 11, 2022** at 5:30 pm.

FIFTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

January has five Sundays, so we will be gathering with our Shepherding Groups for times of fellowships on **January 29**. Please watch your email inboxes for details.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Northpointe will be hosting a marriage conference led by Ed and Emily Hartman on Saturday, **February 11**. Please mark your calendars so you can plan to attend this event. We will begin with breakfast at 8:15 am and plan to be finished before noon. Childcare will be provided. Look for more details to follow regarding sign-up.

LADIES BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY

There will be a ladies book study beginning, Thursday, **January 19**, @1:00 pm in the home of Betsy Hill [7989 Poplar Springs Dr]. The study will be "Discerning the Plight of Man," by Paul Washer. This is an in depth study of the reality of man's sin, the dire consequences, and true hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The study will be facilitated by Carmel Madeja and is open to women and older teen girls (*at the discretion of the parents*). Please RSVP to Carmel Madeja by January 2, so we can order the correct # of books.