

Newsletter 6th June 2021

Sunday's Readings 2 Peter 3:14-17 How do we live in these days?

Trevor Barnett will bring us the word this week.

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for the Barnabas Foundation who work around the world helping persecuted Christians in countries where many are killed for their faith.
- Please continue to pray for those in our community who are battling chronic health issues. Pray that God will supply the strength, comfort, and resources that they need.
- Give thanks for the freedom to worship as we do. Remembering that there are many Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith we ask for their protection and for courage and perseverance. We pray for the Religious Freedom weekend on June 11th- 13th for all churches to unite in prayer for the persecuted around the world. See the link:
www.religiousfreedomweekend.com.au
- Please pray for people of Victoria as they struggle with covid 19. Pray for good political and medical leadership. Pray for the leaders and medical people as the world looks for an end to this pandemic.

➤ Prayer Chain

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733). Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

Notices

Mills Family: The Mills family have safely landed in Brisbane from PNG. Now they quarantine and hopefully in Adelaide by the 14th. Thanks for prayers ... letting the folks at Naracoorte Uniting know because some members have visited PNG with a mission. Judy Langshaw

Roster: The next roster is being prepared, please let Oriel know of any dates you are not available or if you can help in any way. There are many ways in which we can serve one another in the family of Christ prayerfully consider how you may be a part.

“Tithe a tin Pray a packet”: Thank you to all who generously give to the church pantry cupboard. Along with the Naracoorte Community Care network who generously give vouchers and donations we assist people who are struggling. NCCN have provided a list of suggestions for those who may be wondering how to help. Bless you for your care and generosity.

Update Your details: please let the office know if there any changes to details that we may not have, thank you.

Name tags: As our congregation is growing, please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

Midweek Bible reading

1 Samuel 8:4-22

⁴ So all the elders came together and met Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “You’re old, and your sons don’t live as you do. Give us a king to rule over us like all the other nations.”

⁶ When the elders said that Samuel was not pleased. He prayed to the Lord, ⁷ and the Lord told Samuel, “Listen to whatever the people say to you. They have not rejected you. They have rejected me from being their king. ⁸ They are doing as they have always done. When I took them out of Egypt, they left me and served other gods. They are doing the same to you. ⁹ Now listen to the people but warn them what the king who rules over them will do.”

¹⁰ So Samuel told those who had asked him for a king what the Lord had said. ¹¹ Samuel said, “If you have a king ruling over you, this is what he will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and his horses, and they will run in front of the king’s chariot. ¹² The king will make some of your sons’ commanders over thousands or over fifties. He will make some of your other sons plow his ground and reap his harvest. He will take others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to make perfume and cook and bake for him. ¹⁴ He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his servants. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and grapes and give it to his officers and servants. ¹⁶ He will take your male and female servants, your best cattle, and your donkeys and use them all for his own work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸ When that time comes, you will cry out because of the king you chose. But the Lord will not answer you then.”

¹⁹ But the people would not listen to Samuel. They said, “No! We want a king to rule over us. ²⁰ Then we will be the same as all the other nations. Our king will judge for us and go with us and fight our battles.”

²¹ After Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated their words to the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, “You must listen to them. Give them a king.”

When Israel was ruled by Judges, appointed by God, and not via any hereditary line like Kings, the source of authority was clearly derived from God.

The thing about having God as your king is that no earthly ruler can really take His place. God’s rule is intimate, one to one. God places the knowledge of what is right directly on our hearts. He doesn’t deal with us anonymously or treat us as anything less than his beloved children. He has no need to use us to enhance his own prestige. He has no need to use us to create wealth for himself. His only concern is for our welfare both spiritual and physical.

But the Israelites wanted a king. The elders tell Samuel that they are concerned because Samuel is old and there was no acceptable candidate to take over. Samuel’s sons were clearly unsuitable. They didn’t follow in their father’s way of honouring God and living according to God’s laws. Which was all true, but the answer was not to have a king.

God had set Israel apart from the other nations. Israel was exceptional; a nation set apart for God; intended as a light to all other nations; a nation ruled by God. But Israel wanted instead to be the same as all the other nations and in particular they were looking for a king to lead them in successful military campaigns. They were wanted not to be exceptional in their commitment to God, but to be successful by the same standards as the rest of the world uses to measure success.

As God points out to Samuel, by asking for a king they were really rejecting God. They were placing their faith in human institutions and worldly powers rather than in God.

But eventually God gives them what they want because God doesn’t force his will on us. He treats us all with respect, even when our motives and our wills clash with what he most desires. The final outcome for Israel would, however, not be great. While the monarchy in Israel reaches a highpoint in the reigns of Solomon and David, the seeds of ruin are already set in all too human failings. The failure of the king’s family, and eventually the drift from God’s rule leads to exile and the destruction of the state. It was up to a very special descendant of King David to re-establish God’s kingdom – a kingdom that, as Jesus tells Pilate, does not come from this world.

Christians must never place human institutions above God. We must pray for our leaders and for our systems of justice and government, and support proper authority, but we must

firmly resist when society's laws and practices conflict with God's law. God's rule is exceptional because of who God is, and who God is not.

Andrew