

Text: Psalm 8
St Stephen's

Jan 28/29, 2006
Sat PM/Sun AM

Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve

We are finishing a **series on the Chronicles of Narnia**, the great fictional work of CS Lewis. How many of you saw the movie? How many have read the book? Read it (our bookstore has copies). Watch it. You will love it!

Did you notice that much of LWW features the story of Edmund? We get to know him really well. By the time we come to the last chapters, you can almost see inside his head.

- He would remember Turkish delight! **(Slide)** For the love of that he betrayed of his sisters and brother!
- He would remember the horror of the White Witch's castle dungeon and the dead statues filling her courtyards...
- Then came rumors – "Aslan is on the move" Everything starts to thaw!
- The Witch decides to murder him, and just as she was putting her knife to his throat, a daring rescue! He would remember that!
- Then came the face to face talk with Aslan
- The fierce battle after the Stone Table. It was not going well, but...
- Then Aslan's roar and sudden victory!
- And now... thrones and crowns and cheers in the great hall of castle Cair Paravel. And he and Peter and Susan and Lucy are to reign over all these good creatures.

Let me **read it** (LWW p.199 para 1) Finally, Aslan speaks...

"Once a King or queen in Narnia, always a king or queen.

Bear it well, Sons of Adam! Bear it well, Daughters of Eve!"

It is quite a story. Do you think it is your story? More than you think...

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you have set in place— what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us?

Ps 8: 3-4 (NLT)

That is a **very good question... Who are we, anyway?** When you look at the vast glory of the created cosmos, we seem so small.

But everywhere **in Narnia, there seems to be an answer.** You find **a hint** in the children's rhymes that have been passed from generation to generation in Narnia.

You find another hint in the **awe and surprise** of the beavers and fauns, and in the **respect** from the great unicorns and eagles of Narnia when they meet a Son of Adam and a Daughter of Eve.

You find it in the **fears** of the Witch when she sleighs past Edmund and grinds to a fast stop: "What are you?" she asks. Well, he is human, and she is not happy with the answer.

The reason is that everywhere in **Aslan's world creatures know humans are destined to rule.** The four thrones at Cair Paravel, empty for centuries, were meant for two Sons of Adam and two Daughters of Eve. When they ascended to those thrones, the reign of the White Witch would end.

*"When Adam's flesh and Adam's bone
Sits at Cair Paravel in throne
The evil time will be over and done..."*

The answer is that Sins of Adam and Daughters of Eve have a **royal destiny and a noble calling.** In short...

We Are Destined to Rule

This is the same answer that you find in the pages of the Bible. Men and women are meant to have dominion over the earth...

*For you made us only a little lower than God,
and you crowned us with glory and honor.
You put us in charge of everything you made,
giving us authority over all things—*

Ps 8:5-6 (NLT)

Would you say, 'everything'... 'over all things'...?

Look at Gen 1:26-28:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule..." ...fill the earth and subdue it."

Gen 1:26-28 (NIV)

This is why we **instinctively want to be in charge** and control and shape our world. It is why you want to hold on to the TV remote. It is why you don't want to ride in the passenger seat. This is why two-year-olds are such a proverb, and why marital unity is so difficult to achieve. Because **everyone wants to be in charge!**

But **God made us that way** – except he made us to be in charge **in his Kingdom**, to **share His rule** – the Bible says that is your destiny in Jesus.

Because of **our sin nature** we are really good at taking that and **twisting that...** until life is **all about my rule**. That's not good. But even underneath "It's all about me" there is something of God, because he **made us to share his rule**.

Remember how this plays out in the Garden? (2.15)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Gen2:15 (NIV)

Adam and Eve had a **family partnership** with God, **learning how to share his rule** over God's creation. Those **garden partnerships** are all over the place in our lives. Your **family** is one of those gardens. Your **church** is one. Your **job** is another. So is your **neighborhood**. So is the **city** you live in. Gardens you manage and rule in a partnership with Christ.

Do you hear the voice of Aslan...?

*"Once a King or queen in Narnia, always a king or queen.
Bear it well, Sons of Adam! Bear it well, Daughters of Eve!"*

Jesus said we would **sit on thrones**. St Paul said we are to **judge angels**... Jesus hinted at this in several of his parables...

The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities...'

Mt 25:21 (NLT)

The last chapter of the bible says it plainly...

And they will rule with him age after age after age.
Re 22:5 (The Message)

You have a **royal destiny and a noble calling**.

I was thinking hard about this during the last year, and I found this photo of taken of the star fields in the Orion nebula by the Hubble Space Telescope. I thought of Jesus' statement...

Photo: *"In my father's house are many mansions..."*

And I thought, you know this whole creation is our Father's house. You are in your Father's house. Now I wonder... if the many mansions/rooms that he is preparing for us are out there. I wonder.

How's your imagination?

Lewis, (Weight of Glory)

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you meet now, if at all, only in a nightmare."

We **raise children** in the face of those fearsome destinies. It may take a bit of imagination, but imagination solidly rooted in the realities of Scripture reminds us that Lewis is right. We are raising children for eternity! For God. For **a royal destiny and a noble calling...**

Do you hear the voice of Aslan...

Bear it well, Sons of Adam! Bear it well, Daughters of Eve!

If we are destined to rule, what else is true is that...

We Are in Training for Reigning

Coming face to face with Aslan, every character of Narnia finds out that they **aren't who they thought they were**. They discover that they are Sons and Daughters of the Highest King, with an eternity or creative governance stretching out before them...

*"you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and **they shall reign on the earth.**" Rev 5:10 (ESV)*

Say, "You have made them". When did he do that? Make us a kingdom and priests? That is what he is doing today. And **he misses nothing, uses everything.**

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Rom 8:28 (NLT)

When we come to Jesus, we quickly learn that behind the random events of our lives he has been gathering, shaping and weaving it all into his purposes. The successes and the failures, the temptations and the challenges, are all used by him to prepare us to be **faithful Kingdom stewards** over matters small and large, **trustworthy to rule for him**.

That is what your life is about. Christ is shaping you, forming you. Your **whole life** is involved in this training, heads toward this destiny of sharing his rule.

Every conversation, every phone call

Every carefully planned day, every frustrating interruption

Every heart-breaking failure, every spirit soaring achievement

Every small seemingly meaningless task, every large life-changing decision...

Jesus is training you for **a royal destiny and a noble calling...** and every moment of your life is part of your training.

Everything gathered up and brought into his Kingdom, created for Him, governed for him, yielded to him, redeemed by him...

Bear it well, Sons of Adam! Bear it well, Daughters of Eve!