

Reflection for the 4th Sunday of Lent

On this 4th Sunday of Lent our First Reading is taken from the Second Book of Chronicles. I would think for most of us the First and Second Book of Chronicles are two books in the Bible that we are not particularly familiar with. These two books are part of the 11 books that make up what is commonly referred to as the Historical Books of the Old Testament. The other 9 books are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

Because our First Reading comes from a Book that many of us have little knowledge of, it is possible that we would not spend too much time reflecting on this reading. Rather we would spend our time with Psalm 17, the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, and the Gospel of St. John, which are the rest of the reading for this Sunday. It is understandable if one were to do this, but our First Reading this Sunday is truly worthy of looking into along with the First and Second Book of Chronicles.

It is important to note that 1 and 2 Chronicles record in some detail 550-years of the history of Israel, covering the time from the death of King Saul to the return of the Israelites from the Babylonian Exile. The unknown author of these two books was not focused on providing a historical account, that contain an impartial view of the events that are recorded. Rather the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles was primarily focused on presenting an interpretation of events for the purpose of discovering the actions of the living God in human affairs, primarily in the lives of people of Israel.

Bearing in mind the purpose of the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles, our First Reading this Sunday can come alive for us in a unique way. For this reading is not just speaking of a troubled and challenging time for the people of Israel. When they lost their way and found themselves losing their Kingdom and being sent to Babylon as captives. Our reading this Sunday also mentions that God inspired King Cyrus of Persia to return the people of Israel to their land and to rebuild their Temple. What we can take from this reading is that God never gave up on the people of Israel. Also, He will never give up on you and I. Our God will always find a way to reach out to us and call us back to Him.

Prayer for the Virtual Fish Fry

All knowing God, who led the tribes of Israel out of Egypt, the land of slavery and bondage to the promised land. Please in this Season of Lent lead us out of bondage to sin, to a life of joy and peace. May our 40-day Lenten journey renew us and prepare us to live a life of joy and peace, walking in the light of Christ. Loving God, please bless the food we are about to eat, that it might sustain us physically, as you sustain us spiritually in this 40-day Lenten journey. Amen