

So th King came back

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[0 : 0 0] Let's turn back to the chapter that we read in the second book of Samuel chapter 19. We'll read again at the beginning of verse 15.

2 Samuel chapter 19 verse 15. So the king came back. So the king came back.

In 2008, 2009, I can't remember exactly when, Princess Anne paid a visit to the Nicholson Institute. At that time I was working as a deputy director in the school.

And I was involved in the planning for the visit. And I was amazed at the protocols, the rules, the regulations that we had to follow for this visit.

We weren't allowed to speak to her unless she spoke to us first. We were told how we had to address her. And the school was full of these guys, big guys, with suits and earpieces.

[1 : 1 1] Who didn't really want to speak to anybody. But it was also amazing to see the different attitudes that people had to the visit of this royal person. Some people were really excited.

At the thought of a genuine, real-life princess coming into the school. Some of the children, the young people in the school, the ones in the choirs and those who were performing for a visit.

They were all excited. Most of the teenagers were kind of, nah. Didn't really think much about it. But some people were quite empty.

Why is she coming here? It's a waste of time. It's getting in the way of the work of the school. So everybody had a different attitude as to what was happening.

A reading in Samuel is about King David coming back. Coming to Jerusalem. Coming over the Jordan.

[2 : 1 6] After the unsuccessful rebellion of his son, Absalom. Absalom, his own son, had risen up against him and tried to overthrow him. But Absalom was now dead.

He was caught in a tree by his hair. He was fond of his hair. I wish I had Absalom's problems sometimes.

But Absalom is now dead. Absalom is gone. And David is returning to take his place on Israel's throne. But not everybody is happy to see King David coming back.

Not everybody is rejoicing over the king's return. Some were ready for it. They were overjoyed that he was coming back. The thought of David on the throne again was all they wished for.

But others, they weren't so pleased about it. So we're going to look this morning, this afternoon for a few moments, at the people who met King David as he came back.

[3 : 2 0] Because each of those that we read about met the king with a different attitude. And as we do this morning, this is not some mere theological exercise.

It's not a historic exercise. I want us to think about our returning king. Because we serve a king who is coming back.

Jesus is coming back. When we celebrate communion. When we celebrate communion. We do so with the words of 1 Corinthians chapter 11 verse 26.

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Jesus is coming back. Jesus is coming back.

And before he left this earth, he gave a precious promise. He gave it as a glorious hope for the people of God, for those who believe in him.

[4 : 20] He says, I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again. And I will take you to myself. So that where I am, you may be also.

He's coming back for a purpose. He's coming back to take you to be with him. What a blessing. If you love Jesus Christ today.

What a thought about your eternal future. That Jesus himself will come and will take you to be with him. But when Jesus returns, when he comes back, not everybody will meet him in the same way.

Some will be excited, yes. Some will be rejoicing. But others will be caught off guard. And others will be terrified. And the question for you and me today is, how will we meet the king?

Well, some of the people that we read about in chapter 19 of 2 Samuel will be worried. They were worried.

[5 : 31] One man who met him was called Ziba. And Ziba had good reason to be worried about the king coming back. In chapter 16 of this book, you can read about when David had to run, had to flee from Jerusalem.

Ziba came and he brought David food and he brought him supplies. But as he gave that to David, he used the opportunity to destroy the reputation of his master.

To destroy the reputation of the man that he served. This man called Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth. And because of this deception, because David believed Ziba, why wouldn't he?

He was a good man. He brought all these supplies and these provisions. So what he must have been saying about Ziba must have been through. He believed Ziba. And so David gave Ziba all of Mephibosheth's property.

But Ziba lied to the king. Ziba lied to deceive him. To feather his own mess. To line his own pockets. And Ziba probably thought that he would never see David again.

[6 : 43] He thought that he would never see David back in power in Jerusalem. That he was gone and that Absalom would take control. But here is David back again.

And Ziba is worried about David's return. Ziba is like somebody who says that they love the king.

That they follow the king. That they admire the king. But they really, in their heart of hearts, they don't. Ziba just followed David for his own purposes.

For his own ends. Put simply, Ziba was a hypocrite. He pretends to be something. But he's actually something completely different.

Many people pretend to be what they're not. And that's not how it should be. If we've been saved by God.

[7 : 43] If we are Christians. If we confess. If we say that we believe in Jesus Christ. Then God must have ownership of our lives. Because we are bought with a price.

Grace does not come to us cheaply. Grace costs. Jesus. We're told in the New Testament.

That God spared not. The father didn't spare his only son. There was cost involved in Calvary. What's more.

If you're a believer in Jesus Christ. Then you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. And so God expects us to live for him. To keep his commandments. If you love me.

He says. Keep my commandments. And that proves our love. Doesn't it? That we do what he says. That we do what he asks. That's proof.

[8 : 40] That we love him. That we do what he says. That some people who say they're saved. They don't follow. They don't serve. They don't obey in the way that they're meant to.

Will you be worried? When King Jesus comes back. Will you be concerned? If you're not living for Jesus. Like you should.

If you're lukewarm. In the service of the gospel. Then yes. You will be worried. You should be worried. But if you've been faithful to the Lord. If you've been faithful to his people.

His house. And the work of his kingdom. Then you have got. Good reason to not worry. If you are unfaithful.

Then you should be worried. Because we will all stand. Before him. At the judgment seat. Of Christ. Everything that we do. Will be wide open.

[9 : 36] At the judgment seat of Christ. We live in a world. We live in an age. Where people say. Well it's my life. It's my life. So I can live as I please.

I can do as I want. Well that's true. But you have to be aware. That if you live your life. Simply to please yourself.

That there will be a price to pay. If you do that. We reap. What we sow. But here's the real question.

That underlies that thought. If you and I. If we live just as we please. Are we really saved? Because along with salvation.

Comes a desire. To live. For the Lord. There's a hymn. Excuse me. There's a hymn that says this. Take my life. And let it be consecrated.

[10 : 31] Lord. To thee. Take my moments. And my days. Let them flow. In ceaseless praise. Take my hands. And let them move. At the impulse of thy love. Take my feet.

And let them be swift. And beautiful for thee. Ziba was a hypocrite. Ziba praised David with his mouth.

But his heart was nowhere near David. At this point I'll briefly mention the man called Shimei. And I'm sure Shimei when he was.

When he heard that David was coming back. And we could see it in the chapter. I'm sure Shimei was worried. About the king's coming. Back in chapter 16.

We can read where. When David left Jerusalem. Shimei had followed after David. He'd gone down the road after him. Out of the city. Cursing David.

[11 : 28] Shouting at David. Shimei was glad to see the back of the king. He was glad to get rid of David. As his ruler. But now. The shoe's on the other foot.

Now. David is coming back. And Shimei. Has to face the king. And he was one of the first guys to go.

And he met the king. Before the king crossed the Jordan. He met the king. Before the king returned. He returned. And he begged.

For forgiveness. It's the only thing he can do. He begged. For forgiveness. And he found that forgiveness. Many people try to live life on their own terms.

They deny Jesus. They mock Jesus. They don't believe in Jesus. And the paradox is. That many people who don't believe Jesus. They don't believe he existed.

[12 : 24] They don't believe he exists. And yet they hate him. Anyway. That doesn't make sense to me. They refuse to submit to his authority over their lives.

Jesus. The day is coming. When every single person. Who has lived on this earth. Will face Jesus. And they will face him.

In judgment. Wouldn't it be terrible. Wouldn't it be awful. If the only words. That you ever hear. From the lips of Jesus. Or from gentle Jesus.

Meek and mild. From the Lamb of God. Who takes away the sin. Of the world. Wouldn't it be awful. If the only word.

That you ever heard. From the lips of the king. When he returned. Was get away from me. I never knew you. Jesus is coming back.

[13 : 26] We've never been nearer. To the point at which he's going to come back. Than we are now. Jesus is coming back. And the best plan for his return. Is to be ready.

Is to be prepared. If you're not saved. If you're not sure. How you stand before Jesus. Before the king. As he's coming back.

The best thing is to do. What Shimei did. Is to beg for forgiveness. Get on your knees. In front of the king. Before he crosses the Jordan.

Beg for forgiveness. And be saved. If you are saved. If you are a believer.

Then live your life. So you won't be ashamed. When he appears. Surrender the crown. That you are holding. Over your own life. Because Jesus' return.

[14 : 22] Doesn't have to be something. That we're worried about. Doesn't need. To catch you or I. Off our guard. Because Jesus himself. Two thousand years ago.

Said. That he was coming back. And he is. Coming back. Because he keeps. His promises. And he himself.

The bible says. He is the first fruits. The first. Evidence. The first. Proof. Of the resurrection. And his return.

Does not need. To catch you. Off your guard. And some people. Will be waiting. When Jesus comes. Some people. Will be waiting.

For him. Coming back. Look at verses. 19 to 30. In the chapter. That we read. Among those. Who came out. To meet. David. Was this man. Called. Mephibosheth. This man.

[15 : 17] Who was slandered. He was. Run down. By Ziba. His slave. And when Mephibosheth. When he comes out. To meet the king.

It looks like. He hasn't washed. He hasn't shaved. He hasn't looked. After himself. Since the day. That David. Left. Jerusalem. He spent.

All of that time. Mourning. Over the king's. Absence. Praying. Longing. Waiting. For the king's. Return. And there's a very good reason. For this. Mephibosheth's story.

Is told. In 2nd Samuel. Chapter 9. Mephibosheth. Is a grandson. Of king Saul. And because. Saul. Hated David. That should really mean.

That Mephibosheth. Is an enemy. Of David. He's a. He's a threat. To David's dynasty. To the Davidic dynasty. And David. Could have had. Mephibosheth.

[16 : 14] Killed. And that was. The trend. Among kings. In the ancient. Near east. If there were. Anybody left. From the family. Of the previous king.

Who could be a threat. They put them to death. They killed them. And so David. Could have put. Mephibosheth. To death. But instead. Because.

Mephibosheth. Was Jonathan's son. Jonathan. Who David. Loved. David. Spared him. And he took him. Into his own family. He treated him.

As if he was. His own son. And so Mephibosheth. Loved the king. He loved David.
Because of what the king. Had done for him. Because of the love. That David. Showed.

For Mephibosheth. And he longed. For nothing more. Than for the king's. Return. He
yearned. For David. To come back. But when David.

[17 : 11] Did come back. David still. Believed. What Ziba. Had said. About Mephibosheth. And
David. Treated him. Unfairly. When he returned. He still. Didn't give him. Back all of his.
Property.

But did you see. Mephibosheth's. Love for David. It was so. Strong. That he didn't. Care.
About his. Land. And about the. Property. He said. Ziba.

Can have all. Of that. As long. As the king. Is back. He only. Cared. About the king. He
only. Cared. About being. Under the king. And being.

With the king. Some people. Spend their lives. Waiting. For Jesus. For king. Jesus. To
return. And to them.

There will be no. Sweeter sound. Than to hear the shout. That will come. From heaven.
The last. Trumpet. That will sound. And the summons. To come. Up here. Some of you.

[18 : 05] I'm sure. Are waiting. For him. Right now. For every believer. In here today. Everybody.
Who's waiting. For the Lord Jesus. Well one day. You're waiting. My waiting.

Our waiting. Will be over. And Jesus. Will do exactly. As he promised. He will do exactly.
As he said. He will return. In power.

And glory. And he will take. His people. To be with him. Where he is. Will you be waiting.
When he returns. Will you be watching.

For his return. Has the truth. The impact. The power. Of what Jesus. Has done for you. Of
the love. That Jesus has for you. Has that dawned.

In your soul. And are you gripped. With a love. For Jesus. That you can't. Explain. When
you consider.

[18 : 59] That he's forgiven. Every sin. Every wrong thing. That you've ever done. When he's. You
think. That he's removed. The penalty. Of all of your sins. That he's broken.

The power. That sin has. Over you. How could you not. Long. To see him. Who loved you.
And gave himself. For you.

When you remember. That he loves you. That he keeps you. And that he blesses you.
Day and daily. With more. Than you. Will ever deserve. More than I.

Will ever deserve. Doesn't it touch your heart. Doesn't it make you. Long for his return. So
that your eyes. Will see the king. In all.

Of his glory. Because when he returns. He will not return. As a baby. He will not return. As
a carpenter.

[19 : 55] He will not return. As a broken man. On a cross. He will return. As the conquering king.
And he will take. What is his.

And you will see him. In all. Of his glory. Are you waiting. For Jesus Christ. For Jesus
Christ. Today. If so.

Then rejoice. My friend. We've never been closer. To his return. Than we are right now.
He might return. Today. We don't know. But if he doesn't.

Then it's our job. To work. To struggle. To watch. To wait. To wait in prayer. To focus. So
that we can be found. Waiting for Jesus.

When he returns. The king. Is. Coming back. Keep watching. Keep waiting. And some
people.

- [20 : 50] Will be working. They won't just be watching. And waiting. They will be working. Barzillai. This. This man. He was another fellow. Who went out. To meet king David.
- On his return. To Jerusalem. And he met the return. Of David. With joy. He was overjoyed. That David. Was coming back. To take the throne. And he's an old man.
- He's 80 years of age. But he still comes out. To see the king home. Not much is known. About this man. Barzillai. He was a rich man.
- We know that. But we do get a glimpse. Of his faithfulness. And of his service. Because. While David. Was in exile. Barzillai. Faithfully.
- Continued to save. To serve. David. As his king. He was part of a band of men. Who brought food. And supplies. To David. When he needed them most.
- [21 : 47] When he was on the run. From Absalom. You can read about that. In chapter 17. Of this book. So when David. We came back. To Jerusalem. That same spirit.
- Was alive. In this faithful man. Barzillai. He still. Served the king. Yes he was old. But he kept working. For the king. There was no. Hint of retirement.
- In the king's service. For him. Will you and I. Be still. Found. Working. When our king. Returns. It's a sad truth.
- It's a sad. Sad. Sad. Thing. But there are many. Believers. Who are absent. Without leave. Today. There are many people. Who once were saved. Who once professed.
- Their faith. But they don't serve. The Lord. With the faithfulness. That they did. Once more. They don't.
- [22 : 44] Surrender. Every aspect. Of their life. And for some people. They still. Resist. Jesus's claim. On their life. They resent.
- Jesus. Saying to them. Every inch. Of your life. Is mine. If we belong. To the king. The king. Has bought us. With a price.
- The price. Of us. Is his blood. And we should work. We should serve. The king. While we're waiting. For his return.
- How should we do that? Well we should do. What we're doing. Just now. We should be. Gathering together. We should be. Worshipping. On Sunday.
- Through the week. Whenever. We can. Because what we're doing. Is we're gathering. With our family. If you're. Believers. Today.
- [23 : 38] You are not. A bunch of strangers. You are my brothers. And sisters. You are. Brothers and sisters. To each other. We are. Bonded. By blood. That's what a family is. And we gather.
- With our blood. Relatives. To hear about. Our elder brother. Because our. Elder brother. Has won the battle. And he's. Guaranteeing. Our salvation. Our elder brother.
- Who is coming back. And we should be. Working. We should be. Involved. In the work. Of the kingdom. We should be.
- Involved. In the work. Of the church. In the broadest sense. In any. And in every way. That we can. By using. The gifts. That God. Has given us. And God. Has given.
- Every single. One of us. Gifts. And we should. Use these gifts. To serve them. As best we can. Not by saying.
- [24 : 36] Get. Somebody else. To do it. Or. Shove to he. When something. Needs to be done. We should be. Rolling up. Our sleeves. Getting our hands.
- Dirty. In the work. Of the kingdom. For the. To prepare. For the king's. Return. And we should. Be. Gossiping.

We should. Be. Being. Gossips. As long as. What we're gossiping. Is the gospel. Speaking to our. Brothers and sisters. In Christ. About what.

Jesus has done. For us. Sharing. With other people. The good news. Of Jesus Christ. I'm sure.

Most of you. If not all of you. Have read. The pilgrim's. Progress. By John Bunyan. John Bunyan. Was converted. By overhearing. Two Christian women. And all they were doing.

[25 : 34] Was talking. To each other. About their savior. John Bunyan. Heard that conversation. And he was. Saved. And in that.

Salvation. He was used. Mightily. By the Lord. God. We should be working. By being. A Barnabas.

By being. An encouragement. To the family. Of God. Either here. Or wherever. You find yourself. By building. Brothers and sisters. Up.

In the faith. Not criticizing. And tearing down. Time. We should be giving. Our time. Our talents. And our financial. And material. Resources. To the Lord.

And his kingdom's work. Who gave us. These things anyway. God did. And at the very best. We are only stewards. Of these things.

[26 : 28] As we pass through. This world. So the very best. Use. Of our time. Our talents. And our financial. And material. Resources. Is to lay them. At the feet. Of the one. Who gave them.

For the work. Of his kingdom. Seek. First. The kingdom. Of God. Says Jesus. And his righteousness. And all of these things. Will be added to you.

Look for God's righteousness. First. And all these things. Will be added to you. My question. For you this morning. Is if you're a believer.

In Jesus. Will the king. When he comes back. Will. King Jesus. Find you. Working. For him. Not just waiting. But if you can.

Will he find you. Working for him. Barzillai was. 80 years old. But he was. Working. Till the very end. He was faithful.

[27 : 26] He kept living. He kept giving. He kept working. He kept doing. Everything that he could. Until the king. Returned. Will that be said. About you and me. Let me challenge you.

This morning. Again. With the words. Of a hymn. Rise up. O men of God. And women. Have done. With lesser things.

Give heart. And soul. And mind. And strength. To serve. The king. Of kings. If that's you. Then just like. King David. Blessed Barzillai.

King Jesus. Will bless. Your faithfulness. To him. The day. Will come. When he will receive you. Into his blessed presence. And he will reward you.

For your work. And your faithfulness. Openly. Don't. Give up. Don't. Be discouraged. Keep.

[28 : 20] Working. Augustine. That. Faithful father. Of the early church. Said this. That we should pray. Like everything. Depends on God.

But we should work. Like everything. Depends on us. Keep praying. Yes. But keep working. Because you are. The tools.

That God uses. To spread. His good news. Of the returning. King. Throughout. The kingdom. Stand your ground. For Jesus. Jesus. And even if.

Everybody else. Around you. Falls away. Gives up. Or drops out. You keep on. Fighting. For the glory. Of the Lord. Because those. Who stand. Will receive.

The victory. Keep. Waiting. Keep. Working. For Jesus. And some people. Will be hating. When Jesus returns.

[29 : 17] Some people. Will be filled. With hatred. We run. Into chapter 20. And there was. That man there. At the beginning. Of chapter 20. This man. Called.

Sheba. And we're told there. That he was. A worthless man. He had just. One thing. On his mind. This.

Sheba. And that thing. Was overthrowing. King David. He hated. David. He hated. The fact. That David. Was coming back. He hated.

The fact. That David. Was resuming. The throne. And he tried. To lead. A rebellion. Against him. And in response. David's generals.

Chased after. Sheba. And he was killed. He was put to death. You can read about it. Later. In chapter 20. Sheba. Stands. For the people. Who are enemies. Of Christ. Who hate.

[30 : 11] Jesus. Who don't see. That they need. A king. A ruler. Over their lives. Like Jesus. They're doing. A good enough. Job themselves. Thank you. Very much. People who don't believe.

In Jesus. And yet. They hate him. With a passion. Anyway. But there are also. People who don't think. That they are. Jesus's enemies.

They maybe don't have. That vitriolic. Hatred. Maybe you don't think. You're an enemy. Of Jesus. You're not. A bad person. You live.

A good life. You keep the laws. Of the land. You observe. The speed limit. You pay your taxes. You don't beat. Your dog. Or your children. You're just sitting. On the fence.

You're maybe. Waiting to make up. Your mind. To see. Which side. You'll plump for. Eventually. Or maybe you think. That well. Jesus is okay.

[31 : 05] For others. It's okay. For my wife. It's okay. For my grandparents. It's okay. For other people. To like Jesus. If they like. That sort of thing. But not for you. You don't want to be. An enthusiast.

For Jesus. Well if that's you. If that's the way. You think. If that's how you look. At the Bible. And the church. And Jesus Christ.

Then I've got some. Bad news. The truth is. That every person. Who doesn't love. King Jesus. Is his enemy. These are his words.

Not my words. He said it. Not me. I'm not making this up. He said. If you are not for me. You're against me. If you're not for. Jesus.

Then you are his enemy. You're against. Jesus. And when Jesus returns. People who are not waiting. Who are not longing. Who are not yearning. For his return.

[32 : 00] Who are not working. To anticipate his coming back. They'll be in the same position. As Sheba was. They'll be enemies. Of the king.

They'll find themselves. Shut out. Of the kingdom. The doors. Will be closed. Against them. Shut out. Of an eternity. In heaven. Will you be shut out.

When Jesus returns. If Jesus comes. And finds you. Still lost. In sin. Then. You won't be. In the kingdom. You will be.

In a place. That wasn't. Prepared for you. It was prepared. For the devil. And his angels. But it's the place. That Jesus. Will send you to. That he will. Commit you to. If you are not.

Prepared. For his return. To the kingdom. And that's the bad news. But that is good news. Today. Because King Jesus.

[33 : 00] His return. Does not have to catch you. Off your guard. You can be ready. You can be saved. Now. If you are saved. Today. If you come to Jesus. Today.

You are as holy. And as saved. And as loved. As somebody. Who came to Jesus. 37. 38 years ago. 2000 years ago.

A man called. Yeshua. It's the same name. As Joshua. This man. Jesus. From Nazareth. He was the Christ.

Of God. He was the chosen. Of God. The anointed. Of God. He was the son. Of God. He went to the cross. Willingly. And he laid down. His life.

For you. Has anybody. Ever loved you. That much. Can you think of. Anybody. Who was willing. To die. So that you. Could live.

[33 : 59] He took. Your sins. But more than that. He became. Your sins. And took. The punishment. Your sin. Deserves. My sin.

Deserves. Why? So that we can be saved. So that if you accept him. As the payment. As the sacrifice. Your sin.

For your sins. And you repent. You turn away. From. Your sins. Then God. Will save. Your soul. It is that. Simple. Repent.

And believe. And he will take you to heaven. When you are ready. To leave this world. And that means. That you would be ready.

When Jesus comes. You would be ready. To meet him. Knowing that his. Righteousness. Has saved. You. Don't be like Sheba.

[34 : 54] Don't be an enemy. Of the king. Don't be cursing. The king. Be saved. Be blessed. Be part of his kingdom. Now. And forever.

How will you meet the king. When he comes back. No one knows. When Jesus is coming back. No one knows. The hour. No one knows. The day.

Jesus. The son. He doesn't know. Only the father knows. Are you worried about his return. This morning. Do you ever think about it. Maybe you put it out of your mind.

We live our lives. We put our death. Out of our mind. Because it always seems. So far in the future. But it always arrives.

Do you ever think about Jesus coming. Or is that something. That it's got to be thousands. Hundreds if not thousands. Of years in the future. Well we should be worried about him.

[35 : 58] Because he is coming back. Every promise that he made. He has fulfilled. And he will fulfill this one. Are you waiting for him. To come back. This morning. If Jesus comes soon.

Will he find you. Working for him. Up to your elbows. In pushing the good news. News. Of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To your fellow beings.

Or will he find you. Hating him. Because if you are not. Loving him. Working for him. Waiting for him. Praying for his return. You are hating him.

Like it or not. Jesus is coming back. And when he does. How will you meet him. Amen.

Let's pray. Eternal Father. We thank you for the promise. That every eye will see him. When he returns in power and glory.

[37 : 00] When Jesus comes to take what is his. And to make judgment. In a final division. Between those who love.

And those who hate. In the name of Jesus. This morning Lord. That all of us who are in here. Would know. Jesus Christ. As our saviour. That we would be convicted.

Of our need of a saviour. A ruler. To guide us. And defend us. A lover of our soul. To save us. From the hell. That is to be shunned.

And bring us to the heavens. And that is to be sought. Part us with your blessing. Make us give you no peace. Until you save us.

And restore us. For Jesus sake. Amen. Let's sing. From the Scottish Psalter. In conclusion. Psalm 72.

[38 : 00] Psalm 72. Psalm 72. The last three verses. Page 314.

In the blue psalm book. Psalm 72. From verse 17. His name forever. Shall endure. Laughed. Like the sun it shall. Men shall be blessed in him. And blessed.

All nations. Shall him call. So on down. To the end of the psalm. To God's praise. His name forever. Shall endure. We stand to sing. Amen. His name forever.

Shall endure. Last night. The sun it shall. And shall be blessed.

In him. And blessed. All nations. Shall him call.

[39 : 06] How blessed be the Lord. May God.

To God. May.

And blessed be. Thank you.

So let him be. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with us all now and forevermore. Amen.