

**Sun., Oct. 24 - Baptism for Landon Gregory Klemmensen**

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:25 “Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.”

Message: “King of Kings: Reigning with the King”

Text: Ephesians 2:4-6, “However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that He has for us. You are saved by God’s grace! 6 And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus.”

Reading of Scripture: Genesis 1:24-31

Sermon Scripture: Romans 8:17, 28-29 (CEB)

Blurb: In the last of our King of Kings messages we learn how we are destined for glory! God calls us to be His kings and queens like His son Jesus. Our lives now are a time of training. This Sunday we’ll learn how we, in strict self-discipline, conform our lives to be like Jesus so we can reign with Him in our lives to come!

Videos:

Bumper Video

Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIcBb7tfvos> (2:21 minutes)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - Kings and Queens of Narnia

Video 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZvqKbInmzo> (end at 0:53)

The Chronicles of Narnia - The Voyage of the Dawn Treader Final Goodbyes

“In your world I have another name, you must come to know me by it..you may know me better there.”

***[Recorded Worship Beginning]***

**WELCOME** -Pastor Andrew

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor Andrew

“Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.” -  
1 Corinthians 9:25

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Forever Reign*

*The Lion and the Lamb*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]****GATHERING SONG:** *Only King Forever* -Sanctify**WELCOME** -Pastor David**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

“Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.” -  
1 Corinthians 9:25

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**His Mercy Is More**Forever Reign*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]****READING OF SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:24-31 (CEB) -Reader:

In the beginning of the Bible is the story of creation. On the sixth day, God made all the animals. Then, God made a special creation, the only creation in His own image. Genesis 1:24-31.

24 God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.” And that’s what happened. 25 God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. 26 Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

27 God created humanity in God’s own image,  
in the divine image God created them,  
male and female God created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.” 29 Then God said, “I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. 30 To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food.” And that’s what happened. 31 God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

**SERVE MOMENT:** Trunk-or-Treat -Pastor Andrew and a child in a costume

**BAPTISM:** Landon Gregory Klemmensen -Pastor David

Apostle's Creed

Song: *May you Run and Not Grow Weary*

**PRAYERS** -Pastor David

Pray again for children and people whose baptism you have witnessed. Write down names. Pray for them using the baptismal blessing from *UMH* pages 38-39.

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** Lemuel the Lion -Pastor Andrew & Vicky Keintz

**MESSAGE: King of Kings (Narnia) #7: "Reigning with the King"**

**BUMPER VIDEO**

**PP#1:** King of Kings: Reigning with the King

"However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that He has for us. You are saved by God's grace! 6 And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus." -Ephesians 2:4-6

King of Kings: Reigning with the King. Ephesians 2:4-6, "However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that He has for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus."

**PP#2:** *Image of the four (empty) thrones that were waiting for the 4 children in Narnia*

Today we come to the last of our King of King message series, where we've been using the *Chronicles of Narnia* to help us understand how the Bible teaches us that Jesus is our King. We've spent most of our time with *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, following the four Pevensie children in their adventure in Narnia. And although we've been looking at Aslan as the Great King of Narnia, there has been a subplot all along that Aslan had called the four children to come to be ruling kings and queens of Narnia.

This is a bit of a shock to them, as they are just ordinary kids from nowhere special...Susan tells the beavers, "We're just from Finchley!" That would be for us like being from Crystal. And not only are they nobody special from nowhere special, they are not in any way ready to rule: not only can they themselves not even get along, the monsters they face in Narnia represent their inner monsters, too.

So, they have no confidence in themselves. But the other Narnians, however, do, and are willing to follow the bumbling children, because they trust in Aslan, who said that one day they would be amazing kings and queens. Did you catch that? The other Narnians have confidence in the children, because Aslan has confidence in them.

**PP#3:** *Image for Jesus fighting our "monsters" on our behalf (Perhaps a picture of a person facing a monster with Jesus above/superimposed over him/her, with a sword fighting the monster?)*

And that's where we jump back into our lived realities! This is a biblical truth that we need to embrace for our lives. We have learned to see Jesus as our King of kings and Lord of lords, because that is who He is. But we also discover that when we see Him rightly, we also discover the subplot that we begin to see ourselves more accurately as well.

We know, when we are honest with ourselves, we admit that we are fraught with monsters, both what we face in our daily lives out in the world, and also inside us: in the boardrooms of our souls (to throwback to a message series last year...I believe in the media world that's called an "Easter egg"). So, as we are stuck in winter and under the icy power of evil, we've learned to look to an even greater power—King Jesus—for rescue and help. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the great High King.

**PP#4: King of Kings: Reigning with the King**

1. We have crowns and thrones waiting for us!

Then, as we get to know Him better, and as we learn to submit our lives to Him, we discover that He has called us *on purpose*. He has chosen us for a special role. We have a purpose that is only complete in Him. Yes, He saves us FROM evil and sin and death—hallelujah!—but as we embrace that, we also discover that in so doing, He has saved us FOR ruling and reigning with Him.

What? King Jesus makes us kings and queens! The Gospel message is not just that Jesus saves you from sin. The Gospel message is also that you have a crown and a throne waiting for you!

**PP#5: Revelation 3:20-22**

20 Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. 21 As for those who emerge victorious, I will allow them to sit with me on my throne, just as I emerged victorious and sat down with my Father on His throne. 22 If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Let's go back to that famous passage in Revelation 3, where Jesus says that He stands on the outside of our heart's door, knocking and asking to come in. To put our trust in Jesus means to open our hearts' doors and receive Him as our personal Lord and Savior, right? But look what He promises when He explains this to the Christians in Laodicia, Revelation 3:20-22, "Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. [Ah, there's a picture of what salvation looks like! Eating with Jesus! But let's keep reading...there's more! Verse 21] As for those who emerge victorious [stay steady with Jesus until the end, even through all kinds of trials and hardships], I will allow them to **sit with me on my throne**, just as I emerged victorious and sat down with my Father on His throne. 22 If you can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Do you hear that promise? If we remained steadfast with Jesus, in the end, we will be invited to sit with Him on the throne that He has earned!

**PP#6:** Revelation 5:10 “You made them kings and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

2 Timothy 2:11-12 11 This saying is reliable: ‘If we have died together, we will also live together. 12 If we endure, we will also rule together. If we deny Him, He will also deny us.’”

Colossians 3:4 “When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

Or again, in Revelation 5 like we read two weeks ago, we see that at the end times, we see the 24 elders, each on thrones. The 24 elders symbolize God’s chosen people, made up of those who are from the 12 tribes of Israel and those who stand in line with the 12 apostles. They have thrones, and they declare that Jesus is worthy and has redeemed people by His blood, and then, in 5:10, they say, “You have made them kings and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Paul picks this up in Timothy 2:11-12. He quotes, “This saying is reliable: ‘If we have died together [with Jesus], we will also live together. 12 If we endure, **we will also rule together**. If we deny Him, He will also deny us.’” Or again in Colossians 3:4 Paul says, “When Christ, who is your life, is revealed [this is at the end times], then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” We share in His glory and reign!

At the end of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the children, who have faithfully persevered, are crowned kings and queens of Narnia. I want you to see this clip, and as you do, reflect on how this gives you an image for what awaits you, and how this spurs you on to remain faithful now. Take a look.

**Video 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlcBb7tfvos> (2:21 minutes)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - Kings and Queens of Narnia

**PP#7:** Genesis 1:26-28

“26 Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.” 27 God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.”

So, we are like the children and will be crowned kings and queens in God’s kingdom! So, what does that mean for us? What’s going on here? Well, to understand the future, we look back to the past. All the way back to creation, Genesis 1. God creates all things in 6 days, right? Well, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, God, in a special creation, makes people. And it says God makes people in God’s image. What is that image? In Genesis 1:26 it says that part of what it means to be made in God’s image is to “take charge over” the rest of creation. Verse 27 says that being made in God’s image means being in relationship, male with female with God: relationship. And verse 28 says that to be made in God’s image is to share in *creating life*, to fill the earth. And then, it is also to “master it. Rule over” the rest of creation. We were made in God’s image to rule over the earth. We share God’s authority and power. That doesn’t mean “use up” or “abuse” creation, but care for creation, be stewards of it, like a gardener lovingly nurtures her garden. So, our position of authority was lost due to sin in The Fall, but this is restored to us when God restores paradise, recreates heaven on earth at the end times. Our position of ruling with God—and in this we share His image—is restored.

**PP#8:** Daniel 7:21-22 “21 As I watched, this same horn waged war against the holy ones and defeated them, 22 until the Ancient One came. Then judgment was given in favor of the holy ones of the Most High. The set time arrived, and the holy ones held the kingship securely.”

Daniel 7:27 “The kingship, authority, and power of all kingdoms under heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. Their kingship is an everlasting one; every authority will serve them and obey.”

Now, I have to pause briefly in Daniel. We just finished a series on Daniel, and I can't pass over the image in Daniel of God's people ruling with God. Daniel, you see, also gets visions of the end times. And in chapter 7 his vision is of a strong horn of power waging war against God's people. The horn is evil and corruption, expressed in terms of rebellious armies of the earth, and for a time, it wins! But then, the Messiah comes, the Ancient One. He declares from His almighty throne of judgement against the evil powers and in favor of the holy ones. And, it says at the end of verse 22, “the holy ones held the kingship securely.” They are set up as kings in God's kingdom! Verse 27, “The kingship, authority, and power of all kingdoms under heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. Their kingship is an everlasting one; every authority will serve them and obey.” So, at the end times, all human powers on earth are put under the power of God's people. But also all spiritual powers: God's people, imbued with the power of the Messiah, will rule over evil and every other earthly power. Their reign will never end, they will continue forever, even though the powers of darkness will come to an end.

God will restore the paradise He originally created. God's people will be given authority to share with Jesus when He brings peace and vanquishes evil and brings peace. And we will continue to rule in God's kingdom forever in peace and harmony.

**PP#9:** King of Kings: Reigning with the King

1. We have crowns and thrones waiting for us!
2. “Come further up! Come further in!”

Now, at the end of all the seven *Chronicles of Narnia*—spoiler alert—we learn that Aslan created the world of Narnia for a limited time. At the end of it all, in the book, *The Last Battle*, he invites all the Narnians who had remained faithful to him to come join him in the real Narnia. This is where Aslan lives, and this is His home. He leads all the faithful back to His home. When all the creatures step into the real kingdom, the unicorn speaks out for them all, crying, “I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now...Come further up, come further in!”

We Jesus-followers, we follow our King of kings into His restored Kingdom. This calling is for us, to “Come further up! Come further in!” We are invited to come up, but not just up, deeper up, further in. We are giving not just access, not just entry, but leadership, authority, purpose, in glory.

**PP#10:** Revelation 2:26-28 To those who emerge victorious, keeping my practices until the end, I will give authority over the nations—27 to rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like pottery—28 just as I received authority from my Father. I will also give them the morning star.

And this is what Revelation is picking up. Revelation 2:26-27 Jesus gives His power to His followers who remain faithful, and we in turn rule with that power in the end times with Jesus over the rebellious nations and smash their false and temporary powers. And then they receive the morning star, the glory of Jesus given to them for eternity. Those who rule with Jesus *continue* to live and reign. We get to go further up, further in.

**PP#11: King of Kings: Reigning with the King**

1. We have crowns and thrones waiting for us!
2. “Come further up! Come further in!”

And we will continue to go further, even while in glory, even after the earth is restored. Heaven, which is a re-created paradise on earth, is not a stagnant place of never-ending monotony. We will continue to rule, as we were created to rule, in God’s goodness, in peace and harmony, over the paradise with our King of kings. What this means, or what this will look like, we don’t know. The Bible doesn’t describe it. I don’t think it can: we can’t understand it until we get there. But, we are told that we will grow from glory to glory, increasing in love for our Jesus, and living lives that are incomprehensibly amazing. Further up, further in. And, like at the end of Narnia, our adventures will just begin!

**PP#12: King of Kings: Reigning with the King**

1. We have crowns and thrones waiting for us!
2. “Come further up! Come further in!”
3. Until then: Training for Reigning

So, if this is our future, then the key is what this means for us right now. This changes how we live now before we get there! Sometimes, when we focus on what will happen some day, Jesus-followers can grow complacent. We tread water, stalling out, idly waiting for that glory to come. But here also the story of Narnia teaches us biblical truths. Looking back, the children discover that all the while Aslan was growing them, getting them ready. All that they experienced was *training for reigning!* They each had their own journeys to develop their skills, work on their relationships, overcome their individual monsters and fight the daily fights. This prepared each of them for the throne to come.

**PP#13: Romans 8:17, 28-29 (CEB)**

- 17 But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God’s heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with Him so that we can also be glorified with Him.
- 29 We know this because God knew them in advance, and He decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of His Son. That way His Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. 30 Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to His Son, He also called. Those whom He called, He also made righteous. Those whom He made righteous, He also glorified.

Paul, when talking to Jesus-followers, taught this over and over. Turn to Romans 8. First let’s look at verse 17. “But if we are children, [when we choose Jesus, then we are adopted by God as His sons and daughters, adopted siblings to Jesus] we are also heirs [we receive the same inheritance as Jesus—life eternal and reigning forever in God’s kingdom. Wow!]. We are God’s heirs

and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with Him so that we can also be glorified with Him.” Wait a minute...suffer with Him? Yes. We suffer with Him in this life to receive the glory in eternity. We are in this life in a time of training, a time of growing, a time of preparation. We must remain faithful and persevere.

Skip to verse 29, “We know this because God knew them in advance [that is, who would become His children], and He decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of His Son. [God chose us for royalty! He planned for us to reign!] That way His Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. [Aren’t you excited! Ryan and Taylor, be sure to tell Landon as he grows up, that God chose Him for greatness! Verse 30] Those who God decided in advance [now watch this!] would be conformed to His Son, He also called.”

God chooses us before we choose Him. But God has a plan in mind, a glorious purpose. But to get there, God works on us to conform us to be like His Son. King Jesus will reign! But so will we! And so, we need to become more like Jesus so that we will be fit to reign with Him. So, in this life, we are on an adventure, with good and bad, with easy and hard, with pleasures and trials, to grow us more like Jesus, so we can reign *like Him* when we reign *with Him*. The last part of verse 30, “Those whom He called, He also made righteous. Those whom He made righteous, He also glorified.” Think of this the other way around: to share in the glory of Jesus in eternity, we must be justified—cleansed, perfected—by God. But that we can only receive when we calls us.

No matter where you are on your journey, know this: you have been called! If you need to answer that call and join Jesus’ kingdom, you can do that right now in a simple prayer of surrender. But for all of us: you are now on a journey of being perfected, of training for reigning! What does faithfulness look like right now, in your life today, with whatever you are living?

**PP#14:** 1 John 3:8 “Anyone who keeps on sinning belongs to the devil. He has sinned from the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy all that he has done.”

1 Corinthians 9:25 “Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.”

A couple more verses. First from the apostle John, who wrote this after being a disciple for Jesus for over 50 years. 1 John 3:8, “Anyone who keeps on sinning belongs to the devil. He has sinned from the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy all that he has done.” When we are on Jesus’ team, we cannot continue to embrace the sins we once did, and expect to reign in glory. This life is a journey to stop sinning! What sins have you neglected to stop? What do you need to work back into your training?

Back to Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:25, “Everyone who competes practices self-discipline *in everything*. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.” Did you follow that? Paul uses the Olympic laurel wreath to draw a contrast to our eternal crowns in glory. What are we doing in this life? We are in training, strict self-discipline *in everything*. What areas have you shirked your training, your faithfulness waffling? What do you need to take up again?

As you grow, as you fight your demons, as you grow in grace, the Holy Spirit will train you. He is training you for glory! Don’t give up or grow faint. Press on! You have a crown waiting!

**PP#15:** *Image of Aslan speaking to Lucy & Edmund at the end of The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*



At the end of the third movie, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, Aslan sends Lucy and Edmund back to the real world. They ask if they will ever see him again. He says “yes.” But then he explains that in their world, they will know him by another name. We Christians know the character of Aslan in the real world as Jesus. And Aslan tells them that their purpose in Narnia was so that they would learn to know him better in their real lives. So, we also end our series, committing to live our real lives, day by day pressing on, growing in holiness, training for reigning, coming to know Jesus better, so that we will become more like Him, and then receive the throne waiting for us in glory.

We close with one *last* clip.

**Video 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZvqKbInmzo> (end at 0:54)

The Chronicles of Narnia - The Voyage of the Dawn Treader Final Goodbyes

“In your world I have another name, you must come to know me by it..you may know me better there.”

**[IN-PERSON WORSHIP ONLY] CLOSING SONG:** *The Lion and the Lamb* -Sanctify

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God’s work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the “square” on the bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Meal and Groups

Fall Craft and Vendor Sale on Saturday

Next Sunday’s message: Parable of the Pumpkin

Evening: Trunk-or-Treat 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.” -

1 Corinthians 9:25

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David