

Understanding the Davidic Covenant – Part 2 2 Samuel 7

Introduction:

1. This chapter contains one of the most important covenants in the Bible. Because God made this covenant with King David, it has been called the Davidic covenant.
2. Although the word “covenant” is not used in this chapter, other portions of Scripture identify these promises from God to David as a covenant.
2 Samuel 23:5; 2 Chronicles 21:7; Psalm 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-37
3. This covenant has eternal ramifications. The words “for ever” are used **nine** times in this one chapter. So, clearly, this is an extremely important passage of Scripture.
4. There is no way to understand prophecy without understanding this covenant that God made with David. The entire prophetic program hinges on the promises that God made to David in this covenant.
5. The actual promises and covenant are found in verses 8-16. God made promises concerning:
 - The nation of Israel - vs. 10-11
 - Solomon (David’s son) – vs. 12-15
 - David – vs. 16
6. In this lesson, we want to focus on the promises that God made specifically to David. There are three major promises that God gave to David in verse 16.

First promise – *“Thine house... shall be established for ever before thee...”*

1. The word “house” in the Bible can mean a physical abode, but it also means a physical line of descent.
 - **Example:** 2 Samuel 9:1 – Mephibosheth lived physically in the house of Machir (vs. 5), but he was physically descended from the house of Saul.
cf. 2 Samuel 3:1
 - **Example:** Luke 1:27, 2:4 - Joseph was of the house and lineage of David.
2. So, God was promising David that his line of descent (his seed) would endure for ever. vs. 23-24; cf. Psalm 89:34, 29, 36
3. Even when Jehoram did great evil as the king of Judah, God would not destroy the house of David because of the covenant that he had made with David.
2 Chronicles 21:7

Second promise – *“Thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee...”*

1. God promised David an eternal kingdom that would stretch into eternity.
2. Although it may not be functional at all times (due to sin and disobedience), it would always have the potential of restoration.

- **Example:** God has promised us eternal, incorruptible bodies. They will cease to function for a time when we die. But, at any moment (the Rapture), we could receive those eternal bodies.
3. God would send chastisement upon Israel and may have temporarily stripped them of their kingdom, but God would never abandon the promise that He made to David – the promise that He would make David’s kingdom an eternal kingdom.
 4. This is why, as the centuries went by, believers in Israel clung to the hope of a Messiah that would come and restore the Davidic kingdom. Luke 1:67-70, 2:25-26, 38
 5. This is why, just before Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples asked Him if He would at that time restore the kingdom to Israel. They knew Christ was the prophesied Messiah, and they knew that this meant the possible restoration of the kingdom. Acts 1:6
 6. In fact, Jesus had taught them to pray for this: *“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”* **Matthew 6:10**
 7. Prophecy points to the day when this eternal kingdom is established on the earth.

Third promise – *“Thy throne shall be established for ever.”*

1. The word “throne” speaks of ruling authority (2 Samuel 3:10). David would not simply have an eternal kingdom, but complete earthly dominion and authority.
2. Psalm 72 is a prophetic Psalm (a prayer of David) that anticipates this great day, when the Davidic throne is established over all the earth. vs. 6-9, 11, 17-19
3. Again, David’s throne may not have been functional at all times (due to sin and disobedience), but it would always have the potential of eternal restoration.

A key question: Are these literal promises from God to David? Will God fulfill these promises in a literal fashion?

1. Did you notice the wording in Psalm 72? This is a throne over the literal earth, with literal nations, not a spiritual throne in heaven.
2. The Davidic covenant involves a literal, physical, earthly kingdom and throne, with a literal, physical descendant from David ruling on the throne.
 - This was not a conditional covenant that God established with David. There were no stated conditions that David or his descendants had to meet in order for God to keep His covenant promises. It was unconditional in nature. It depends totally on the faithfulness of God to keep His promises.
3. Centuries later, after David’s ruling authority had been suspended due to Israel’s sin, the angel Gabriel came to Mary with glorious promises concerning her baby (Luke 1:30-33). Every one of the promises in the Davidic covenant were reiterated and confirmed.
 - The promise of a seed – *“...his father David...over the house of Jacob...”*
 - The promise of a kingdom – *“...and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”*
 - The promise of a throne – *“...the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”*

4. While David's ruling authority may have been inactive for centuries, it had not passed away permanently. God would become flesh, and be born of David's seed (Matthew 1:1), and all three promises contained in the Davidic covenant would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
5. Some teach that God's promises to David were allegorical and figurative. They teach that Christ has already fulfilled this covenant by resurrecting and ascending to heaven.
 - They teach that He sits on a spiritual throne in heaven ruling over a spiritual kingdom (over the church, or human hearts).
 - According to this view (it's called the amillennial view), the kingdom over which Christ rules in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant is solely a spiritual kingdom. It is not a literal, earthly, political kingdom.
 - The prefix "a" means "no." Thus, amillennialism is the view which states that there will be no literal, political kingdom of God on this earth.
6. But the Bible is quite clear that Christ will one day return to the earth and reign over a literal, physical, earthly kingdom. We call this the premillennial view. The prefix "pre" means "before." Thus, Christ will return to earth **before** the kingdom of God on earth. Christ will return to this earth for the purpose of establishing the kingdom on earth.
 - Peter knew that all of prophecy pointed to this day. Notice (Acts 3:19-21), Peter made it clear that the "*times of refreshing*" will not come while Jesus is in heaven. He indicated that they will come when Jesus has returned to be present on earth, and when Israel has repented as a nation.
 - Christ Himself believed He would return to establish a literal kingdom. Matthew 24:27-30, 25:31-32
 - The disciples believed that a literal kingdom would come to earth (Acts 1:6) because of the clear words that Christ had told them. Luke 22:28-30; Matthew 19:27-29
 - Paul believed that Christ would return and fulfill His covenant with Israel. Romans 11:26-27
7. Christ will return to this earth, and after His feet touch on the Mount of Olives He will reign on the Davidic throne, and establish a righteous political government over all the earth. Zechariah 14:4, 9; Jeremiah 23:5-8; Isaiah 9:6-7

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