

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

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I. Introduction

- A. [Turn in your bibles to 2 Samuel 7.]
- B. Continuing a series of messages on Biblical Covenants.
- C. Last Sunday – the Land Covenant.
- D. Today: the Davidic Covenant – the promises made to King David.

II. The Davidic Covenant

- A. The Promise to David (2Sa 7:8-16 cf. 1Chr. 17:10-15)
"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who [are] on the earth. "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, "since the time that I commanded judges [to be] over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I removed from before you. "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.'""
- B. Aspects
 - 1. God promises to make David an eternal "house" (dynasty, vv. 11, 16).
 - 2. God will establish the kingdom of one of David's descendants (v. 12).
 - 3. This descendant will build a house for God's name (a temple, v. 13)
 - a) Near fulfillment: Solomon who builds the first temple, "Solomon's Temple," into which the tabernacle from the wilderness wandering is relocated.
 - b) Distant fulfillment: Jesus who builds the temple of His Body.¹
 - c) An exchange: God will build David's house and a son of David will build God's house.

¹

Some believe Jesus will also build the Millennial Temple upon His return (2S. 7:13; 1Chr. 17:12; Zec. 6:13;

4. The descendant's throne will be eternal (vv. 13, 16).
 5. Disobedience will bring chastening, but cannot nullify the promise (vv. 14-15).
- C. Unconditional covenant with conditional occupation of the throne.
1. Similar to the Land Covenanted
 - a) The covenant itself is unconditional concerning the eternal house, throne, and kingdom.
 - b) Having a ruler actively sitting upon David's throne is conditioned upon the obedience of the nation.
 2. Conditional occupation of the throne.
 - a) The Davidic throne and rule is connected with Israel being in the Promised Land which is itself conditioned on obedience to God (2S. 7:10).
 - b) Among David's last words to Solomon (1Ki 2:1-4)
Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; "that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"
 - c) God appears to Solomon by night (2Ch 7:17-22)
"As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, "then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail [to have] a man as ruler in Israel.' "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, "then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. "And [as for] this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?' "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.'"
- (1) Once again: the rule of the Davidic throne is tied to being in the Promised Land in obedience.

- d) In the Psalms (Ps 132:11-12)
The LORD has sworn [in] truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore."
 - e) Disobedience
This is one reason why the ultimate Davidic King, Jesus Christ, is not yet ruling on the throne of David – Israel continues in disobedience.
3. Unconditional nature of the house, throne, and kingdom.
- a) Promises are based on the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:2).
I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
 - (1) Although kings and nations would come from Abraham, a specific nation is in view: Israel – through whom the promised Davidic ruler would come.
 - (2) Line of descent from Abraham becomes more and more specific and matches the "line of promise."
 - (a) Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah → . . . → David
 - b) Not abolished by periods of disobedience.
 - (1) Personal failure of David (2Sa 23:1-5)
Now these [are] the last words of David. [Thus] says David the son of Jesse; [Thus] says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word [was] on my tongue. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men [must be] just, Ruling in the fear of God. And [he shall be] like the light of the morning [when] the sun rises, A morning without clouds, [Like] the tender grass [springing] out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.' "Although my house [is] not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all [things] and secure. For [this is] all my salvation and all [my] desire; Will He not make [it] increase?
 - (2) Evil King Jehoram of Judah (2Ch 21:7 cf. 2Ki. 8:19)
Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

- c) Exceptionally strong promises made by God (Ps 89:20-37, NKJV)
 I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him, With whom My hand shall be established; Also My arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, Nor the son of wickedness afflict him. I will beat down his foes before his face, And plague those who hate him. "But My faithfulness and My mercy [shall be] with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted. Also I will set his hand over the sea, And his right hand over the rivers. He shall cry to Me, 'You [are] my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.' Also I will make him [My] firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth. My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed also I will make [to endure] forever, And his throne as the days of heaven. "If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments, If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments, Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, Even [like] the faithful witness in the sky." Selah
- (1) Sign – the sun and moon
- (a) A witness to the promises, like the rainbow (Noahic Covenant), circumcision (Abrahamic Covenant), and sabbath (Mosaic Covenant).
- (b) Jer 33:20-21
 "Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 'then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, . . .
- (c) The sun and moon created for seasons *and signs* (Gen. 1:14).
- (d) The nation of Israel will continue so long as the sun and moon remain (Jer. 31:35-37).
- i) The nation is preserved for the ultimate fulfillment of promised Davidic rule over Israel when restored to the Promised Land.
- a) Jesus' promise to His disciples (Mt 19:27-28)
 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

III. Fulfillment By Jesus

A. Son of David

1. Jesus' Pedigree carefully established by Matthew and Luke
 - a) Both Matthew and Luke attest to Jesus being the son of David.
 - (1) Matthew, focusing on Jesus as King Messiah, gives his line of descent from Abraham (Mtt. 1:1-17).
 - (2) Luke, focusing on Jesus as the Perfect Man, gives his line of descent from Adam (Luke 3:23-31).
 - (3) The two lines are identical from Abraham to David, but then split through two different sons of David.
 - (a) Matthew's line continues through Solomon leading to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus (Mtt. 1:11).
 - (b) Luke's line continues through Nathan leading to Mary, the biological mother of Jesus (Luke 3:31).
 - (4) Jesus is related both legally and biologically to David. The biological relation avoids a blood curse given by God on the line leading from Solomon.
 - (a) Evil king Jehoiakim, also known as Coniah or Jeconiah, cursed prior to the Babylonian captivity such that he would never have a descendant ruling on the throne of David (Jer. 22:30²; Jer. 36:30³).
 - (b) The end of the line for Davidic rule in the line of Solomon leading to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus (Mtt. 1:1-11, 11-17).
 - (c) The Davidic line leading to Jesus via His mother, Mary, goes through David's other son Nathan and avoids this curse (Luke 3:23-31).
2. Gabriel's announcement to Mary (Lu 1:30-33)

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

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Here ended the race of kings of the house of David, until the King Messiah came; for though there were of his line that were governors of Judah, as Zerubbabel, yet not kings. Moreover, Jeconiah was the last of the house of David in the line of Solomon. Salathiel, of whom was Zerubbabel governor of Judah, was the son of Neri, who descended from Nathan the son of David. -- John Gill, *John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible*.

3

[H]is son Jeconiah reigned but three months, which is reckoned as nothing, and could not be called sitting upon the throne; and, besides, was never confirmed by the king of Babylon, in whose power he was, and by whom he was carried captive; and Zedekiah, who followed, was not his lawful successor, was brother to Jehoiakim, and uncle to Jeconiah, and was set up by the king of Babylon in contempt of the latter; and as for Zerubbabel, he was no king, nor was there any of this family till the Messiah came.-- John Gill, *John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible*.

3. Paul, in his opening remarks to the church of Rome, emphasizes Jesus as the promised Son of David (Rom. 1:1-4)
Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, [and] declared [to be] the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
 - a) Paul emphasizes two critical aspects concerning the identity of Jesus.
 - (1) He fulfills the requirement of being the Son of David – according to the promises of the Davidic Covenant.
 - (2) He fulfills the requirement of being the Son of God by virtue of His resurrection from the dead.
 - (3) This is the mystery of the incarnation of Jesus: God Who became flesh in the line of David, but also born of a virgin.
 - (4) No other individual in history has this pedigree.
4. In closing the Book of Revelation, Jesus refers to Himself as both the “Root and the Offspring of David” (Re 22:16, NKJV).
 - a) The root – He existed before His father David. Otherwise, He could not atone for sin and His crucifixion would have been no different than the confused imitators who arrange for their own “staged crucifixion” in the Philippines.⁴
 - b) The offspring – He was born as a descendant of David and fulfills the promise of an eternal king in the line of David.

IV. Summary - Relevance Of The Davidic Covenant Today

- A. World peace will not come through the social and political activity of the church.
 1. While Israel remains in disobedience, Jesus will not rule from the throne of David.
 - a) The throne of David is an earthly throne centered in Jerusalem, tied to Israel being in her Promised Land.
 - b) Jesus is presently seated at the right hand of His Father's heavenly throne. He has not yet taken up rule on upon His own throne, the throne of David.⁵

⁴ <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23742032/>

⁵ "Several factors indicate that David's throne is separate and distinct from God's throne in heaven. First, several descendants of David have sat on his throne, but only one of his descendants ever sits on the right hand of God's throne in heaven. That descendant is Jesus Christ (Ps 110:1; Heb 8:1; Heb 12:2). Second, David's throne was not established before his lifetime (2Sa 7:16-17). By contrast, since God has always ruled over His creation, His throne in heaven was established long before David's throne (Ps 93:1-2). Third, since God's throne in heaven was established long before David's throne and since God's throne was established forever (La 5:19), then it was not necessary for God to promise to establish David's throne forever (2Sa 7:16) if they are the same throne. Fourth, David's throne was on the earth, not in heaven. David and his descendants who sat on his throne exercised an earthly, ruling authority. They never exercised ruling authority in or from heaven. By contrast, as noted earlier, the Bible indicates that God's throne is in heaven. Fifth, the Bible's consistent description of David's throne indicates that it belongs to David. When

- c) We anticipate a future, literal reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.⁶
 - d) Upon His return, Jesus will take up the promised Davidic throne, ushering in the Millennial Kingdom on earth (Rev. 19-20).
 - (1) His rule will be from Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17; Zec. 14:16).
 - (2) His rule will extend over Israel, restored to the Promised Land (Eze. 37:21-28; Mtt. 19:28).
 - (3) His rule will extend beyond Israel to encompass all the nations of the earth (Ps. 2:8; Ps. 72:8; Isa. 49:6; Zec. 9:10).
2. The activities of the church in this age do not constitute the promised Davidic kingdom on earth (Mt 26:29; Mr 14:25; Lu 22:18).
- a) Confusion on this point leads to all manner of mischief.
 - b) The Roman Catholic belief that the church today is the fulfillment of the kingdom of God and thereby the means by which God is even now ruling with a "rod of iron" has left a legacy of abuse of religious power and political intrigue.
 - c) Much of the protestant church refuses to believe in a literal earthly reign of Jesus yet future. Believing Jesus to already be seated on His throne, the throne of David, prophetic passages concerning a different time are misinterpreted as having their fulfillment today.
 - (1) Replacement Theology – the view that the church replaces national Israel as the "new Israel."
 - (2) Spiritualizing Promises – an unwillingness to take God's promises as they were originally intended to circumvent the natural conclusion that the promises have not all been bestowed upon the church in this age.
 - (3) Spiritual Pride – the belief that the church, and its work in this age, is all that God has in store in relation to the earth and the only aspect of ultimate importance to His work in history.
 - d) Social and Political Compromise
 - (1) If the Davidic King is already reigning and His rule is being extended through the church in this age, then social and political systems must be understood as converging on a golden age of peace and social justice.

God talked to David about his throne, God referred to it as 'thy throne' (2Sa 7:16; Ps 89:4; Ps 132:12). When God mentioned David's throne to others, He referred to it as 'his throne' (Ps 89:29; Jer 33:21), 'David's throne' (Jer 13:13), and 'the throne of David' (Jer 17:25; Jer 22:2, Jer 22:4, Jer 22:30). By contrast, the Scriptures' consistent description of the throne in heaven indicates that it belongs to God the Father." Israel My Glory (Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry) [<http://www.foi.org>], January/February 2001, p. 30.

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Concerning the yet-future reign of Jesus upon the throne of David, see Ps 110:1; Dan 7:11-14; Dan 7:21-22; Dan 7:25-27; Re 19:20; Mt 6:9; Mt 7:21-22; Mt 19:28; Mt 25:31-34; Mt 26:29; Mr 14:25; Lu 11:2; Lu 19:11; Lu 19:15; Lu 21:31; Lu 22:16-18; Lu 22:29; Lu 22:30; Lu 23:51; Ac 1:6-7; Ac 14:22; 1Co 15:24; Heb 2:8; Heb 10:12-13; 2Ti 4:1; Re 3:21; Re 12:10; Re 11:15; Re 11:17; Re 19:20.

- (2) This is an ill-fated attempt to bring the Kingdom of God to earth, but without the King Himself being physically present.
 - (a) This is essentially the same plan as the globalists and humanists, but a plan the Bible knows nothing of.
 - (3) The job of the church is first and foremost world-evangelism. This work is jeopardized whenever we join with organizations and belief systems which share similar goals in relation to social justice, but are which are fundamentally opposed to the cause of Christ (2Cor. 6:14-15).
- B. World peace will not come through the social and political activity of secular humanism.
1. Inspirational quote on the United Nations Building
'And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more' (Isa 2:4).⁷
 - a) This prophecy of Isaiah, lifted out of context and devoid of reference to the Prince of Peace, is speaking of a coming time of incredible blessing on the earth when the enormous social drain and bloodshed of warfare will be supplanted by a time of enormous productivity and blessing.
 - b) But permanent peace will never come through humanism because of its disobedience to and rejection of God.
 - c) Scripture reveals that man will continue in his age-old activity of diverting resources into weapons of destruction.
 - (1) Thousands of years of human history and unspeakable horror attest that man has a fundamental flaw which no amount of education or social reform can curb.
 - (2) Yet each subsequent generation prefers to ignore biblical truth and centuries of evidence demonstrating mankind's fallen condition in favor of embracing an unbiblical naivety that people are "basically good."
 - (3) People want peace. But not at "any cost." Not at the cost of repentance and submission. Submitting to Almighty God and accepting His plan for peace on earth.
 - d) A lasting peace will only be found when the Prince of Peace personally rules on the earth.

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"[T]he U.N. Building displays these words: 'And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more' (Isa 2:4). A verse taken out of its context is only a pretext however. The first part of this verse reads, 'And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people.' Until Christ the Messiah sits upon the throne of His glory and rebukes and judges the nations, there will be no permanent peace." Christian Research Journal (Santa Margarita, CA: Christian Research Institute, n.d.). [<http://www.equip.org>], vol 24 no 2, p. 38.

- e) The same prophet which uttered the words found on the United Nations building, also uttered these words concerning a true and lasting world peace: Isa 9:6-7 (NKJV)
6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of [His] government and peace [There will be] no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.
- f) Until the promised Davidic king, Jesus of Nazareth, returns to reign on earth, there will be no lasting peace.
- g) Even so, we who are born-again, who know Jesus as our King even now, have peace in our hearts because we know the future and our destiny (John 14:27; 16:33).