

## Lesson 82

# God's Promise to David

God promised David a kingdom that would last forever.

# Overview

## Lesson Focus

King David brought the ark of God to Jerusalem and wanted to build a temple for the Lord. God sent the prophet Nathan to David with a message that one of David's sons would reign and build the temple and that a special descendant would establish an eternal kingdom. This promise was fulfilled when Jesus was born from the line of David.

## Key Passages

2 Samuel 6:14–15, 7:13

## Memory Verse

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

## Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

David waited many years for God to fulfill his promise to make him king. David reigned over Judah for seven years before he became king over all of Israel and reigned for another 33 years (2 Samuel 5:5). David eventually moved his capital to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:6–7) and desired to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to his city (1 Chronicles 13:5).

The ark of the covenant had been captured by the Philistines during the time of Eli when the Israelites tried to use it in a battle to give them victory (1 Samuel 4). While the ark was with the Philistines, God plagued the people with tumors and terror (1 Samuel 5:6, 5:9, 5:11–12). The Philistines decided to send the ark of God back to Israel with offerings. They placed the ark on a cart pulled by two milk cows and watched to see if God would direct it. Sure enough, God guided the milk cows pulling the ark straight to Beth-shemesh, a Levitical city about 15 miles west of Jerusalem. Convinced that the plagues they experienced were from the God of Israel, the lords of the Philistines returned home (1 Samuel 6:10–12). The Israelites in Beth-shemesh rejoiced to see the ark and offered burnt offerings to the Lord. Later, the men of Kiriath-jearim came and brought the ark to the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:1), where it remained until the time of David.

While David's desire for the ark was good, he and the people failed to follow God's instructions for transporting the ark. Choosing the same method the Philistines used, they placed the ark on a cart pulled by oxen. However

innocently this was done, it was in direct violation to the commands God gave Moses for how the Israelites were supposed to move the ark (see Numbers 4:5, 4:15, 7:9). Uzzah, one of the men driving the cart, reached out and touched the ark when the oxen stumbled, and the Lord struck Uzzah so he died. God had warned the people not to touch the holy things or they would die (Numbers 4:15), and Uzzah was punished for his disobedience. David feared the Lord and left the ark at the home of Obed-edom for three months before he gathered the Israelites and tried again. This time David had the priests and Levites consecrate themselves, and the Levites carried the ark on their shoulders using poles as Moses had commanded (1 Chronicles 15:14–15). God blessed the journey, and the ark was brought safely into Jerusalem amidst dancing, celebration, and joyful music (1 Chronicles 15:26–28; 2 Samuel 6:14–15). The ark was placed in the tent David had prepared, and David offered sacrifices to the Lord (2 Samuel 6:17).

With the ark of God in Jerusalem, David wanted to honor God by building a house for the ark (2 Samuel 7:1–3). However, Nathan the prophet, who played an important role in David's life, received a vision from God and delivered the message to David. God reminded David of his humble beginnings as a shepherd and of God's sovereign choice to make him king over Israel. Although David desired to build a house for God, it was God who promised to build a house for David. In his abundant goodness, God revealed to David that his offspring would build the temple and that David's throne would be established forever. This promise of an enduring throne for David is carried throughout the Old Testament and points to the Savior who would come (2 Samuel 7:8–17).

This news humbled, overwhelmed, and prompted David to worship God before the ark, extolling his attributes and offering thanks for his goodness (2 Samuel 7:18–19). We know that God was faithful to his promises to David. David's house would continue forever, just as God had spoken. That promise has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the son of David, our Lord and Savior, who still rules over God's people. We can be sure that this same God who was faithful to the promises made to David will be faithful to us as we put our trust in him.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

One aspect we don't want to miss is that David is a type of Christ—his life looked forward to the life and person of Christ. We see certain similarities between David and Christ. David was a shepherd; Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). David was a king; Christ is the King of kings (Revelation 19:16). David subdued his enemies and consolidated a kingdom; Christ will also subdue his enemies and consolidate his kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:24–26). David offered a sacrifice on Mount Moriah to save Israel, acting as a priest (1 Chronicles 21:18–30; 2 Chronicles 3:1); Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest, offered himself as a sacrifice on that same mount (Hebrews 7:27). David was also a prophet (2 Samuel 23:1–2; Acts 2:29–31); Christ was the Prophet (Luke 13:33; Matthew 13:57). David served as a prophet, priest, and king, and Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Throughout the history of Israel, the Messiah was expected to come from the line of David and take his throne. Scripture revealed early on that the throne of

David would one day be occupied by Jesus who would be crucified as the King of the Jews but rise again to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

In the book of Genesis, the blessing Jacob pronounced over Judah referred to the Messiah who would come through the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10), from which David also descended. Isaiah prophesied the same—the Messiah would come from the line of David:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6–7).

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming of the Christ child, he repeated to her the promise given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12.

And 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 bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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” (Luke 1:30–33).

This truth is also verified in Scripture through the genealogy recorded in Matthew. Matthew begins his writing by identifying Jesus as “the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1). He then shows the line from Abraham in three sets of 14 generations, from Abraham to David, from David to the captivity, and from the captivity to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus (Matthew 1:1–17). And in the Gospel of Luke, we see that through the line of his mother, Mary, Jesus is in the line of David (Luke 3:31).

We can’t help but marvel at God’s wisdom and control over the universe and the care that he took to leave us such a detailed record confirming Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer and King.

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