

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 28 – 2 Samuel 7:1-17 – The Davidic Covenant

I. THE CONCEPTION OF THE COVENANT v1-12

A. DAVID’S PLAN FOR GOD v1-3 Note: 1 Chr. 17:1-15

- 2 Samuel 7 is the theological highlight of the Books of Samuel, the centerpiece of Samuel and Kings, and is pivotal to the rest of Scripture.
- Following his establishment as King over Israel, David noted the incongruity between his magnificent royal palace and the humble curtain-tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was placed. cf. 2 Sam. 5:11; 6:17
- David expresses to Nathan his desire to build a permanent structure that was fitting to house the glory of God. cf. Ps. 132:1-5; Acts 7:45,46
- Nathan, knowing that the LORD was with David, encourages the King to do all that is within his heart. 1 Sam 16:18; 18:28
- Nathan is confident that David will ultimately follow the path of obedient servanthood. cf. 1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22

B. GOD’S PLAN FOR DAVID v4-12

- *“That night”* God spoke a word to Nathan concerning David’s plans. The answer is not a *rejection* of David’s request, but rather, a *redirection*.
 - cf. Act 16:6-9
- God reminds Nathan that He had not minded living in a tent or ever asked that someone build him a house. cf. Ex. 31:1; 33:7; Acts 17:24
- After reminding David of his call and rise to power, as well as His promises to Israel, the LORD refuses David’s offer to build a house for God, and instead, God promises to build the house (dynasty) of David.
 - cf. Gen. 12:1, 17:8

II. THE COMPOSITION OF THE COVENANT v13-17

A. AN ETERNAL COVENANT v13-17

- Although the word “covenant” is not found in 2 Sam 7, what is enacted here is viewed throughout the Scripture as a primary covenant of the Old Testament. cf. 2 Sam. 23:5; 1 Ki. 8:23,24; 2 Ch 13:5; Is. 55:3
- *“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David, ‘Your seed will I establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’”* Ps. 89:3,4, 28, 34-39
- God promised David that the line of his descent would endure forever. Further, He promised that David’s kingdom would never pass away. Although at times his dynasty failed to function, it always possessed the potential to be restored to full function.

B. A FAITHFUL COVENANT

- As seen throughout Old Testament history, disobedience can delay or postpone the promises of God, but never nullify His Word.
 - cf. 2 Sam. 11:1-4 (David); 2 Chr. 21:5-7 (Jehoram)

III. THE CORRELATION OF THE COVENANT

- In this covenant, God reveals that the promised Messiah would come through David's line / seed (Rom. 1:3), and rule from David's throne.

A. THE SON OF DAVID - SOLOMON

- God assures David that his decedents will be permitted to build the house of God. Solomon (*"peaceful"*), David's son, is blessed with the permission to construct the temple.
 - cf. 1 Chr. 17:11-14; 22:2-5; 28:2,3, 11-19; 1 Ki. 8:20

NOTE: Herein we see the concept of "near / far fulfillment" to the word of prophecy. The promise to David involved an event near to the time of the prophecy (i.e. the birth of Solomon); but since God is the Lord of all history, He ordained that the prophecy would have a later and final fulfillment in the birth of Jesus as well.

B. THE SON OF DAVID - JESUS

- The promises given to David become the source of the Messianic hope that is developed in rest of Scripture. cf. Acts 7:46-49; 13:33-38
- Jesus is clearly identified as the true son of David.
 - cf. Matt. 1:1; 9:27; 15:22; 22:42-45; Acts 13:22-23; Heb. 1:5
- Both Matthew and Luke trace Jesus' ancestry back to David.
 - cf. Matt. 1:1-17; Lu. 3:23-38
 - These prophecies are fulfilled by Jesus being the son of Mary, who was a lineal descendant of David, though not in the royal line, and of Joseph, who was of the royal line, was not His father according to the flesh, but was His father in the eyes of the law.
- The house and throne of David is therefore established through Jesus.
 - cf. Lu. 1:31-33; Acts 2:30; Is. 9:7; Dan. 2:44
- Jesus of Nazareth is the *"Messiah"* (Heb.); *"Christ"* (Gk.). Both terms mean the *"Anointed One"* - a name given to David as well.
 - cf. 1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 2:4, 7; 3:39; 5:3; 12:7

IV. THE COMPLETION OF THE COVENANT

A. PARTIAL FULFILLMENT IN SOLOMON

- While it is clear that Solomon was the "near fulfillment" to the word given by Nathan, it is obvious that God intended more to be seen. The near fulfillment is the guarantee that God will completely fulfill His word.
 - cf. Eze. 24:14; Is. 55:11; Josh. 21:45

B. TOTAL FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

- David's little kingdom of Israel would one day culminate in the great and eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ. cf. Luke 1:31-33
- While the Davidic Covenant was in-part fulfilled by the first coming of Jesus, and while it is currently being fulfilled through Christ's present enthronement, it will not find its complete fulfillment until His second coming! cf. Dan. 7:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:20-28