

“DAVID: THE PROMISE OF EVERLASTING KINGDOM.”

Rev. Robert T. Woodyard

First Christian Reformed Church

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Scripture Texts: II Samuel 7:8-16

Introduction.

We have been looking at the covenants in the OT. One way of thinking about them is they are God’s job description. They tell us who He is, what He is like, what He is doing, and why He is doing it. They tell us what His priorities are and what He is taking responsibility for. They tell us why He gets up in the morning, except of course that He has been up all night doing His job, the very thing He said He would do.

They can be summed up in the simplest words, “I will be your God, and you will be my people, and I will do good for all who love me and call on me and wait for me. I will cause all things to work for your good, your blessing, your benefit.”

Around 4000 years before Christ, in the garden of Eden God made a covenant with Adam, God promised to redeem His broken, fallen, sinful people, saying the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

2000 years later God made a covenant with Abraham, God promised to give him a great name, give him a place and make him a blessing to all the families of the earth, making all who believe children of Abraham.

500 years later God made a covenant with Moses, God promised to make His people a kingdom of priests, a holy nation with their own place. He gave them the sacrifices to make them righteous, and He gave them the Law to show how a righteous and holy people should live in grateful response to God.

This morning we come to the final OT covenant, God’s covenant with David, 500 years later.

Context of II Samuel 7

King David had a conversation with Nathan the prophet about building a temple for God. That night God came to Nathan and what we just read are the words God spoke to Nathan to say to David.

Here we have more proof our ways are not God’s ways. David wanted to build a house for God and God says no. In a most unexpected reversal God says, “I

will build a house for you. This is not about what you can do for me, but what I am going to do through you.”

What follows are 23 verbs in which God is the first-person subject of all the action, what God has done, is doing and will do.

In the words of Psalm 127 “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor, labor in vain.”

II Samuel 7:8-16

II Samuel 7 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. This is God’s final huge biblical revelation of what He is planning in history, the next step in preparing for the fulfillment of His work in Christ.

This final climatic OT covenant sets the courses of the rest of the history of the OT, through all the kings and prophets.

Yahweh announces His promise to create a dynasty starting with King David. With this covenant, God’s kingdom arrives on earth and is formally established in the tribe of Judah and in the house of David. This will be an everlasting dynasty.

This covenant begins with the words, “Thus says the Lord of hosts.”

You are very familiar with my opening words before reading God’s Word. This is the eternally true, trustworthy, inerrant Word of the living God. I say it to get your attention and to remind you of the importance, seriousness and difference of what you are about to hear.

God does that with David. “Thus says the Lord of hosts.” This is the very word of God Himself.

The first thing we are reminded of in the covenant God is making with David is that like the previous covenants, this is another covenant of grace.

7:8b I took you from the pasture, Yahweh’s gracious choice.

When God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint a king from among Jesse’s eight sons, Samuel was sure the first born of Jesse’s eight sons was God’s choice.

I Samuel 16:6-7, 12 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected

him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”

God chose to continue His redemptive plan through David, the youngest and smallest, the runt of the litter, the least likely, a sign of God’s grace.

“David, remember what you used to be, what you once were, what you were like when I called you. You were a shepherd, following sheep in pastures. Remember I made you what you are.”

God wants us to remember His grace. If God had left us as we were in our fallen nature, we would be the most miserable and lost people on the planet.

7:9a I have been with you wherever you went. Yahweh’s gracious presence.

The Immanuel principle. God has been, is and always will be the with-us God.

7:9b I cut off your enemies from before you. Yahweh’s gracious power and protection.

7:9c-11 Yahweh’s gracious covenant and promised fulfillment.

9c, 11b To David, I will make you a great name.

10-11 To Israel, I will appoint a place for Israel; a place refuge and rest from enemies.

We hear in these two promises echoes of God’s covenant promises to Abraham. Before the Davidic covenant these promises were more general, now we see them being fulfilled in a more specific way. This is a progressive narrowing of the covenant promises to a specific king and a specific people in a specific place. David is the seed of Abraham advancing the redeeming work of God in history.

Notice the grace God shows to David is not just for David, but it is for the sake of God’s people, Israel. God intends the kingship and kingdom of David to be for the future security and safety and blessing of Israel, to free them from fear and turmoil. God will be the king in Israel through the kingship of the Davidic line.

Notice the order of grace. First, God sovereignly establishes the house of David, the dynasty of David, and then the dynasty of David establishes a dwelling place of the Lord.

I Samuel 7:12-16

This is the heart and soul of the Davidic covenant, Yahweh's promise to David.

Here is the most important part of God's promise. *It is everlasting.* God will establish His permanent rule through David's permanent rule. What God promises will endure any and every challenge, assault, attack. God lists three possible challenges and answers each of them.

Vss. 12-13 death will not change it.

God says when you die. God knows David is going to die and that won't change the covenant.

When David lies down in death, God will raise up David's seed. This is going to be an everlasting dynasty that will never lack a male heir on the throne.

Vss. 14-15 sin will not destroy it.

God says "When he commits iniquity" when he sins and he will, God will discipline and punish, as a Father to a son. He will judge and deal with sinful kings, but no amount of sin will remove God's hesed, His covenant love and covenant promise. Sin will bring an end to some kings, sin will divide Israel, sin will lead to exile, but it will not bring an end to the kingdom, to the house of David. God will have mercy because of His promise.

1 Kings 11:11–13 The Lord said to Solomon, 'Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.'

Israel's monarchy failed again and again, but God's promise outlasts human failure. God is faithful when we are not. Sin doesn't cancel God's covenant promises.

Vs. 16 time will not exhaust it.

II Samuel 7:16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure *forever* before me. Your throne shall be established *forever*."

This is the pinnacle of the Davidic covenant promise. For the first time we hear God's grand intention in human history, God's determination that there will always be the seed of David on David's throne.

This is the great climax of the Hallelujah Chorus: “And He shall reign for ever and ever, for ever and ever, for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!”

This promise is indefectible, unstoppable, inevitable. Death, sin and time will not prevail against it. The gates of hell, and the seed of the serpent cannot prevail against it, try as he might.

Satan tried. The Davidic kings after David fell into all kinds of sin and wickedness, idolatry and immorality, blatant sin and rebellion. There was a time when Israel was carried into exile and had no king on the throne. But God raised up a seed of David.

When God promises to do something forever, everything is shaped by that promise.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; ...

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

In this Son of David there will be no sin, He will defeat death, and His rule and reign will be without end.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “Behold, *the days are coming*, declares the Lord, *when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch*, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

Luke 1:31–33 "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 for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

A thousand years before the fact, God established a royal line for the Messiah. Jesus is the promised Messiah, the anointed King, the successor to the throne of David.

Don’t lose site of the fact that God has entered into our history and has tied Himself to specific places and events. He is sovereignly and purposefully directing events toward His desired ends. Everything in history points to this day. It has been predicted since the day of Adam’s fall that the head of the serpent would be crushed.

There is a God and He has a particular and intimate connection and association with His people. And this connection is seen in all the specific actual historical events that show us there is a very clear and specific direction and momentum to all of life on earth. That direction and momentum point directly to Jesus Christ. And it still does as we wait for His return.

This gives *stability and security* to us in what seems like a chaotic and random and unstable world. Political instability, economic volatility, global wars, natural disasters, pandemics, cannot change the sovereign purposes of God. The eternal promise of God makes our hope secure.

This is God's world and God is doing in our world what He desires and nothing can oppose Him. When God promises to do something forever, everything is shaped by that promise.

Implications and application.

Let's make this everlasting king and kingship personal as we await Jesus' return.

Submit to His kingly lordship and ask Him to rule over your heart and life. Make Him Lord over your home and family. His lordship should practically impact how you use your money, spend your leisure, what you look at or watch, what you do at school, how you pursue your vocation, rear children, deal with conflict, handle anxiety, think about the future, how you do retirement.

Do you face temptations that are wearing you down? Do you feel like there are sins or bad habits you can't kill or defeat? Appeal to the king. What is too strong for us is nothing to Him. By His Spirit He defeats the power of sin in our lives. Appeal to Him, go to the throne room and there you will find great help.

Because of God's unwavering covenant faithfulness, we can trust Him completely and give to Him our obedience and love. If God is so absolutely faithful to His huge covenant promises, you can trust Him for all the rest of His smaller promises.

Take this revelation of the character and nature of God to heart, and apply it to your hearts and homes this season and always. God is faithful and more than adequate to meet all our needs. God is sovereign and God is good.

I will be your God and you will be my people, and I will do you good all the days of your life.