

## Biblical Theology, Lesson 9

### The Davidic Covenant

*Read 2 Sam. 7:1-16*

Last week, we saw how God gave a new covenant to Israel through Moses, on Mt. Sinai. We call this the Covenant of MOses, or the Law of Moses - this is because it was a Law-Covenant; it offered GOD's blessings to Israel, but they were *conditional*, not just based on God's promise, but also based on Israel's works of obedience. If they obeyed, they would live as GOD's blessed people in God's place, being a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation." But if they disobeyed, they would be cursed under God.

Sadly, as the story goes on, the people showed that they could not keep the Law of God, rebelling against him repeatedly in the desert and coming under his repeated judgments (Numbers). Finally, after forty years of wandering, God brought the descendants of Abraham to the land he had promised and gave them victory over the godless inhabitants of that land (Joshua). But over time, the people demonstrated that their hearts were still sinful, as they rebelled over and over again against God's holy Law (Judges). Something new was needed: a king who could restrain the sin of the people and bring order to the nation.

Samuel, a godly prophet who led Israel at the end of the time of the Judges, anointed the first king of Israel, Saul. But Saul ended up failing to obey God, and God raised up another king to replace him: David (1-2 Samuel). Once David became king, God made a big promise to him, similar to the big promise he had made to Abraham.

#### **I. God's Covenant Promise to David (2 Sam. 7:12-16)**

*Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16* (these are God's words to David).

Notice that God promises David three things:

1. An "offspring" who will rule (v.12)
2. A kingdom that will last forever (v.13)
3. A throne that will last forever (v.16)

The first thing we need to notice here is the word "offspring." This is the same word in Gen. 3:15, the promised offspring of Adam and Eve who would crush the snake (Satan, the dragon) and redeem fallen humanity, restoring us back to God as His people and in GOD's place, where we can live in right relationship with God. It's the same promised "offspring" of God's COvenant promises to Abraham in Genesis 12, where God promised to make Abraham's

“Offspring” into a mighty nation (a people for God), to give the promised land (a new place where God and humanity can dwell together), promised to bless all the people of the earth through him. In other words, this “offspring” of David is the same promised “offspring” of Adam and Abraham - the promised Messiah/Savior, Jesus Christ. And that means that this covenant is for all of GOD’s people. In the covenant of David, God is further revealing how he is going to keep his promises of redemption - to redeem His fallen people and bring them back to Himself, to live as His people, in His place with Him, forever. And what he’s showing us here is that the one who’s going to bring about these promises is going to be *the king*.

So lets walk through this passage and see what God promises in the Davidic Covenant:

- A. A descendant (“offspring”) who will rule (v.12)**
  - a. David’s son/descendant (v.12)**
  - b. God’s son (v.14)**
  - c. Restored humanity: true image of God: Priest-King**
- B. A kingdom that will last forever (v.13)**
  - a. People**
  - b. Place**
- C. A throne that will last forever (v.16)**

God had promised Abraham that he would bless the world through him. In the promise to David, we see that God’s blessing will come through a king who is a descendant of David.

## **II. GOD’s Covenant to David: Fulfilled or Failed?**

### **A. Initial Fulfillment: Solomon**

God fulfilled his promise to David at first by blessing the kingdom of his son Solomon. But Solomon, though he was a wise king, let his many wives lead him into the worship of other gods. The result was disaster for his kingdom.

### **B. Davidic Covenant Failed?**

After Solomon’s death, ten northern tribes of the kingdom of Israel rebelled against his son, King Rehoboam. At that point, the kingdom of Israel split into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom (still called “Israel,” ruled by different men from different families at different times) and the southern kingdom (called “Judah,” ruled by descendants of David). Both kingdoms declined into greater and greater evil by worshipping other gods, oppressing the poor, etc. Finally,

because they had broken his Law to such an extent, God removed both kingdoms from the land: the northern kingdom was taken into exile by the nation of Assyria, and the southern kingdom was later taken into exile by the nation of Babylon (1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles).

At this point, God's promises to Abraham and David seem like they have failed. Abraham's descendants are not in the promised land. They are not a blessing to the world. They are as sinful as all the other nations around them. Even the kings, for the most part, have been wicked, and this has resulted in God removing David's line from the throne altogether.

### **C. Ultimate Fulfillment: The True Davidic King, Jesus Christ**

But it was also during this period leading up to exile that God raised up prophets to warn about the judgment to come and to deliver God's promises about a new day when the final Son of David would come and restore Israel, leading to the fulfillment of all of God's promises and the redemption of the world. We see this in the books of the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.)

Through His prophets, God promised Israel that future salvation and hope was coming: God would keep His promises to Abraham and David; the Messiah, the promised offspring, the promised King, was coming.

*Isa. 11:1-11*