

2 Sam 7:8-17, 27-29
The Davidic Covenant
December 4, 2011
Lynchburg, VA

EXHORDIUM

When the Kingdom of God appears on the Earth in the reign of Solomon, God says, **then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as king in the place of David, his father.**

We see God's plan clearly in this statement. God was to rule through the Kings of Israel, who were both sons of God and Kings on the Earth. This rule was to be established forever. Thus, the kingdom of God was to be a perpetual kingdom.

But the kingdom was doomed to failure as long as the sons of God, the kings of David's line, were not able to fully fulfill their roles as sons and kingly priests. They failed through sin and the kingdom was rent from them. O Palmer Robertson puts it this way in *The Christ of the Covenants*, "The throne of David's descendants is nothing less than the throne of God Himself."

This is why we cannot really understand the nature of Christ's Kingdom without understanding the Covenant. God had planned for the Son of David to rule the Earth, receiving the promised descendants, land and kingdom. Only in Jesus are these promises fulfilled.

But here is the real glory that we do see Jesus enthroned. He is now ruling on David's royal throne and the **Rev 11:15 The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

EXEGESIS

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepecote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

We have seen as we made our way through the Covenant that the first born is not the one who receives the inheritance. This is true in David as well. In fact, David is not the second born but the eighth son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. Perhaps this is to correspond to the eight day? The eighth day, of course, is the Lord's Day, the day of Resurrection, the day of the Messiah.

But we have another contrast between the flesh and spirit in David. Sons inherit the promises but so do Kings and nations. Adam was the son of God but he was also a king.

It was always God's intention to establish a kingdom in Israel. But when the people arrive in the promised land, they rejected God as their king and desired a king like the kings of the other nations. God gave them this King, King Saul. But Saul was not the King that God had chosen as His anointed one. So, we see that Saul was the King chosen by the flesh of Israel but David was the King chosen by promise.

Incidentally, Jesus fulfills both Son and Kingly roles. He is the true Son of God and thus the rightful King. Only God's Son could rule forever and ever. When we begin to understand the glory of the promises to David, we can begin to expect much greater glory in Jesus Christ. David's Kingdom and especially the kingdom of His Son, Solomon was filled with tremendous glory. They had conquered the land, had peace on every side and where the envy of all the nations surrounding them.

When we come to the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ, we should expect this kind of glory for the entire world. But unlike David's sons, God's Son is ever faithful. We do not need new kings to sit on the throne and hope that they remain faithful. David's kingdom waned until it disappeared. Jesus's kingdom waxes brighter and brighter until a full and glorious harvest.

10 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; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

God has finally provided a place. The people, Israel, are a great people in number but they have not had the fulfilled blessing of the land.

This promise comes to fulfillment during the life of David. In David, Israel possesses the borders of the promised land.

David is a man of war but his warlike nature establishes a land of peace. His son, Solomon inherits the kingdom and has great rest on every side.

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the Lord telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

Back in verse 2, David desires to build the Lord a **house 2 Sam 7:2 2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.**

The Lord now uses David's words in an ironic twist. David wants to build God a house but instead, God will build David a house. This is right at the center of covenantal thinking. We desire to obey, worship and please God but we cannot do so unless God makes a way for us. The ultimate way and the One that God is talking about here is Jesus Christ.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

We see here a twofold fulfillment in Scripture. God is talking about Solomon and Jesus Christ. The throne was established in David and it carried on in great fulfillment in Solomon. But right away in Solomon's son, we see the kingdom being torn and entering into decay. The Davidic kingdom lasted some 400 years but the glorious eschatological kingdom only lasted on generation, that of Solomon.

So, we see a near fulfillment of God's promise but it starts to slip away as soon as it has arrived. But that promise of kingdom glory never leaves Israel. In the later prophets we have this language of kingdom restoration and future glory crop up again and again.

Solomon was the Son of David but God is speaking about David as His Son. This does not make complete sense until we see Jesus, the Son of David, that declares is His beloved Son, listen to Him. Then we see that God meant to bless the Earth through His only begotten Son.

Another name for Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. This is another lesson that we can learn from the story of the people of Israel. God has always identified with Israel. He was with them in Abraham's journeys. He was with them in the land of Egypt. He traveled with them in the wilderness. As long as the people of God were wanderers, God wandered with them. But once they are established in the land of promise, God allows them to build a permanent home for His presence.

Of course, God also makes the point to them that He cannot be contained in a house of cedar. But He settles in the land of Israel as the God of Israel. He is God with them.

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

God's blessing remained on the sons of David for many generations. We have seen how God was revealed as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then, He revealed Himself as I AM, the God who brought thee up from the land of Egypt. Now, He is revealed as the God of David. He repeatedly says that He will dwell with Israel for the sake of His servant David.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Kingdom is forever. Throne is forever. But it was not forever. It fell apart, was eventually destroyed and did not really arise again until Jesus Christ. Without the Messiah, the kingdom is merely an earthly kingdom. But when Messiah rules Earth from Heaven, the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

2 Sam 7:27-29 27 For thou, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

David desired to build God a house but God said to David, I will build thee an house. David understood that these words were concerning his posterity. How far into the future did David foresee this? We are unsure but no doubt David had some inclination about the nature of His many Messianic prophecies. He probably had no idea HOW God was going to do this but He had great faith THAT God was going to do it.

David's Prayer

2 Sam 7:18-26 18 Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? 19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?

20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord God, knowest thy servant. 21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

22 Wherefore thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, Lord, art become their God. 25 And now, O Lord God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said. 26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

28 And now, O Lord God, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

David knew God. He knew Him to be the Almighty and also the God of truth. Thus, like Abraham, He believed what God had said. When God promises, David takes Him at His promise.

29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee: for thou, O Lord God, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed forever.

David is bold to call upon God for blessing, even the blessing of His house as the ruler of God's people forever. He does not do this because he, himself, is great. He does this because he believes that God is great. David was a very wise man. He saw how a fleshly kingdom would fall into disarray in the kingdom of Saul. Saul believed lies and trusted in wicked men instead of his righteous servant David. David is not foolish. He knows that in the flesh, his sons are no better than Saul's sons. But David looks to God's promise instead of to the flesh. In the flesh there is no confidence for the future but in God's promise we have every assurance of hope and blessing.

EXHORTATION

God is ever faithful. The Bible is an amazing book. Like no other holy book, it faithfully records the black side of its most holy characters. Consider the treachery of Adam, of the sinfulness of Noah, the lies of Abraham, the failings of Moses, the idolatries of Aaron, and the horrendous sins of the high king David.

Consider for a moment that this great King, David, the one who most embodied all the glories of Jesus Christ, was an adulterer and murderer. Furthermore, the son who inherited the eschatological kingdom, the kingdom of peace was the son of the woman David and taken and whose husband he had killed.

Does this not strike us as particularly odd? What is God up to? Why is Uriah not King? He was completely faithful to his king and his wife. And his faithfulness cost him his life. Doesn't God have it backwards?

Well, this is one reason that we really need to understand God and His promises to us. Bathsheba is like God's bride. She is an unfaithful wife, an adultress. But God takes her and makes her the wife of the great king and after the child of adultery dies, God gives her a son to sit upon the throne.

Is this not a glorious picture of the redeeming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ? No matter how far God's bride sinks, God will do His holy will. This was true, even in the Old Covenant era but now that God is fully with man and King Jesus Davidson is established on the throne forever, the promises of God are forever sure. God is with man. The descendants are innumerable. The land is the world. The servants of God are victorious in Jesus. The enemies have been defeated.

Isa 9:6-7 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.