

Established  
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2 Samuel 7:8-21

**Opening: How would you like to be remembered by future generations? What can you do to positively impact those future generations?**

Big Idea: God promised to make David's descendants the leaders of a kingdom that will never end. Jesus fulfilled that promise when He came to earth the first time, and will be the ultimate fulfillment when He comes back to earth.

- In scripture there are a number of covenants God made with men and in some cases with mankind. A few of them light the pathway to God's plan for restoring His relationship with people – His plan of salvation.
  - Abraham: Genesis 12:2–3 (ESV) *I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” (Abrahamic Covenant)
  - Moses: Deuteronomy 11:26–28 (ESV) *I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: <sup>27</sup> the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, --- <sup>28</sup> and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside --to go after other gods...* (Mosaic Covenant)
  - New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31–34 (ESV) <sup>31</sup> *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah --- <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’*

*for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*

- This chapter recounts for us what is known as the Davidic Covenant. In a series of “I will” statements, the Lord made promises to King David and his family that would not only affect them and Israel, but you and me today.
- We begin with a conversation between David and a prophet named Nathan. Nathan was faithful to God and courageous enough to tell David the truth even when it hurt (i.e. – David’s relationship with Bathsheba.)
- David is feeling guilty that he has a fine cedar palace and the Ark of God is still in a tent. Nathan agrees that David should build a temple for God.
- Then “*that same night*” God gives a message to Nathan for David: I don’t need you to build ME a house. I’m going to build YOU a dynasty!”
- **Why was David not allowed to build a temple for God?**
- God gave Nathan the specific prophecy of God’s plan for David’s family

2 Samuel 7:8–21 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I

took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' ” <sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

- In verses eight and the first part of nine, **what is God's point to David?**
- Let's highlight the "I will" statements the Lord makes to David:
  - ...make for you a great name...one of the greatest on earth. (9)
  - ...appoint a place for my people Israel to be undisturbed. (10)
  - ...give David's kingdom rest from all enemies. (11)
  - ...raise up offspring of David as the future kings. (12)
  - David's son (Solomon) would build the temple; his kingdom would be established FOREVER. (13)
  - ...be a father to David's son including discipline for sin. (14)
  - God's steadfast love would never depart from Solomon. (15)
  - David's throne would be established forever. (16)
- Imagine David's reaction to this news! The Lord God of the universe is choosing to make a covenant promise to David and his family to lead the nation of Israel forever. Let's talk about that word "forever."
- History tells us that David's royal family didn't stay in power for good. In fact, four centuries later they would be off the throne when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC.
- Did God break His promise? **In fact, what promise in verse 14 did God specifically keep by allowing Jerusalem to be destroyed?**
- If we only think in terms of an earthly, human kingdom for David's family, we would miss the point. So how would God keep His promise of a forever Kingdom for David's descendants?
- We see it in Luke 1:31–33 (ESV) as the angel said to Mary:  
<sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

- Bible Knowledge Commentary: *“These verses, [2 Sam.7] are a good example of an Old Testament passage in which some elements find fulfillment in the immediate future (Solomon and other strictly human descendants of David), while other elements will be realized only in the more distant future (Jesus Christ, the Son of David; cf. Luke 1:31–33).”<sup>i</sup>*
- David was rightfully overwhelmed by God’s promises!

### **David’s Prayer of Gratitude**

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? <sup>19</sup> And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! <sup>20</sup> And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! <sup>21</sup> Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it.

- In a humble yet emotional response David asks God: *“Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?”*
- It’s obvious that David fully trusted God would do whatever He promised to do and God’s promise was mind blowing even for a powerful king.
- The Davidic Covenant is important and as followers of Christ we need to understand its significance in God’s plan of salvation. However, though it impacts us, the covenant God made with David was specific to his family.
- If we are followers of Christ, we should have a similar reaction when we consider God’s promises to us. Promises that should cause us to ponder the question: *“Who am I?”*
- David wrote about all of us in Psalm 8:4 (ESV) asking, <sup>4</sup> *what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

- God's word is filled with promises He has made to those who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord. How often do we remind ourselves of them?
  - How often do we turn to God reflecting on His love, mercy, and faithfulness and ask, "Who am I?" This morning let's spend a few minutes recalling God's promises.
    - First and foremost, John 3:16 gives us His ultimate promise of eternal life.
    - What promises do we see in the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34?
    - What has God promised believers about the permanence of our relationship with Him? (John 10:28-29)
    - What has He promised about His presence with us? (Heb. 13:5b)
    - What has He promised about forgiveness of sin? (1 John 1:9)
    - What has He promised about our day-to-day needs? (Phil. 4:19)
    - What has He promised about worry and anxiety? (Phil. 4:6-7 and Matt. 6:25-33 and 1 Peter 5:7)
    - What promises do we see in Psalm 121:1-3?
    - What did Jesus promise us about peace? (John 14:27)
    - How did He promise to live within believers? (John 14:16 & 14:26)
    - What did Jesus promise about the future? (John 14:2-3)
    - What does God promise about problems? (Romans 8:28 and John 16:33)
    - What did Jesus promise about rest? (Matthew 11:28-30)
    - What does God promise about what awaits believers in Heaven? (1 Peter 1:4)
  - Two important notes as we review God's promises:
    - First, we need to embrace Numbers 23:19 (ESV)
- <sup>19</sup> God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?
- A caution: As you search the scripture for God's promises to claim, be careful not to take verses out of context or claim "principles" (ie – Proverbs) as promises. Here are two articles to help with this: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/which->

[promises-are-for-me/ https://www.gotquestions.org/God-promises.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/God-promises.html)

So, What's the Takeaway?

- God's covenant with David paved the way for the Messiah to come through David's descendant, Jesus. It's important for every believer to understand and appreciate this Davidic Covenant.
- It is no wonder David's reaction was, "*Who am I and who is my family?*"
- God has also made promises to every believer that should cause us to regularly ask God that same question: "*Who am I?*"
- My challenge to all of us is to open our Bibles and review the promises that apply to every believer thanking God for His love and mercy.
- Father, who am I that You have brought me into relationship with You?
- Who am I that Jesus, Your only Son would die to give me forgiveness of sin and eternal life?
- Who am I that You would implant Your own Holy Spirit to live in my heart giving me comfort and clarity as I seek to serve You?
- Who am I that I could be called Your child?
- Who am I that I should have an inheritance in Heaven forever?

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<sup>i</sup> Merrill, E. H. (1985). 2 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 464). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.