

David, Part 8 1-16-22

Davidic Covenant

II Samuel 7:1-17

Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, ²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you." ⁴But in the same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, ⁵"Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord, "Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? ⁶For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"'" ⁸"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, to be ruler over My people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, ¹¹even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. ¹²When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.'"'" ¹⁷In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

There are many things to note in this passage from the life of David. There is David's godly concern, to build a house for God's glory and pleasure not his own. Then we see some rather presumptuous counsel from the prophet Nathan who gave David a green light before having to come back and correct himself. The Lord, through his prophet says to David, *no, you will not build a house for me. But, I will make a house for you.* 11c *The Lord will make a house for you.* God puts forth here some tremendous promises to his man. I suppose you could sum them up with three propositions. God promised to David a descendant, a kingdom and a house.

First, he said to David, *12abc When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you.* Now, David may already have had children but God speaks here specifically of a descendant singular who will be raised up – established, in this case, as king, and to whom God will be as a father.

Next, it says he will have a kingdom which is nice but he already had one of those. God says though – this kingdom under David's son will be forever. *12d I will establish his kingdom. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.* Remember that David was just the second or third king of Israel. The first one died and his family wiped out and dethroned. David wouldn't know what to expect upon his own passing. But now he's promised a dynasty, even an eternal one.

Thirdly God says of the descendant *13a He shall build a house for my name.* And then too *16a Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever.* There is the promise of a house for David and a house for God built by this great descendant from David's line.

Now, from here we go on to ask, *how, when and where are these promised fulfilled?* Who is this descendant of David spoken of in our text? The answer is found both near and far – in the person of Solomon, David's son and in the great son of David, Jesus Christ. This is a prophecy, similar to others in the Old Testament, that has a dual fulfillment. That is, there are two levels of fulfillment. In this case, we can say that the prophecy speaks truly of both Solomon and Jesus. Let's see how this is so.

First of all, Solomon. He was certainly a descendant of David whom the Lord raised up. God established Solomon's kingdom. *13a He shall build a house for my name.* Solomon indeed built the original temple. Anyone here ever built a house? Or had one built for you? That's a pretty big deal. Gerry Richardson, in our fellowship, is a former contractor who has built thirty or so churches. Solomon got a lot of credit and fame for building just one – but it was a very special one. When he finished the massive project Solomon spoke thusly *I Kings 8:17-20 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 18But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. 19Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for My name.' 20Now the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. To*

me then this is undeniable. Solomon refers back to the covenant with David and says, 20a *The Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke*. Obviously, this word in our text in II Samuel 7 has reference to Solomon.

14 *I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men.* Did this happen to Solomon? One can certainly see that it did. God spoke to and through Solomon as a father would his son. And look at I Kings 11, for here we see the chastening of Solomon when he goes astray. As you know, Solomon had a large harem of foreign and domestic wives. I Kings 11:4 *When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 9-12* *Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord had commanded.*¹¹ *So the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.*¹² *Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.* So, you see that God disciplined Solomon severely but he did not completely abandon Solomon as he had Saul, as II Samuel 7:15 *My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.*

Alright then, this covenant with David clearly is fulfilled through Solomon, his son. Clearly also, I believe, it is not fully fulfilled through Solomon. This is apparent because of the three-fold presence of one word. You know what it is – the word *forever*. We find it at the end of verse 13 and twice in 16. Forever is a long-long time and Solomon just did not make it. Who has a forever kingdom? Is it not the one of whom Isaiah spoke and said, Isaiah 9:6-7 *A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*⁷ *There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.* It is Jesus our Lord who reigns eternally. It is Jesus who fulfils this promise to David and the promise to the prophets. He alone is the eternal king. How does he then fulfill the vision to Nathan?

First, he is a descendant of David. You wonder why such a big deal is made over this point in the New Testament. 2 Samuel is why. Luke 1:26-27 *the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David.* Then, speaking of the virgin's son 32-33 *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."* From the start much ado was made over Jesus' relationship to David. While he walked the earth, the demons would call him the *son of David*. The book of Acts is full of such talk – the apostles repeatedly arguing that Jesus is the Davidic king promised of old, the one we normally think of as the messiah. The epistles make the same point. When Paul began his great Romans epistle he wrote that his gospel was about God's 1:3 *Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh.* And then, at the end of the New Testament, Revelation 22:16 *I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.* All of this emphasis is traced back here in 2 Samuel 7 where the first word was spoken of the Son of David.

13a *He shall build a house for My name.* Solomon did this – but Jesus? Absolutely. It also says 16a *Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever.* And Jesus did build a never-ending house. Where is it? What is it? It is you and me. It is the church. II Corinthians 6:16 *We are the temple of the living God.* Hebrews 3:6 *Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are.* I Peter 2:5 *You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house.* Does Jesus have a literal, material house forever? No. It is spiritual, but it is nevertheless real. In fact, it is more real and it fulfills the word given to David. Ephesians 2:19-22 *you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.* The Son of God builds for God a house and God establishes for the Son of David a house, thus fulfilling the word of God to David through Nathan.

II Samuel 7:14 is a bit more difficult 14a *I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me.* Clearly, this speaks to the person of Jesus as God's son, but it goes on 14bc *When he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men.* Can this refer to Christ? Or is this only in reference to Solomon? Well, I don't mind if one limits this part to Solomon. That's better than saying Jesus committed iniquity. But there is a way to see this as happening to

Christ also. He was beaten with the rod of men and whipped with the strokes of men. He was punished severely, more than Solomon for sure. And when was Jesus so punished? When he took on himself the sins of his sheep. He was punished because of sin. Only it was our sin, not his – at least until he became sin for us and, as sin, was punished. You see then how verse 14 does speak of our Lord? And verse 15 too – 15 *My lovingkindness shall not depart from him*. After three days the Father raised him up.

The fact that the promise of an eternal kingdom is fulfilled by Christ should be obvious for us. But how and when it is fulfilled is a matter of some disagreement. God has promised an eternal kingdom for David. Not a 1,000 year kingdom – an eternal one. The promised reign of David's son is forever, but when does it begin? When is this promise fulfilled? Has it happened already, or is it still to come? With full conviction I say that the kingdom of God is now. This text has been and is being fulfilled. Hallelujah! In the original Christian sermon in Acts 2, Peter says of David, 30-31a *Because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne,*³¹*he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ*. The resurrection of Christ is here related back to the Davidic covenant. Acts 2:34-36 *It was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,*³⁵*Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'*³⁶*Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.*" Does Peter say that the king from the house of David has come and will return someday to be Lord? No. God has made him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus. Jesus has fulfilled the promise because he reigns right now. He said *all authority has been given to me*. Paul speaks this way in Acts 13:32-33a *We preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,*³³*that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus*. In Jesus, all the promises of God are *yes and amen*. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus is the act that fulfilled the promises to David. We aren't waiting for Messiah to take his rule. The king has sat upon his throne. And understand this – Christ sits now on David's throne. That throne is over Jews and Gentiles alike, but it's still what the Old Testament called, *David's kingdom*. In the book of Acts we read about an important church council in Jerusalem, at which James makes a critical and decisive speech, saying Acts 15:15-17 *Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.*¹⁵*With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,*¹⁶*'After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, and I will rebuild its ruins,*

and I will restore it, ¹⁷so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name. This is so helpful and clear – James says that the prophecy about the Gentiles seeking the Lord when the house of David is restored is happening now. The Davidic covenant is fulfilled in the apostolic age of the church. It is spiritual and universal, but it has come – the restoration of David’s kingdom and house is not simply future. It has happened at the ascension of Jesus and is happening now in the building of the church. It is now and not-yet. There is a fullness of the kingdom yet to come, but for sure, right now, Jesus is king. The witness of Scripture to this is overwhelming. Paul says this about Christ, that the Father Ephesians 1:20-22 *seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet.* Is Christ the king of Israel now? Yes, Yes. Yes. Is he on the throne of David? Of course. In a prayer in Hebrews we read this about Christ. Hebrews 2:8 *You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.* Well, that is important to add. We don’t see all subject to him, in that his subjects still rebel. At the Lord’s coming we will see it all subject, for then every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Christ is Lord.

But do see this – the promised kingdom and king have come and are now. You and I are a part. Romans 14:17 *The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* These things exist now, because the kingdom exists now. Colossians 1:13 *He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.* We are there and the kingdom of Lord into which we have found entrance will remain forever. The promised kingdom, the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant is now. We are in it. What does this mean for us? Well, it means we recognize, honor and obey Jesus as King of King and Lord of Lords – amen? It means that we live our lives and execute our mission for Christ, knowing that our Savior, our best friend, our good Shepherd is ruling the universe. We tremble not before kings and tyrants. We need not worry about the enemies of the cross – they’re doom is sure for our Jesus sits in the place of power – the true Supreme court and the only sovereign. Praise God Jesus is Lord now and praise God that the fullness of that kingdom is yet to come. So many songs have been written to celebrate this truth. Maybe Handel did it best when he paraphrased Revelation – the kingdoms of this world, they have become, the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ – and he shall reign forever and even.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We enjoy the current state, even as we anticipate.
We hail you as King and we together say, Come Lord Jesus.