

Intro:

This morning we are going to turn to 2 Samuel 7. This is the source of the Davidic Covenant.

In our messages so far, we have considered *The King Anticipated*, where we discussed the universal human longing for the leadership of a king and the prophetic anticipation of the king in the lives of the patriarchs.

Last week we talked about the choice of a king and the all too human trait of looking at externals that sway human decision making. When men look for a king, they usually look in the wrong places, and if they happen to look in the right place, they don't want the king they see.

Today's message is going to look at the identification of the family of the King through the Davidic covenant. This is one of the most important commitments God made to man.

When men make commitments, they are on various levels.

- If I said to you: 'We ought to have coffee sometime next week.' How disappointed would you be if I never showed up for coffee?
- If I said, 'Let's have coffee next Tuesday at 10 AM, I'll buy.' ... and I wrote it down ... how disappointed would you be if I didn't show up?
- If I said to you, 'I'll buy your house at a price you agree to.' ... and I signed a contract and put down a deposit ... how disappointed would you be if I didn't show up with the money?
- When I said to my wife, 'I promise to keep you in sickness and in health, till death do us part...' (and all the rest of that) ... how disappointed would she be if I was unfaithful to that covenant? How disappointed would witnesses to that covenant be?

That last one is a pretty serious commitment. Notice that I used the word 'covenant'. The commitment is by an oath, I swore a declaration to my wife in the marriage ceremony, and she swore a reciprocal declaration to me. That puts the commitment on a much higher level than a promise to buy you coffee.

(A contract to buy a house is a covenant also, but it isn't quite as serious as marriage.)

When God makes promises, on what basis does he make them? As we study the Scriptures, we find that God uses covenant language in making the solemn promises to men that lead up to the offering of Christ for our salvation.

There is something unique about the covenants most specifically tied to the promise of salvation – they are unilateral covenants. God swears out an oath (or you could say, 'vows a vow') by his Name that he will keep his covenant.

In other words, he swears ‘by himself’, or on his own good name. There is no higher commitment you can make in the entire universe.

That’s one of the reasons we trust God. He cannot lie. He has made promises. We don’t have to understand everything there is about these promises, but he says if we will believe him, he will fulfill his promises on us.

This morning I want to read 2 Sa 7.1-17

Now turn over to 1 Chronicles 17.1-15

Also 1 Chronicles 22.6-13

And 1 Chronicles 28.1-10

I. The content of the Davidic covenant

A. Basic provisions

1. David is to have a son, yet to be born (2 Sa 7.12) who shall succeed him and establish his kingdom
2. This son shall build the temple instead of David
3. The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever
4. The throne shall not be taken away from David’s son (Solomon) even though his sins justify discipline from God
5. David’s house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever

B. Key concepts

1. Solomon would fulfill the plan to build the temple
2. David’s house would be established forever
3. Solomon’s house is not the house of the promise – no guarantee of an enduring posterity to Solomon
4. The throne of David is established forever – no other family should have the right to rule Israel
5. The house of David is established forever – his family will never be totally destroyed

All of these concepts are contained in the various passages we read. Please note that the Lord records this covenant three times:

- In the historical record, 2 Samuel 7
- In the priestly reflections, post-exile, 1 Chronicles 17

- In the charge to Solomon, 1 Chronicles 22
- In David's farewell address, 1 Chronicles 28

Repetition of revelation establishes certainty – God wants you to pay attention to this, he intends to fulfill the covenant with David to the last detail.

II. The reaction of David to the covenant

A. David's prayer

1. 2 Samuel 7.18-29
2. 1 Chronicles 17.16-27

B. David's actions

1. Dedicating the spoils of war to God (1 Chr 18.7-11)
2. Preparing the construction and commissioning Solomon and the people (1 Chr 22.1-5; 14-19)
3. Drafting the plans for the temple [under the inspiration of God] (1 Chr 28.11-20)
4. Providing for the worship in the temple: dividing the labor of the Levites and the singers (1 Chr 28.21, cf. 1 Chr 23, 24, 25, 26)
5. Calling for a public offering and public commitment to the construction (1 Chr 29.1-9)

We've been simply reading a lot of Scripture this morning. I want to make some observations about David's reaction:

1. David believed God when God made his promise (seen by his prayer and by his deeds)
2. David did everything *but* build the temple – and the temple is known as *Solomon's* temple
3. We did not read the passages about David's troubles and sins as a king: all of these sins occurred after the covenant God made with David [Solomon was a product of David's greatest sin]
4. God kept his covenant with David regardless, because the covenant depended on God's

character, not David's

You should not sin as a Christian, even though God has an everlasting covenant with you. But if you do sin, there is a provision for forgiveness and cleansing.

Nevertheless, your covenant with God doesn't depend on your performance, it depends on God's character and God's word.

III. Our reaction to the Davidic covenant

- A. God's purposes cannot be frustrated by our sins
- B. God delights to forgive and restore our fellowship if we confess our sins
- C. God's grounds for forgiving us and fellowshiping with us flow directly from the initial fulfilment of the Davidic covenant
 - 1. The Son of David has come
 - 2. The Son of David has healed our diseases
- D. Our future rests in the certainty that David's covenant will yet be fulfilled

Conclusion:

The Scriptures paint a picture for us of a man completely dependent on God. David never saw the temple. He saw piles of lumber, gold, stone, and bronze.

But David believed God.

And David's Son is the King!

I wonder, do you have a personal relationship with the Son of David? The only way you can have a future in the promises of God is for you to acknowledge David's Son, Jesus the Messiah, as the King, the man of promise, the one in whom forgiveness for sin is found.

If you have him, you have a personal covenant with God that cannot be broken.