



GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID

Reading: 2 Samuel 7

A key verse

Why does the first verse of the New Testament introduce the Lord Jesus as the son of David and the son of Abraham?

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham"
(Matthew 1:1).

It is because God wants to remind us of the important promises that He has made about Jesus in the Old Testament. We know that Jesus Christ is the special descendant promised to Abraham (Lesson 12). He is also the special descendant promised to David.

Why did God give special promises to David?

Just like Abraham, David was a man of remarkable faith. David lived about 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus. He was born in the same place as Jesus – Bethlehem, a small town near Jerusalem. He was the youngest son of Jesse.

David wrote many of the Psalms in the Bible. They show his love for God and for God's Word. This is why he is described as a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22).

While Saul was still king of Israel, God chose David to be the next king. David was a young shepherd boy when God sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint the future king. Samuel was surprised that God did not choose Jesse's eldest son. But God said to Samuel:

"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

God was pleased with what He saw in David's heart. We need to remember that God can see into our hearts too!

In 1 Samuel 17 we read of an example of David's great faith. The nation of Israel was threatened by the Philistines. The Philistine army was led by their champion fighter, Goliath, a giant of a man. King Saul and his army were terrified of Goliath and failed to put their trust in God. Young David knew that this enemy of God's people could be defeated with God's help. He stepped out in faith with just a sling and five stones and killed Goliath. After this the Philistine army ran away. Through David's faith in God the people of Israel were saved from their enemy.

Saul became very jealous of David's success. On several occasions he tried to kill David, who became a refugee. These problems prepared David for his time as king. The Bible teaches that true believers will experience difficulties in their lives, through which their trust in God can grow.

While Saul was hunting David, there were times when David could easily have killed him and taken the throne. But David knew that this was wrong because Saul was God's anointed king, and God would remove him when He chose to do so. David was a righteous man who let God control events in his life – another lesson for us.

David becomes king

After Saul's death, David became king over God's people and reigned from Jerusalem, where he built a palace. David was concerned about the Ark of God. The Ark was a gold covered chest. It was the symbol of God's presence right at the heart of His nation. Since the time of Moses the Ark had been kept in the Tabernacle, a special tent where God met with His people. Just before Saul's reign the Philistines had taken the Ark. It was later returned but not put back in the Tabernacle. David had a fine palace and so he wanted to build a house of God (temple) at Jerusalem for the Ark. David told Nathan, the





prophet of God, what he wanted to do. That night God spoke to Nathan, giving him a special message for David. This message contained God's promises to David.

God's message to David

God told David not to build a house for Him. Instead, God promised that He would set up a house for David:

"Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house" (2 Samuel 7:11).

God then made further promises to David:

*"I will raise up **your offspring** after you ... and I will establish **his kingdom**" (2 Samuel 7:12).*

Here the word 'offspring' is used, but some older Bible versions say 'seed'. In this verse these words refer to one special son, not many descendants, because the verse reads "**his kingdom**" (remember the words 'offspring' and 'seed' can refer to one or many descendants – see Lesson 12).

God said of this promised son: *"He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom **for ever**"* (verse 13). Verse 16 shows that this refers to David's throne and kingdom – the Kingdom of God.

Notice that these promises were to be fulfilled after David's death, for it was to happen when *"your days are fulfilled and you (David) lie down with your fathers"* (verse 12).

We can summarise these promises:

- God promised David a special son who will reign from David's throne and over David's kingdom (i.e. God's kingdom) for ever
- God promised to set up a house for David
- God promised that the special son will build a house for His name.

Understanding the promises

1. A special son whose throne and kingdom will last for ever – The promised son was to be very important. God says of him, *"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"* (2 Samuel 7:14). This shows that David's promised descendant is God's own son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

David had a son called Solomon. God's promises to David were partly fulfilled in Solomon. He reigned after David from Jerusalem and built the temple, the house of God. However, he did not completely fulfil God's promises because:

- Solomon became king while David was still alive, not after his death
- he did not reign for ever
- he was not God's son.

God's promises to David will be completely fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to restore God's kingdom and reign from David's throne in Jerusalem because:

- Jesus is descended from David through his mother, Mary, and so he can be described as David's son
- he will reign for ever
- God is his Father.

The New Testament confirms that Jesus is the special son of David. In Luke 1 we read of an angel coming to Mary and promising her that she would have a son, Jesus. This son was to be born, not through a human father, but through the power of God. Mary was told:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).





Concerning this son the angel also told Mary:

*“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**, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and **of his kingdom there will be no end**” (Luke 1:32,33).*

DAVID WAS PROMISED (in 2 Samuel 7):	MARY WAS PROMISED (in Luke 1):
A son to reign from his (David’s) throne.	Her son would be given the throne of David.
The son’s kingdom would last for ever.	There would be no end of her son’s kingdom.
God wants us to link these passages! The son promised to David was the one Mary was to bear – God’s own Son.	

The apostle Paul spoke of David’s wonderful character and also showed that Jesus is the promised descendant:

“... he (God) raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised” (Acts 13:22,23).

2. God would set up a house for David – David was not allowed to build a temple (house of God). It was his son, Solomon, who actually built the temple, and this became the centre for Israel’s worship. It was a real building – before his death David prepared materials to build it.

The word ‘house’ normally refers to a building, but it can also refer to an important family with a long history. For example, in Britain the present royal family is known as *The House of Windsor* – in this way ‘house’ refers to a special family. This is true where the angel told Mary that her son would *“reign over the house (family) of Jacob for ever”* (Luke 1:33).

When God said that He would set up a house for David, He meant a royal family – one that would last for ever (2 Samuel 7:11,16). This refers to David’s descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the future king of the world.

3. The special son would also build a house for God’s name – When God said of the Lord Jesus, *“He shall build a house for my name”* (2 Samuel 7:13), God did not mean a real building, but again a family. The house (family) that the Lord Jesus is building is God’s family – the family of believers from all ages. The Bible describes this family as a spiritual temple. The apostle Paul, while writing to Gentile Christians in Ephesians 2:19-21, refers to this great house of believers:

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of God**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a **holy temple in the Lord.**”*

A reminder of God’s promises to David (2 Samuel 7)

VERSE	TEXT	NOTES
11	<i>Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.</i>	God would build up David’s family, which includes Jesus.
12	<i>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.</i>	When David’s life was over and he was dead, God would raise up one of his descendants, and God would set up the descendant’s kingdom.





13	<i>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.</i>	The descendant would build God a house (Solomon built the temple, Christ is building a spiritual house). God would secure his (Christ’s) throne for ever (Solomon did not reign for ever).
14	<i>I will be to him a father and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him ...</i>	God would be the father of this descendant of David, and the descendant would be God’s Son (Jesus is God’s Son). Jesus did not commit sin, but we read that he had to learn obedience (Hebrews 5:8).

The King of the Jews

David was promised a son who would reign for ever. Other Scriptures show that the Lord Jesus will be this king. The wise men, when they came to worship Jesus as a young child, asked, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2). When Jesus was arrested and taken before Pilate to be tried, Pilate said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “You have said so” (Mark 15:2). This was the Jewish way of saying, “Yes, I am”. Jesus Christ will return to this earth to be King of the Jews and to reign from Jerusalem, which the Bible describes as David’s throne.

A worldwide kingdom

Christ Jesus will not only be the king of the Jews when he returns. God’s future kingdom will be centred on Israel but will extend over the whole earth, and Christ will reign over all nations as king of the world. God says of him in Psalm 72:8,11:

*“May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!”*

Something to which true believers can look forward

In Acts 2 the apostle Peter tells us that David was dead and in the grave (verse 29) and had not gone to heaven (verse 34). Abraham and David and many other faithful people died knowing that in the day of Jesus Christ’s coming they would be raised from the grave and “made perfect” – given immortal life on earth. But Hebrews 11:39,40 shows that immortal life will not be just for these faithful people – it can be for us also:

“And all these (the people listed in the chapter), though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”

God wants us to accept His wonderful offer of salvation so that we can share in the tremendous blessings promised to all faithful believers.

Summary

1. David was promised a special son who would reign from his throne and over his kingdom (God’s kingdom) for ever.
2. This special son of David is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is descended from David through his mother, Mary.
3. God’s promises to David will be completely fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to restore God’s kingdom and reign from David’s throne in Jerusalem.

Verses to learn: 1 Chronicles 17:11,12

When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne for ever.

Verses to read: 1 Samuel 17; 1 Chronicles 17

