

Lesson 59 - CHRIST WILL REIGN FOREVER 2 Samuel 7:1-17

(2 Sam. 7:1-9) - At this time, the tabernacle of Moses was in Gibeon (*1 Chron. 21:29*), and the Ark of the Covenant was in a structure that David had built for it in Jerusalem. David was concerned that the Ark was in such a plain structure while he himself dwelt in a palace made of cedar. This shows David's God-given respect for the glory of God. David consulted the prophet Nathan as to whether or not he should build a house for the Lord God. Nathan encouraged David to do so, but then the word of the Lord came telling him otherwise. God said that David was not the man to build His house (*1 Chron. 17:4*). David's son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple (*1 Chron. 22:8; 28:2-3,10; 1 Kings 8:18-19*). The Lord told David he was not allowed to build His temple because David was a man of war (*1 Chron. 22:7-8; 28:3*). The Lord told David that his son, Solomon, would be a "MAN OF REST" (*1 Chron. 22:9*). The Lord Himself is said to be "a Man of war" (*Exod. 15:1-3*) and the "Prince of peace" (*Isa. 9:6*). Here we see a great picture of Christ in both David and Solomon. David pictures Christ going to war against all enemies and shedding His precious blood to save His people from their sins. Solomon pictures Christ in victory as His warfare is over and has brought peace, safety, and security to His spiritual and eternal temple, His church. Christ has fought our battles and accomplished peace between God and His people. We rest in Him spiritually and eternally (*Isa. 32:17-20; Col. 1:19-22*).

(2 Sam. 7:10) - God's promise here specifically applies to Israel under David's reign, and this only in a limited sense. We know this first because under the terms of the Law of Moses, Israel's security and prosperity in the land was conditioned on their obedience. Though it is true that David had his own failings and problems, on the whole, under his reign the nation was at peace and prosperous. After David and Solomon, the kingdom was divided. So, this time of security and prosperity did not last. Also, even though the Lord prohibited David from building His house (the temple), He promised to build David a house, and this was in the sense of establishing a dynasty for the house of David. This too was fulfilled only in a limited sense through the line of Judah. But this promise with all of its blessings was to be fulfilled in a spiritual and eternal sense by the coming of Christ into the world to establish the spiritual and eternal kingdom of God in the salvation of spiritual Israel by God's grace based on the righteousness of Christ Who reigns as King of kings eternally over His people. We see this in the prophecies of the New Covenant (*Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16; Ezek. 37:24-25; Luke 1:32-33*). This truth is further settled in the following covenant the Lord made with David.

(2 Sam. 7:11-17) - This is God's covenant with David, which is the royal covenant. This covenant was fulfilled physically and temporarily in the human kings who descended from David and occupied the throne of Israel, but it reached its ultimate eternal and spiritual fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, beginning with His birth in Bethlehem (*Matt. 2:1-2; Luke 2:8-11*). The Gospel of Matthew begins by showing Christ as "the Son of David" (*Matt. 1:1*). Peter preached that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of God's promise to David (*Acts 2:29-36*). We see then that the main point of this covenant was the fact that the promised Messiah would be a descendant of David according to the flesh (*Rom. 1:1-5*). This was another remarkable revelation of more details of the Messiah's identity, the nature of His Person and His accomplishment of redemption for His people.

We need to emphasize that this was an absolute and unconditional covenant towards David. God's promise to David was absolute, certain, and unchangeable. God repeated, "I will," and "he shall." In 7:13 God says, "I WILL establish the throne of his kingdom forever." The Lord would accomplish this eternal kingdom, not by David personally, but through the Son of David, the greater David, the Lord Jesus Christ Whose throne would be "forever and ever"

and whose rule would be in perfect righteousness (*Psalm 45:6; Heb. 1:8*). David's reign (his sceptre) was generally a just government, but it was far from the perfect and righteous government of the King of kings. David himself recognized this because he admitted to being a sinner saved by God's grace based on the righteousness of the Messiah imputed to him (*2 Sam. 23:5; Psa. 32:1-2; Rom. 4:6-8*). This indicates that David himself knew and understood this. And consider what Peter preached at Pentecost in *Acts 2:25-31*. He quoted from *Psalm 16* which was written by David himself showing that David was speaking prophetically of Christ to come.

Notice again what God said in *7:13* - "*He shall build an house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom for ever.*" He had already said that David would not be the one to build His house. Some would argue that Solomon building God's house would be the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant and prophecy. Solomon did build the temple in Jerusalem, but that temple was eventually destroyed. It was rebuilt later on but destroyed again. Many people look for it to be rebuilt again in a future millennium, but this is not the case. This is the house that Christ has built. It is His church that can never be destroyed (*Matt. 16:18; Heb. 3:1-6*). It is not a physical building that can be destroyed and rebuilt over and over again. It is spiritual house built upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.

So, the promise continues and expands. God says, "*I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*" (*7:13*), and "*And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever*" (*7:16*). What began as a promise that David's son Solomon would be blessed and build the temple turns into something different—the promise of an everlasting kingdom. Another Son of David would rule forever and build an eternal and indestructible house. This is a reference to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, called the Son of David in *Matthew 21:9*.

So, the substance of this covenant had to do with the establishment of the eternal kingdom by Christ, the Savior-King. Some of these details had already been revealed, but they were few, obscure, and isolated, for example, when God revealed to Jacob that "*the scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between His feet, until Shiloh come*" (*Gen. 49:10*). The unbelieving Jews believed that Christ would establish an earthly kingdom and rule from Jerusalem upon the throne of David. But notice that the Lord already revealed to Jacob that the sceptre would eventually depart from Judah when the Messiah would come. Again, this royal covenant revealed that the eternal throne and kingdom would be accomplished and established by the Messiah Who would come as the Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of spiritual Israel, God's elect out of every nation. These are those whom God had given Him before the foundation of the world. They were adopted by the Father and justified based on the merits of Christ's righteousness imputed to them. They were redeemed by Christ on the cross, and they will all be born again and brought by God to faith in Christ, repentance of dead works, and perseverance in the faith unto glory. They are the election of grace who live by God's grace in looking to Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

By the terms of this covenant, more information was given. Even after David's death, hundreds of years later, the prophet Isaiah referred to the throne of David as a prophecy of the Messiah (*Isa. 9:6-7*). Much is made of this in the New Testament (*Matt. 1:17,20; 20:30-31; 21:15; 22:41-45*). All of this proves Jesus of Nazareth to be the promised King-Messiah Who would establish an everlasting righteousness of infinite value by which God has justified all His people and Who will reign forever and ever over His eternal kingdom.