

The Davidic Covenant: *Who is Worthy?* – Part 2 2 Samuel 7:8-17

“I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever”

Introduction: Perspective is imperative in uncertain times, and the larger and clearer the perspective, the more confidence and contentment is enjoyed. When we are in the early years of life, our perspective is limited by knowledge and experience. An eight-year-old will have a meltdown when he loses out in a game or getting their ice-cream first, not realizing that there is plenty of dessert to go around. When I was in 6th grade I would pout if we lost an athletic contest, throwing a fit in my heart and face (so I just don’t lose anymore...problem solved!). A teenager will be devastated when their first crush does not work out, not realizing that it was too early anyway and this person needs time to grow up. As adults, we know each of these situations will ‘get better’, time will go on, and the situation in the present does not have to dominate our attitude. As adults, we only lose perspective on important things, like money and politics! In reality, at every stage of life we need a giant helping of overarching perspective to face what feels overwhelming in the present.

But where does this perspective come from? We’ve all received some form of counsel or advice, or perhaps have given it, when it comes to having perspective. We can offer solace **by comparison**, looking at people who have it worse than us and trying to be thankful for what we have, but that does not address our particular situation. Or we try to reason **by degree**, seeing that it *could be worse*, we could be out of ice-cream or we could live in a dictatorship, but again this does not address our present issues. Or some will try the extreme view, either the eternal optimist (it will all be alright), or the perpetual pessimist (it’s all going to burn anyway!) to try to gain perspective, but the extremes rarely give reasonable wisdom.

As we come again to the **Davidic Covenant**, we study it first and foremost in its context, where we see that it is a rock solid and monumentally firm promise of God. It helps us understand God’s promises of the past and His plans for the future. Our hope in meditating on and understanding our God this way, it will bring a healthy dose of **perspective** to our present plight, as we watch the moral decay of our country, the proliferation of true wickedness and evil, and seemingly insane policies and people who are given reign to rule and enforce these policies on others. We need something more than just comparison or arguments by degree to think rightly and live joyfully in and through this time, so that we can accomplish our mission to make disciples of all nations.

In any and every era, the way to a full throated, trusting, and contented perspective in life is to see three things robustly:

- 1) **God Wields Ultimate Power and Control Over All Things** – There is a beginning and end of this present world, and God is the set-apart One who can bring about every promise and fulfill every single one of His plans. The more we understand our God, the more peaceful perspective we will have in the present.
- 2) **Jesus is Better & Worthy** – The promises and plans of God come into focus and fruition in Jesus Christ the Lord, who is the worthy King of God’s eternal kingdom. No other authority holds a candle to Him. Yes, we are living in a time like the exile in Babylon, waiting for redemption, and in this time we live *faithfully and obediently*, meaning we will be good citizens who engage in having families, paying taxes, and voting for the people and policies that best reflect a Biblical ideal and morality, but we know it will not be made right until Jesus returns.

- 3) **Worship, then, is the Antidote to Worry and Answer to Perspective** – Worship elevates our eyes and clarifies our hearts to remind us that life is NOT about us, that God is working all things out according to His plan and things will not just get better, but our King will rule over His kingdom someday and will bring rest, both individual and corporate, to our lives.

Each of these ideas is captured in this most comprehensive and indefectible covenant. Let's look at this covenant that explains the major covenants before it and launches the New covenant that we enjoy now and into the future.

God's Grace in Promises in David's Life (8-11)

*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**. 9 **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. 10 **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, 11 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***

David was the best of the best, a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14) that differentiated him in every way from Saul. Where Saul failed, David succeeded. In fact, we find David at the beginning of this chapter in a position of **rest** from enemies and ready to establish peaceful worship in the centralized place of Jerusalem, just as God has commanded. But David was a product of God's grace, not his own goodness. Yes, he was a faithful worshiper, a mighty warrior, and courageous leader, but he was dependent on grace just like everyone else. In fact, we see David's sinful actions and faithless disobedience throughout his life as reminders that though he was **Israel's greatest king**, he could not be the ultimate One. The whole of his life, rule, and dynasty screamed for another to come.

- **Grace in David's Past life** – We did not have much time last week to dig into this section, but it's important to remember that in vv. 8-9a we see that David was a product of God willing him to be great. God is the one who took him from the fields as a shepherd and made him a Prince or Leader over God's people Israel. We joked last week if God had not acted this way, David would have been the most popular slam poetry performer at the local coffee shop, and one whose music was enjoyed by the sheep and not too many else. But God had been with him every step of the way, even in the midst of running from Saul, and that provided the biggest differentiation between he and Saul. God left Saul, but never left David. Even after David's disastrous sin with Bathsheba, his sole hope was that God would not take the Holy Spirit from him like had happened with Saul, and that God would not **cast him out of His presence**. (Psalm 51:11). If God's promises to David were merely based on his performance, David would be cast away, just like each of us.
- **Grace in Past Promises** – We began to look at how God's promises to David connected with His past promises to the world. God promised David that he would have a **great name, an appointed place** of worship and a time of **rest**.

GREAT NAME – This connected David to the Abrahamic Covenant, which God gave to Abram in three distinct promises: 1) **Land**; 2) **Seed**; 3) **Blessing**. As part of that blessing, Abraham's **name would be great** (Gen. 12:2). The promise to Abram was broad but was focused through the promise to David,

which explained **how** the Abrahamic Covenant would be fulfilled. Remember, in Genesis 11, the people on the earth created the **Tower of Babel** to “*make a name for themselves*” (Gen. 11:4), and God caused them to disperse, and promptly put His blessing on a nobody from nowhere in Abraham and chose to make his name great. David’s name would be made great NOT because of his greatness, but because of God’s.

A Foundational Place – Again, this narrowed in the land promise given to Abraham, that was going to be centralized in the city of Jerusalem. Under David and eventually Solomon, Israel experienced the height of their power and expanse of the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18-21). Notice the terminology that God used here is “**will plant them**” in the land. This harkens all the way back to Genesis 2:8, where God **planted** a Garden in Eden and put man in it, so that God would dwell with Him and Adam would have dominion over it. In **Exodus 15:17** God told Israel after leaving slavery in Egypt:

*You will bring them in and **plant them on your own mountain**, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.*

¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever.”

God fulfilled His Promise to His people through their time in Egypt that He would bring them to His mountain where He would once again be with them in Edenic relationship.

Rest from Enemies – God’s desire for His people is to be able for them to worship Him freely without the disturbance from enemies. It is interesting here that God offers the promise of “rest” even though 7:1 already says that God had given David rest from his enemies. This is either a lame covenant promise, or it entails something further reaching. I believe there are two main facets to this promise of rest:

- 1) This connects to another OT covenant, namely the Noahic Covenant found in Genesis 8:20-9:17, where God reset the creative order through a worldwide flood, exercised His wrath on evil doers whose intent of heart was evil continually (Gen. 6:5), and brought about peace on the earth. In fact, the name **Noah** means “*rest*” or “*comfort*”. God brought rest for a time.
- 2) It looks forward to a peace and rest that is coming. Israel enjoyed spurts of rest in the land. Joshua 11:23, after all of the warring in the Promised Land, there was a time of peace; “*and the land had rest from war*”. But obviously, through the time of the Judges, in breaking the Mosaic Covenant, the consequences were continual enemies would come and ravage the land. The rest that God was promising to David was no longer a **temporal peace, but a lasting one**. In part, this was fulfilled in the time of David, but in FULL, there is a peace in the land that is still to come.

In all of this, God was gracious to extend David a Grant Covenant (though the word “covenant” is not stated here, David recognized it as such in 2 Samuel 23:5 and Psalm 89:3). He then offered to David instead of David building God a house, He would build David one. This begins a play on words in terms of a physical house and a dynastic one, the first being a Temple and the latter being a family line. In this next section it is imperative that we see that some of the Promises would be **temporal**, or fulfilled in the near future, but not “filled full”, and would have implications to come. Just as in most promises of God, there are some benefits enjoyed in the present but there is also much in terms of waiting for the **future fulfillment as well**.

God's Grace in Promises After David's Life (12-17)

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. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 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, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' " 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

We will end with verse 12, but to start, let's look at **three distinct promises** that David could expect which brought him hope.

- 1) **God would build him a house** – Instead of David building a house for God, God would build a house for and through David. Here, the fulfillment would have been in part by the building of the Temple by Solomon, David's Son, in **1 Kings 6**, a place that the Lord would dwell with Israel and a centralized place for worship. But the idea of house also means a dynasty, a line of kings to follow David that would continue on the throne.
- 2) **God would secure his offspring** – The problem, typically, in any kingdom is the fact that the transition and handoff typically is filled with problems, especially if you're handing it off to your own kids. We've heard stories in business, politics, churches, and even with David's own grandson that often the offspring cannot lead the way their parent did. So God offered two areas of security that David held onto: *"For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?"* (2 Samuel 24:5) **First**, God said that He would be a father and David's offspring would be His Son, which meant the son would reflect the father in identity and yet be different from the father. There would be all the rights of the father given to the son, and they would be one. **God offered sonship to David's offspring. Second**, God promised security in the form of *hesed* love. That even if/when the line of David committed sin, God would NOT treat them like Saul, departing from them, but would not depart. We see this tested in the life of Solomon, after he allowed his heart to run astray to idolatry because of his love for foreign women, that God did not tear away the kingdom:

1 Kings 11:11-13 – *"Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. 12 Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."*

In other words, the security of David's line would be secure *even if/when* the individual kings did NOT live up to the standards of the Mosaic Covenant ----- which none of them did. Again, the security of this covenant was NOT based on man keeping the treaty, but God.

- 3) **God would establish an eternal kingdom** – What is particularly definitive and distinctive of this covenant is its scope and reach. There are three particular, spectacular emphases about the **throne and kingdom** that David could expect. **FIRST, it would be eternal** – God promised his

kingdom would be “**forever**”. When we make that promise to a spouse, “I will love you forever”, we actually mean for a time we can consciously control, not actually spanning eternity past and future. But God can deliver on an eternal promise since He Himself is before and above all things. Also, a person can ‘guarantee’ almost anything, but only one who has the ability to follow through can truly guarantee such a claim. David’s great name and throne would forge into eternity future.

SECOND, it would be a vast kingdom – When God promised a kingdom, it harkened back to creation when Adam was king, given dominion over the whole world, to multiply and be fruitful, to reign and bring glory to God. This was not a partial or local rule, but one that encompassed the whole world. When Abraham was told about his seed, it would be as vast as the sands of the sea and stars of the sky. The kingdom that God was offering was one that would rule and reign OVER ALL. The world has seen dictators who have come and gone who have conquered (or tried to) conquer the world, but it is never sustainable. Nations rise up against and put them down. The Kingdom God promised David would be a rule over all the earth, nations, and kingdoms.

THIRD, in order to have a kingdom, there has to be a king – God chose the line of David to lead the people of God in conformity to the Mosaic Covenant, to uphold justice and righteousness, and to lead a vast kingdom that would reign over the entire world! But who could do that? Not even David could live up to his end of the bargain, as in a few chapters he would sin with Bathsheba. *Was God just messing with David? Was He setting them up for failure or promising great gifts to His kids only to take them away at the last moment? What was God doing?* The answer, in part, is found in verse 12:

*“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.**”*

Did Solomon do this? In part, but he ultimately failed, as did all others in David’s line, eventually leading God to carry His people away, OUT OF THE LAND, through the hand of Babylon. No, the Davidic Covenant was **aching for resolution, for One to come to fulfill not just the parts, but the whole**. *Who could do this?* None other than Jesus Christ the LORD! The One whom the angel prophesied to Mary:

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

He is the One that Mary said:

Luke 1:54-55 *“He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, **to Abraham and to his offspring forever.**”*

This Jesus, who was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham (Gen. 3:16) and the Son of David (Matt. 1:1) was a clear descendent, who was also a **son**, who was the exact imprint of God’s nature and the radiance of the glory of God (Heb. 1:3), who after making purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become superior to angels, as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs (Heb. 1:3-4). Of this Son, God said:

Hebrews 1:5 *“For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?*

So Jesus is a descendent and a Son who was willing to sacrifice His life to make purification for sin, but the longing question is this: ***Is He Worthy! Is He worthy to be the king of an eternal kingdom, to take the rightful throne of David, to fulfill all the promises of God and reign into eternity???*** For this, we take a hallowed look into the future in **Revelation 5**. We get a future glimpse of heaven as God rightfully receives worship day and night. Then we get a glimpse of this spectacular scene:

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals

This scroll was written on the front and back, which would have been a treaty or covenant, and in this case, it is the TITLE DEED TO THE EARTH, sealed with secure seals so only the intended recipient could open it. **But on earth and in heaven there was not found one**, which lead to weeping, until the **Lion of Judah, the ROOT OF DAVID, who conquered sin and death could open the scroll:**

"Worthy are you to take the scroll

and to open its seals, for you were slain, **and by your blood you ransomed people for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, **and they shall reign on the earth.** (v. 9-10)

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (v. 12)

To which EVERY creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea said:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (v. 13)

HE IS WORTHY!!!! Jesus is the One! He won victory on the cross but He will claim every promise of the Davidic covenant into eternity. This was the hope for David, and the hope we hold, giving us **perspective based on our God who is mighty and our Savior who is LORD and king.** *We know that death could not annul it, sin could not destroy it, and time cannot exhaust it.* We know that whatever happens in November or 2025 or the next century, we have a WORTHY Son of David who will reign and rule in righteousness over the entire earth, gathering His people to worship and rule and with Him forever. The question is this: *Do you know this Savior, Lord, God, and King?* Have you seen your inability to be righteous, to fulfill the Law, and know that you are under the wrath of God? Have you come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and have repented of your sin, yielding to Him with all of your fear, desire for control, and angst, asking for forgiveness and turning to Him with all of your life? This is the true message of the Davidic Covenant, that we have a worthy king who out of love has taken the shame and guilt of sin as payment on Himself, offering us life in Him, and that life is forever.