

## “The Promise of David”

Advent 4

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December 20, 2020

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen. (2 Pet 3:18)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Promises. Promises. How often do we make promises? When we make promises, we intend to keep it. After all, that’s what a promise is all about. We say that we’ll do something, and then we follow through and keep it. Parents make promises all the time to their children. Sometimes, they come in the form of bribes to get them to do something.

What kind of promises do we receive from God? That’s at the very heart of what we want to think about today. It’s not about any type of promise that we can make to God. Rather, it’s all about the promises that God makes to us, and then keeps it.

This morning we want to consider – **The Promise of David.**

Background of David –

- David fought in many battles, and was considered a warrior king
- His main objective was removing Israel’s enemies from the promised land, mostly because previous generations had failed to carry out God’s command.
- Pomp and circumstance – when a mighty warrior comes home from battle
  - o After David defeated enemies in battle, they would sing his praises, much like they did for David when he defeated Goliath – and that was before he became king
- It was a part of history – that kings would make promises to the gods
  - o Like Tutunkomon, making promises to Ammon-Ra – to build a temple to the god in return or exchange for peace and prosperity
- Isn’t that kind of what David is trying to do here? Perhaps. He has some intention of “doing” something for God.

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

<sup>3</sup>Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it,

God wants us to remember two things –

- He is the God who is with his people. When his people wandered, lived in tents, etc, God lived the same way.
- And he also wants us to remember that he is the Lord Almighty – the god of free and faithful grace – wanted to differentiate himself from all the other gods

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

Look at what God did for his people. The Lord chose David and brought him to a position of prominence in order to bring peace to the country. He protected his people and gave them peace and prosperity throughout the land. God also fulfilled this prophecy by having David’s son Solomon follow after David and rule over Israel. Future prophecy is that the promised Savior would be born. David’s purpose from God was to conquer the pagan nations that the people failed to eradicate when they entered the promised land. David’s name would be great because the Messiah would come from his line. God told David – You are not the one who will build a house for me.

When God promised David that he would have a son. God would establish his kingdom, and he would build the beautiful new house of worship for God. **“The LORD declares to you that the**

**LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”** God kept this promise when David had a son named Solomon. God made Solomon the richest and most powerful ruler Israel ever had. The country had peace on every side. He built the beautiful new temple for God, for the hearing of God’s word and worship. Sadly, later in his life Solomon would take many wives and worship their false gods. God would discipline Solomon by allowing trouble in his life. After he died, his kingdom was torn in half by a terrible civil war. All of God’s words to David came true to the letter.

At the same time we see another more important and beautiful promise in these words. It’s clear that God was talking about much more than the royal family of David. He said “your kingdom will last forever.” David’s kingdom ended. Solomon’s kingdom ended. The kingdom of Israel was dominated by one foreign power after another. So who is this really about? A thousand years later the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, “You will conceive and give birth to a son. You are to give him the name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his father David.” Jesus is God’s own Son from eternity. He was born of the virgin Mary, a descendant of David. At Christmas time God’s eternal Son became a little baby and hid his eternal majesty and power and knowledge. He grew up and God punished him a flogged him. Was it for wrongs he had done? It was for all our sins. It was for us he was punished. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us. The Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all. His kingdom would be a kingdom of peace and rest – peace with God through the forgiveness of sins. It

would be an eternal kingdom – its citizens will live forever after they die.

You may ask: “What does all this have to do with me?” Do you see how far God has brought you in your life? He has taken us from the depths of sin and condemnation and made us children of God. There is no greater distance in the universe between where you were and what God has brought you to. He had brought you from the devil’s family to being sons and daughters of the King. Your title as child of God is greater than any title. Every earthly title like duke, duchess, prince and president passes away. There is no higher status in the universe than your status as a child of the King. You have round the clock security under the protection of the powerful holy angels. You have a personal audience with the King of the Universe through prayer. You are a king and a queen who is served by everybody and everything in your life, as God makes all things work for your good. How great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God!

The world focuses its attention on celebrities and royalty. All of God’s attention is on his royal family. There is only one eternal royal family. Who are they? “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” What a loving God that he would bless us so. What a loving God that he would send us his own Son. What a loving God that he has given us this book, the Bible, and all these wonderful detailed prophecies of the Messiah. What a marvelous book the Bible is, thousand year old prophecies fulfilled to the letter in every detail. What a special privileged people we are that God has brought us into his family of believers! What can we do but fall to our knees with David and say, “What kind of God are you to treat us this way?” What else can we do this Christmas than join Mary and ponder all these things in our heart. What can we do but fall to our knees and say with Mary, “Lord, you are the one who does everything. May it be to me as you have said.” Amen!

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)