

History of Israel – 1000-537 BC Harmony of Samuel, Kings, Chronicles – Part 7

REVIEW OF THE LIFE OF DAVID

During Saul's failing rule as king, the Lord instructs Samuel to anoint David, son of Jesse, great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth of the line of Perez, son of Judah, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham. The history of David begins with him helping Saul as he is going through a difficult time of despair and depression by playing music on a harp. As he travels back and forth to help his brothers and Saul, he hears a challenge from Goliath, accepts the challenge, defeats Goliath, and cuts off his head.

As David increases in popularity and favor having the Holy Spirit greatly upon him, Saul becomes increasingly jealous and chases David all over the country. As David avoids conflict with Saul, he spared his life twice when God gave him the opportunity to kill Saul.

In the end, Saul and his three most prominent sons die in battle, Saul's reign comes to an end, and David is free to take the throne.

David is king immediately after the death of Saul, but not King of all Israel, only Judah. In the North, Ish-bosheth is crowned king. As a civil war ensues, David and his army become stronger and Ish-bosheth continues a downward spiral, ending in his murder. The elders of all Israel come to David and pledge loyalty, and Israel is united under David as all Israel recognizes the anointing of the Lord upon David.

David demonstrates his good, godly character by mourning for his kinsmen even though they are enemies. He follows the YHWH's instruction about the destruction of the Philistines and the destruction of their idols. David also emphasized the worship of the Lord by bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, a truly joyous celebration in the history of Israel.

While in Jerusalem, the king of Tyre honors David by building him a house. After this, David understands that he is being established as king by the Lord and that David's kingdom was exalted for the sake of the people of the Lord, Israel. In response to this, David has a realization.

2 Samuel 7:1-2 – Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains."

2 SAMUEL 7; 1 CHRONICLES 17 – DAVID'S INTENTIONS AND GOD'S RESPONSE

What an awesome mind David has. He recognizes that God's house is not as great as his house. But the mind of men does not equal the mind of God, even when it seems to be good to us. Nathan's response demonstrates that he thinks that the building of a house for God is a good idea. David may have thought that he should complete the instruction of Deuteronomy 12:10-11. However, God explains something to both Nathan and David.

Read 2 Samuel 7:4-7

In this rebuttal we can recognize a few points:

1. Prophets can error, only when they are speaking for the Lord is their message infallible.
2. Prophets are often seen as the main counsel for the kings of Israel.
3. David has the Holy Spirit, yet what is in his heart is not the will of God (Jeremiah 17:7-10).
4. What made David think he needed to build a house for God?

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“It was a common occurrence in the ancient Near East for a victorious king to show his gratitude to the patron deity by building a temple. Examples go back into the mid-third millennium among the Sumerians and continue down into Assyrian, Babylonian and even Persian times. The temple (home of the god) was expected to bring the protection of the deity to the king and his land. A permanent and luxurious dwelling (cedar) would be intended to insure the god's presence and favor.” - Bible Background Commentary - Old Testament.

5. In contrast to the pagan thought, God tells them:
 - a. He had traveled with them.
 - b. He never told them to build Him a house.
 - c. God cannot be confined.
 - d. God does not need David.
 - e. David needs God.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17

This is understood as the Davidic Covenant;

Review the covenants of the Lord, beginning with Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21, 17:1-14 –

- Land: God promised Abraham that He would give him a new home, which we know as Palestine or the Promised Land. This is expanded in Deuteronomy 30.
- Nation: God promised Abraham that He would give him a son and a large family that would be a great nation. The national blessing is expounded in the Law (Exodus 19-20), but they broke that covenant. The Mosaic Covenant will be replaced with the New Covenant from Jeremiah 31-33.
- Seed: All the nations will be blessed because of you. This is expounded in the Davidic Covenant in that there will be one that will be the Seed from Genesis 3:15 through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, now David. This will come to fruition in Jesus Christ who will be the King of Israel but will be the blessing to the whole world.

As we review the Davidic Covenant, several features need attention:

1. God identifies what He has done for David (8-9a)
2. God will make David's name great – Fame and renown (9b)
3. Establish Israel permanently (10-11a)
4. David's line will be great (11b)
5. The promise of a descendent (Seed) that will have an established kingdom (12)
6. That Seed will build a house for the Lord (13a)
7. The Kingdom of the Seed will have a forever kingdom (13b)
8. The Seed will become iniquity and will be killed (14)
9. The Seed will be restored even after death and have a forever throne (15)

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The Davidic Covenant can also be traced throughout the Scriptures:

- 2 Chronicles 6:16 – Solomon calls upon the Covenant in reflection of the house that he built.
- Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2, 53:2 – If it was not clear before, the Servant of Isaiah is the Seed of David.
- Jeremiah 23:5-6 – God reminds and expounds upon the Covenant through Jeremiah.
- Luke 1:30-33 – Jesus is that Seed of David, the true King.
- Acts 13:30-37- Paul reflects upon the truth of God in relation to the Seed of David.
- Revelation 3:7 – Jesus, the risen Savior, is the anointed One, the Seed of David, the Messiah, who will have His Kingdom established and it will have no end.

David's response

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29

THEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Even the man who trusts the Lord cannot rely on his own heart (or as it is further expanded in Jeremiah, he cannot trust in his own inner motivations). Don't confuse God's will with what you feel or think. And remember, in all biblical eras (Old and New Testaments), the heart was NOT indicative of emotions; it refers to the intellect, the mind.
2. The Davidic Covenant is often thought to be the key between the Old and New Testaments. The promises made to David allow us to see the character of God.
 - a. God establishes that it is not man who makes the plan but God who has the full and complete purpose.
 - b. God reveals His plan to mankind, demonstrating His mercy
 - c. God demonstrates that He is personal with Israel, with mankind, and, as we know, personal toward all men through Jesus Christ
 - d. God tells the future to man to establish His veracity and uniqueness
 - e. Unconditional promises
 - f. Faithfulness – God is faithful even when man is not
3. David's response is an excellent example of how man should view himself. We realize that anything that we do or are is only because of the grace and mercy of the Lord.