

Week 6: The Covenant with David

A. The Background of the Davidic Covenant

- In the days of Joshua, the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant had largely been fulfilled (Joshua 21:43-45)
- But the new generation of Israelites in the land failed to obey the Mosaic Covenant (Judges 2:10-15)
- The cycle in the book of Judges is disobedience, judgment, deliverance through a judge...repeat
- The recurrent refrain in the book of Judges is "In those days there was no king" (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)
- Israel needed a king appointed by God who would lead the entire nation in obedience
- Instead, Israel asked for a king "like all the nations," and in anger the Lord gave them Saul (1 Samuel 8:5, 19-20)
- God took the kingdom from Saul because of his sin and gave it to David, a king after His own heart (1 Sam 13:14)
- God's covenant with David establishes David's line as that which would produce the everlasting king over Israel

B. The Content of the David Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-17; cf. 1 Chron 17:1-15)

As was the case with the covenant with Abraham, there are both guaranteed promises and required conditions in God's covenant with David. On the one hand, God swears that one of David's offspring (i.e. "Seed") will certainly sit on His throne forever. On the other hand, for David's individual kingly offspring to enjoy the blessings of the covenant, they must walk in obedience.

The Blessings

- An established throne for David's offspring (vv. 12-13, 16; cf. Jeremiah 33:20-21; Psalm 89:3-4)
- Rest and prosperity in Canaan (vv. 10-11a)
- God's presence in the temple—i.e. David's son "shall build a house for My name" (v. 13)
- God's lovingkindness will not be removed from David's son [i.e. Solomon], even when disciplined (v. 14)

The Conditions

- "If your sons will keep My covenant..." (Psalm 132:10-12)
- "Keep the charge of the Lord...according to what is written in the Law of Moses" (1 Kings 2:1-4)
- "If he is steadfast to observe my commandments..." (1 Chronicles 28:5-7)
- This is why the king was required to write the entire Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 17:18-20)

The Federal Head

- A federal head determines the fate of those he represents in the covenant (e.g. Adam)
- God's covenant with David appointed the Davidic king in Israel as the head of the Mosaic Covenant
- The king's obedience or disobedience would result either in blessing or curse for the whole nation
 - Life in the land (1 Kings 9:4-9)
 - God's presence in the temple (1 Kings 6:11-13)
 - "As goes the king, so goes the nation" (Renihan)

Summary: The faithful son of David who walks in obedience to the Mosaic Covenant will reign forever and will secure God's presence and life in the land for the entire nation of Israel (the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant)

C. The Fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant

The Davidic Covenant found Immediate Fulfillment in the Reign of Solomon

- God established Solomon's throne (1 Kings 2:12)
- God gave Solomon (and all of Israel through him) rest from all of their enemies (1 Kings 4:24-25; 8:56)
- God allowed Solomon to build the temple and He dwelled there (1 Kings 8:10-21)
- Solomon's reign and the dedication of the temple were the high point of the Old Testament (a picture of Eden):
 - God's people were living securely in the land of Canaan
 - A wise king was ruling over the nation
 - God was dwelling among His people in the temple

The Repeated Failure of the Kings Led to the Seeming Loss of the Davidic Covenant

- Later in life, Solomon's heart was turned to other gods and the kingdom was torn from him (1 Kings 11:4, 11-13)
- The kingdom of Israel was divided (northern and southern kingdoms)
- With few exceptions, every king after Solomon acted wickedly, and Israel as a nation followed suit
- Eventually, God exiled both Israel and Judah from the land on account of the kings' wickedness (2 Kings 23:26-27)
- It seems that God's Covenant with David had come to nothing (Psalm 89:19ff)

The Prophets Pointed God's People Forward a the Future Davidic King (i.e. "Messiah")

- The Lord's "Anointed" [Hebrew: *Messiah*; Greek: *Christ*] = The King (Psalm 18:50)
- Through the Davidic Covenant, Israel's hope depended upon God's present "anointed" king (Psalm 20:6-9)
- When their kings failed, Israel began looking for a *future* righteous Anointed who would bring blessing/deliverance
 - Jeremiah 33:14-18
 - A future Branch of David will execute justice and righteousness (v. 15)
 - His righteousness will result in Israel and Judah's salvation (v. 16)
 - This future king will be the fulfillment of God's promise to David (v. 17)
 - Isaiah 9:1-7
 - The promised child will sit on the throne of David forever (v. 7)
 - He will execute justice and righteousness (v. 7)
 - Ezekiel 37:24-28
 - David (i.e. David's offspring) will be king over God's people (v. 24a)
 - He will Shepherd them in obedience (v. 24b)
 - He will establish them in the land (v. 25)
 - He will usher in a covenant of peace—i.e. the New Covenant (v. 26)
 - He will secure God's dwelling among them (v. 27)
 - Isaiah 11:1-11 (cf. Micah 4:1-4)
 - The shoot of Jesse will lead God's people in righteousness and usher in blessing
 - The blessing through him will extend to the nations
 - He will be the One through whom the promise to Abraham is fulfilled (Gen 12:3)

The Davidic Covenant Finds Its Ultimate Fulfillment in the Arrival of the promised Davidic Messiah, Jesus Christ

- Jesus is introduced in the New Testament as the Davidic Messiah (i.e. the "Christ")
 - Matthew 1:1
 - Luke 1:30-33
 - John 1:41
- Jesus accomplishes all that was required and promised in the Davidic Covenant
 - He walked in perfect obedience to all of God's commandments (John 8:29)
 - As a result of His righteous obedience, He secured the promises of God:
 - His throne is established forever (Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 11:15)
 - He grants eternal rest to God's people (Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 4:3, 10)
 - He builds His Father's House, i.e. the Church (Ephesians 2:21-22)

D. The Davidic Covenant and the Promised Seed of the Woman (Genesis 3:15)

Through the promises and typology of the Davidic Covenant, the promised "Seed" becomes clearer than ever before:

- He would come through the line of David
- He would be a righteous and everlasting King who represents all of God's people and brings blessing through perfect obedience
- He would secure forever God's presence among His people and bring the promised blessing to the nations
- The temporary fulfillment of life in Canaan was merely a picture of the far greater fulfillment revealed in the Person and Work of Christ