

The Covenants of God

A study of the covenants of promise
made between God and His people.

Ephesians 2:11-13

PROVIDENCE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Lesson 7 – The Covenant with David

Sunday School Series: The Covenants of God

Lesson 7 – The Covenant with David – 2 Samuel 7:8-16

References:

Covenant Theology – Greg Nichols

Systematic Theology – John Frame

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Israel demands a king!

1 Samuel 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 5 and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.” 6 But the thing was evil in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to Yahweh. 7 Then Yahweh said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. 9 So now, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly testify to them and tell them of the custom of the king who will reign over them.”

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1 Samuel 8:10 So Samuel spoke all the words of Yahweh to the people who had asked of him a king. 11 And he said, “This will be the custom of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen, and they will run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. 13 He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants. 15 He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will also take your male slaves and your female slaves and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. 18 Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but Yahweh will not answer you in that day.”

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1 Samuel 8:19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” 21 So Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of Yahweh. 22 Then Yahweh said to Samuel, “Listen to their voice and appoint them a king.” So Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

1 Samuel 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. 2 Now he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.

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1 Samuel 9:16 “About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be ruler over My people Israel; and he will save My people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have regarded My people because their cry has come to Me.” 17 Now Samuel saw Saul, and Yahweh answered him, “Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This one shall restrict My people.”

God had previously given requirements for kings in the Law. Deut. 17:14 “When you enter the land which Yahweh your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,’ 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom Yahweh your God chooses, one from among your brothers you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your brother. 16 Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses. Yahweh has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’

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Deut. 17:17 And he shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. 18 “Now it will be when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God, to carefully observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his sons in the midst of Israel.

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Saul sinned against the Lord and was removed as king and was to be replaced by a man after God's own heart.

1 Samuel 13:9 So Saul said, "Bring near to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And as soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him. 11 But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, 12 therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of Yahweh.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering." 13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of Yahweh your God, which He commanded you, for now Yahweh would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not endure. Yahweh has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and Yahweh has appointed him as ruler over His people because you have not kept what Yahweh commanded you."

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David was like part of the family of King Saul, and was best friends with his son Jonathan. He defeated Goliath, became a mighty warrior, and his success provoked Saul to jealousy to the point that he tried to kill David.

When David had an opportunity to kill Saul, he refused (1 Sam. 24:1-7; 26:1-12). When Saul died, taking his own life after being wounded in battle, David mourned.

David was anointed king. 2 Samuel 5:1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led out and brought in Israel; and Yahweh said to you, ‘You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.’” 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David cut a covenant with them in Hebron before Yahweh; then they anointed David king over Israel. 4 Now David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

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God made a covenant with David to establish his throne forever.

2 Samuel 7:8 So now, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and not be disturbed again; and the unrighteous will not afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Yahweh also declares to you that Yahweh will make a house for you. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will come forth from your own 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.

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2 Samuel 7:14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will reprove him with the rod of men and the strikes from the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not be removed from him, as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”” 17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

This covenant demonstrates God’s sovereignty and grace and requires faith and obedience from David and his heirs. If they sin, God will judge them, but He will uphold the kingdom. The promise is to him and his seed.

Psalms 89:3 “I have cut a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne from generation to generation.”

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Psa. 89:34 My covenant I will not profane, Nor will I alter what comes forth from My lips. 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 His seed shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me. 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful.”

2 Chron. 17:10 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. And I tell you that Yahweh will build a house for you. 11 And it will be that when your days are fulfilled to go to be with your fathers, I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; and I will not remove My lovingkindness from him, as I removed it from him who was before you. 14 But I will cause him to stand in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.”””

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David's heirs ruled in Jerusalem for over 400 years. Solomon built the Temple, but also built temples for false gods as his many wives led him astray. Rehoboam was a harsh ruler and under him the kingdom split, ten tribes in the north anointing Jeroboam as king of Israel and establishing worship in Samaria, and 2 tribes in the south remaining under Davidic rule in Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:4, 11; 11:11-13).

The northern kingdom was taken into exile by Assyria in 722 BC. Judah lasted until taken by Babylon in 586 BC.

David's heirs who ruled in Judah were Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joram, Ahaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Eliakim, Jeconiah, and Zedekiah.

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God raised up prophets, acting as “covenant prosecutors” to call the kings and people back to God in times of rebellion and disobedience. While the people were unfaithful and eventually the land and the Temple were lost, God still upheld His covenant with David.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will accomplish this.

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Isaiah 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our peace fell upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Jeremiah 33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to branch forth; and He shall do justice and righteousness on the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell in security; and this is the name by which she will be called: Yahweh is our righteousness.' 17 For thus says Yahweh, 'David shall not have a man cut off from sitting on the throne of the house of Israel;

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Ezekiel 34:23 “Then I will establish over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will shepherd them; he will shepherd them himself and be their shepherd. 24 And I, Yahweh, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, Yahweh, have spoken. 25 “I will cut a covenant of peace with them and cause harmful beasts to cease from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

Ezekiel 37:21 And speak to them, ‘Thus says Lord Yahweh, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. 23 They also will no longer defile themselves with their idols or with their detestable things or with any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all their places of habitation in which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

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Ezekiel 37:24 “And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My judgments and keep My statutes and do them. 25 They will inhabit the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, which your fathers inhabited; and they will inhabit it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. 26 And I will cut a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will give them the land and multiply them and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. 27 My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 And the nations will know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”””

Zechariah 6:12 Then you will say to him, “Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, and He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of Yahweh. 13 Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Yahweh, and He who will bear the splendor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.””

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David's ultimate heir is the promised Messiah! Joseph was a royal descendant of David and Mary was also physically descended from him (Matthew 12:1-16).

Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom.”

Acts 2:29 “Men, brothers, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to set one of the fruit of his body on his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither forsaken to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

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Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh...

John 1:49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

Jesus was a king in the line of David, who was rejected and killed by His people. He was a king who would suffer God’s wrath so that His people might be healed from their sin (Isaiah 53; Matt. 9:27; 12:23; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42). He was raised from the dead, ascended to the throne, and ever rules and reigns.

Acts 13:34 But that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to corruption, He has spoken in this way: ‘I will give you the holy and faithful lovingkindnesses of David.’ 35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm, ‘You will not give Your Holy One over to see corruption.’ 36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid among his fathers and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised did not see corruption.

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The promises made to David are fulfilled in Christ and we will participate in their fulfillment when He returns and we reign with Him.

2 Tim. 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

Rev. 5:10 And You made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.

Rev. 22:5 And there will no longer be any night, and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them, and they will reign forever and ever.

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Jesus now reigns on David's throne and will reign forever. He is building His temple (the church) and He fights God's enemies until they are all subdued. His reign gives us even now peace and stability!

Ezekiel 37:25 They will inhabit the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, which your fathers inhabited; and they will inhabit it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. 26 And I will cut a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will give them the land and multiply them and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom.”