

## **The Davidic Covenant**

Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:6-7

1st Scripture: Psalm 132

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Hymn #70- *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

Hymn #89- *Come Thou Almighty King*

Hymn #270- *The Church's One Foundation*

### **Introduction:**

"Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains' (vs. 1-2).

David had successfully transported the ark to Jerusalem, and the Levites set it in the tent, which David had erected for it. And the Levitical choir sang before it, daily, from that time forward. But, as time moves on, something occurs to David, which he hadn't considered in the past. As he walks out of his new, well built, sparkling palace, made of choice cedar, by the best architects and builders of Tyre, the ark of God continues to reside in a tent, surrounded by curtains. And this just didn't seem right to David. "How do I dwell in this glorious house of Cedar, while the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains?"

Since God had given David a period of rest from "all his enemies all around," David began to consider all the more, whether this might not be the ideal time to build God a dedicated house; a temple, within which the ark of His presence could reside. For, after all, He is the real glory of Israel, and it doesn't seem right to leave things as they are. And so, David brings this idea and desire to one of his most trusted counselors, Nathan the prophet. And, at first, seeing the idea as good and righteous, Nathan encourages David to go forward with the plan. We are told, in verse 3, "Then Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.'" However, Nathan receives a word from the Lord that evening, causing him to recant his earlier advice.

This morning, we ponder the word of God to David, spoken through Nathan, which houses the glorious, "Davidic Covenant!"

### **I. The Davidic Covenant**

Now, as we consider God's response (to David) through Nathan, brethren, we will consider it in three parts:

- 1- God answers David's concern (vs. 5-7)
- 2- God describes what He has done for David already (vs. 8-9)
- 3- God describes what He will do for David (vs. 10-17)

1) God answers David's concern: [vs. 5-7]

"Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: 'Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

Now, as we consider this first portion of our Lord's response, brethren, it is important to understand that our Lord is not criticizing or rebuking David for his concern. What follows this, only confirms that the Lord had great regard for David's heart, concerning this matter. David's desire was understandable, sincere and well meant. That said, the Lord wants to relieve David of any felt guilt over this matter. The Lord was in no way offended because the ark was kept in a tent, while David dwelt in a house of cedar. In fact, had the Lord any desire for cedar, or for anything beyond what He had commanded from the outset, He would have made that desire known, all the while that His revealed presence moved about in a tent.

And so, it were as if our Lord were saying here, "David, are you concerned about building Me a house? Don't let this bother you. All along, from the moment Moses was commanded to make the tabernacle and its furnishings, all the way up to the present, I have never been concerned, in the slightest, about changing the appearance of My tabernacle. Had I been concerned, I could have easily communicated that to previous leaders of My people, throughout the time of the Judges and up to the present. I have been concerned about other things, such as the statutes and laws that I have given, but never about dwelling within walls of cedar...etc."

2) God describes what He has done for David already: [vs. 8-9]

"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says The Lord of Hosts: 'I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.'"

As a preface to that which God is going to graciously do for David in the future, He reminds David of all that He has done for David already, in the past. And in this sense, it serves to strengthen David's confidence in the covenant promises, God is about to deliver to him. And so, what does God bring back to David's mind?

He carries him back to the first promise He made to him, back when Samuel had first anointed David to be king. Where was David then? He was out in the sheepfold, caring for sheep. He was a shepherd boy, about as far away as a person could ever be, from becoming king. And yet, by God's sovereign hand, the impossible was done. God took David from following the sheep, and made him ruler over the people of God; over all Israel! And wherever David went, looking back, it was very clear that God was with him. There were many, many close calls, and humanly impossible situations, which God had brought David through, confirming all along that, though God was not seen or felt, He was always right there with David. God took the lowly shepherd boy, raised him up during the reign of Saul, delivered him out of the hand of Saul, cut off his enemies before him (the Philistines and the Amalekites...etc), and made his name great, throughout the whole world.

Indeed, there was no denying the obvious. The grace and presence of God, were with David mightily! And of course, David was well aware of this. But what he was not aware of, was the fact that this was only the beginning. Here, God would now make a profound and gracious covenant with David, set upon the same assurance that David was given in the first promise, made to him when he was but a shepherd boy. And it would overwhelm David's heart with joy, worship and praise, to say the least. And so, God was saying, "Here is what I have already done, and nothing could stop Me. And furthermore, here David, is what I will now do, and nothing will stop Me!"

3) God describes what He will do for David: [vs. 10-17]

"Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them

anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David."

And herein, brethren, lays the "Davidic Covenant!" Beyond what is clearly implied here, how do we know that it is, in fact, a "covenant?" Well, referencing this declaration, we are told in Psalm 89:3-4, "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.' Selah." And again, in Psalm 89:34-37, we are told, "'My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky.' Selah." [See also Jeremiah 33:15-26; 2 Chron. 13:5, 21:7...etc]

And what then is the body of this covenant? What are the specific details?

[A] God would plant and secure David's kingdom (the people of God) in a place of rest, where enemies would no longer chase or exile them, out of their homes/land. Unlike that which happened during the times of the judges, where wicked rulers were raised up to harm and enslave the people (because of their sin), under David, God would secure rest and security for His people. Israel would have their own ruler, and they would dwell in safety and peace. The present rest, which God had given David (on all sides), was indicative of; it was a sign of, the ultimate fulfillment of this future promise (vs. 10-11a).

[B] Though it was David's sincere desire to make *God* a "house," God would, in fact, make *David* a "house," and establish it forever! (vs. 11b-17). God would establish a permanent "Royal Davidic dynasty." Whereas Saul, and his house, were removed from the throne, God

would establish David's throne forever! Unlike Saul, when David's days on earth were fulfilled, God would set up David's seed, to reign after him. And God would establish, settle, and sustain his kingdom forever. And furthermore, David's seed, from his own loins, would, in fact, be the one appointed to build God a "house," in accordance with David's desire.

And brethren, notice the critical element of grace, present in God's promise in this regard (vs. 14-15). God would be a Father to David's son, and he would be God's son. If and when he should sin against God, rather than harden his heart or leave him to his sin, God would chastise and correct him by the means of other men. God would raise up opposition as a means of disciplining him, so that His mercy would never depart from David's offspring forever. In this sense, God would extend grace to David's seed, which He had not extended to Saul. For, God rejected Saul and brought him and his house to destruction. And so, one of the key gracious aspects of this covenant, is that God was vowing to treat David's seed in a favorable way, which He did not do for Saul. This is not at all to say that God was unfair in any way, but rather, God chose to be gracious to David, in accordance with His own preordained design to "show mercy to whomever He would choose to show mercy."

All in all, God was here covenanting with David, to establish his house, and his throne, and his kingdom forever. And herein sums up the response, which Nathan had delivered to David, on behalf of God (vs. 17).

## **II. A Double Fulfillment to the Davidic Covenant**

Now brethren, before we close with a few applications, it is extremely important that we recognize that there is a "double fulfillment" attached to this Davidic Covenant.

1) The most obvious fulfillment is found in the reign of Solomon, David's immediate physical seed.

[A] It is during the reign of Solomon, that Israel will experience, perhaps, the most peaceful time in all of her history. God gives Solomon rest on every side, for a great portion of his reign (until he later bows the knee to idols). Solomon's reign is accompanied by great prosperity, indeed, the most prosperous time in the history of Israel, where gold was in abundance, and silver was so abundant, that it virtually became common. Jerusalem is expanded and enriched to its greatest length and depth, the overall land is extended to its furthest borders, foreign kings, who once posed a serious threat, were now paying tribute to Solomon....etc.

[B] Solomon is the one who builds the temple atop mount Zion, fulfilling the desire that David had, here in our text. He builds "God a house," as it were. And furthermore, God treats Solomon as a son, such that, even when Solomon sins so grievously (worshiping the idols and false gods of his many foreign wives), He does not disown David's lineage, and replace it, even as He had done with Saul. Indeed, Solomon's sin was no small matter, but God chastised him, by means of stirring up conflict with other nations, and removing the peace that once existed. And God goes so far as to split up the kingdom; to divide a northern portion away from the southern portion, following Solomon's reign, because of the gravity of his sin. But because of this covenant with David, in spite of Solomon's great sin, and even the great sins of others who follow, He maintains and secures the Davidic dynasty, over the southern kingdom of Judah.

And so, very clearly, we find this covenant springing up with Solomon, and continuing all throughout the history of the divided kingdom. God was faithful. But, that said, there is also a far more relevant and significant fulfillment, attached to this covenant, which brings it to its total and perfect completion. [See also 2 Chron. 13:5 & 21:7]

2) The second, and far more significant fulfillment to this covenant, is found in the eternal reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, a true blood descendent of David, and the Son of the Living God!

Luke 1:32-33 tells us, "He [Jesus] will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him *the throne of His Father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end!*" [See also Jer. 33:14-17...].

[A] It is during the reign of Christ, that the true, eternal peace, pictured in Solomon's imperfect reign, comes upon the people of God, forever! Deliverance from enemies on every side, eternal rest and peace, and the glorious riches of heaven, come to the people of God, eternally in Christ! That which was experienced in the reign of Solomon, was a mere shadow (at best) of the infinite glory, attached to the kingdom of God, in Christ! The planting of God's people in a "conflictless" Kingdom of joy and rest, where sorrows and pains and tears and suffering and death don't even exist in the vocabulary, is the certain end of all, who are now in Christ. And the peace that we have with God now; the reconciliation that we have been freely granted in Christ, such that we can now cry out, "Abba, Father," now, in the present, is a downpayment unto this end. [Note: The hope of the Jews in the NT was attached to the Davidic Covenant, "Will you now restore the kingdom to Israel?" ...etc]

[B] And as Solomon was commissioned to build God a house, and as God would build David a house, both of these realities merge into the substance of the building of Christ's church, the New Covenant Temple of God! We are the Temple of God, brethren! Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, upon which we are laid. God is adding to the offspring of Christ, and Christ is building His church...and the gates of hell will not, and cannot prevail against it! What Solomon built physically, was again, a mere shadow of the true substance of that which Christ is building spiritually, namely, His glorious Church! He is the Head of the church, and we are living stones, the make-up of His Body, who fills all in all! And in Christ, the mercy and grace of God meet us, indefinitely! "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow [us], all the days of our lives, and [we] will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!" And His Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, without end! What a glorious truth to grasp onto, with every fiber of our being, as we watch our own nation collapse before our very eyes! What a great hope for us, and for our children, and for all who will believe in Christ, in truth! On account of David, *ethnic* Israel was blessed, and on account of Christ, *the true spiritual* Israel is blessed, forevermore!

### **III. Closing Thoughts and Applications**

Brethren, let us then close with a few closing thoughts and applications:

1) Consider again, that God was with David wherever he had gone (vs. 9). Now, I want to apply this in somewhat of an unusual, but very helpful fashion. Brethren, from a biblical historical standpoint, we have walked with David for awhile now, and we know, that he has been through some very difficult and challenging times. Needless to say, he probably spent much time on his knees throughout the course of his life. But, but...the whole time, God was right there with him, wasn't He? Did David always sense the presence of God with him? Certainly not! But here, we are reminded of the truth of the matter.

Now brethren, this is very significant for us, because the same is true for every true child of God. If you have, by faith, made Christ your refuge, then you can be absolutely certain that God is with you (in a favorable way), during every breath that you take. Now, that seems simple enough from a theological standpoint, but brethren, here is where I want to bring this into a very relevant and specific sphere of application for us. And I say this, because I would assume that we all need to be reminded of this reality, constantly...beginning with me! Especially in our day, where everything is so fast paced; where we are running from one thing to the next; where the

"fast food" industry has originated and thrived; where the "tyranny of the urgent" constantly wins the day...in short, where our minds are always focused on the next thing to be done, before we have finished that which is in front of us, we must be reminded of the "present tense" reality of God's presence with us! So often, we can lose God in the shuffle, in the hustle and bustle, and in the busyness of everyday life, and I believe, that because we do this, we miss so many golden opportunities of accessing His present grace, so that we might effectively serve Him, right here, in this present moment. Brethren, God is with us right here, right now. He is not with us in the future, until the future becomes the present. And I want to encourage us to pause throughout each day, and to ensure that we are conscious of the fact that God is with us, right here, right now.

And brethren, this requires us, to be focused on the task at hand. In fact, you can find joy in the task at hand, when you are conscious of God's presence, and when you are conscious of the fact that you are serving God, in whatever you are doing...even, in the most seemingly mundane things. When we are reminded that God has us, "here and now," for a good purpose, we can align ourselves with God's purpose, and learn to focus on that which is right in front of us, for the glory of God. I say all of this, to say that, it is very unhealthy for us to constantly live for the next thing that has to be done, presuming that the present thing, is just an item on a list, that you must rush to get past. God is there, in the present, looking to be glorified in the present task, no matter how menial it may seem. If you are putting stamps on envelopes, if you are making a meal for your family, if you are waiting on line at the bank, if you just started the beginning of your long work day, if you are visiting relatives...whatever it is, live that moment to the glory of God! Serve God in that moment, knowing that He has sovereignly placed you there for His glory, and that is right where He is, with you, in the present! Nothing is by chance! Every step toward *our* most desired ends, is a step in providence, and an opportunity to glorify God, even if, glorifying God in that moment, is made up entirely of simply acknowledging His presence right there, and His smile upon you, as you simply do what He has called you to do, no matter how menial of a task, it may seem to be. The great majority of our lives, involves seemingly menial tasks and seemingly mundane events. The so-called "big things" are few and far between. The key, is found in striving to live in the moment; and trying to seize each moment for the glory of God!



2) Just simply note again, brethren, the profound and evident reality of God's grace, being that reality alone, which determines the blessed course of His people. God here covenants to bless David's offspring, not based upon anything inherent in David, but based solely on His free grace. God was with David from the outset, because of His sovereign grace and pleasure! What is the ultimate difference between David and Saul; between one sinner and another sinner? Grace, and grace alone!

Brethren, consider that the very seed here, of whom God speaks, is none other than Solomon, the son of Bathsheba! What David doesn't know, and what God is well aware of, even right now, is that Solomon, will be a product of David's most grievous sin! Solomon is to be the son of Bathsheba, with whom David will later commit adultery, followed by the murder of her innocent husband, Uriah the Hittite! The one to succeed David on the throne, will be David's offspring from an adulterous marriage! And God knows this in advance! In essence, God presumes His own grace, in blessing David here.

Now brethren, as we prepare to take the Lord's Supper here together this morning, carry that grace over, into your own life! Reflect upon the fact that God knew it all; all of your hell-deserving sins were before His omniscient presence, when He chose you, in Christ! And hear the glorious words, from the most blessed lips of our Savior, "This, I did for *you!*"

Amen!!!

The Lord's Supper