

- D. Psalm 89 gives an inspired exposition of the Davidic Covenant, treating it as a literal promise made to David—a promise that will be fulfilled regardless of Israel’s faithfulness to God.
- IV. Biblical Confirmation of the Future Reign of Christ on David’s Throne
- A. Isaiah 9:6, 7—A clear reference to Jesus Christ, predicting that He will ultimately rule on “David’s throne.”
- B. Jeremiah 23:5-8—Jehovah will raise up “unto David” a righteous “Branch” (messianic title) who shall rule both Judah and Israel. This Ruler will call the Jews of the dispersion back to their homeland.
- C. Jeremiah 30:1-11—The Jews will be gathered again to Israel, having come through the tribulation period—the time of Jacob’s Trouble. The Jews will serve the “Lord their God and David their king.”
- D. Hosea 3:4, 5—Predict a lengthy period when the throne will not be occupied, though a rightful candidate has always been present. Matthew’s Gospel indicates that Christ is the rightful heir, but He will not occupy the throne until the Second Advent.
- E. Amos 9:11-15—God will gather the Jews back to their land, the fallen tent of David will be raised up, and the Jews will dwell securely in their land forever. This passage, mentioning the “Gentiles,” was used by James in Acts 15:13-18 to justify Gentile redemption in Christ.
- F. Luke 1:30-33—The angel promised Mary that her Son would one day reign on David’s throne, not a *spiritual* kingdom later known as the *church*.
- G. The disciples expected the advent of a literal kingdom, and Jesus never corrected their expectations (Mt. 19:28, Acts 1:6).
- H. Revelation 20 anticipates a literal millennial kingdom with Christ reigning on David’s throne in fulfillment of one of the major themes of the Bible—the Davidic Covenant.

B i b l e S t u d y

Great Prophecies of the Bible

Ancient Prophecies of a Future King



“There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.”—1 Sam. xvi. 11.



Introduction: God had promised Abraham a seed, a land, and a blessing. God also promised that kings would descend from Abraham (Gen. 17:6, 16). The first of these was Saul. Saul having failed in his commission, God appointed David to rule as king. However, David's appointment came with a promise that Saul's did not—that a descendent of David would forever reign on the throne of Israel.

I. Background Considerations for the Davidic Covenant

A. Proper interpretation of the Davidic Covenant requires a literal approach.

1. Bible scholars who reject the literal approach either believe that Israel's failure negated the covenant or that the promises will be fulfilled spiritually in the church ("replacement theology"—a primary feature of reformed theology).
2. The literal approach simply takes the Bible at its word—believing that God has a future plan for His people Israel.
3. Since many aspects of the various covenants have met with literal fulfillment, there is no reason to believe that the unfulfilled portions will not meet with literal fulfillment.

B. David had been anointed as Israel's future king *before* Saul had died (I Sam. 16:12-13). His anointing was therefore a prophecy that was *eventually* literally fulfilled.

1. After Saul's death, the tribe of Judah recognized David as rightful king (II Sam. 2:3-4). However, the other tribes recognized Saul's son Ish-Bosheth.
2. The nation was divided for seven years, until the death of Ish-Bosheth, when the remaining tribes acknowledged David as king (II Sam. 5:1, 2).
3. Thus, the erring tribes came to submit to Jacob's prophecy in Gen. 49:10—*The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come...*

II. The Prophetic Provisions of the Davidic Covenant (II Samuel 7:8-16, see also I Chronicles 17)

- A. David was promised a son, yet to be born, who would be his successor to the throne (12). The fulfillment, of course, was Solomon.
- B. This son would build the temple. This Solomon did.
- C. The throne of Solomon's kingdom would continue forever (13).
 1. If Solomon or one of his successors did wrong, they would face punishment from the hands of men (14). Interestingly, Moses predicted such punishment in Deut. 28, the Mosaic Covenant.
 2. Even in the face of wrongdoing, God would not take away the kingdom from David's line (vs. 15 C/F I Kings 11:34). Note that David was promised an everlasting *line* of kingly descendents but Solomon was only promised an eternal *throne*.
- D. David's descendants and David's kingdom would endure *forever* (16). The Davidic Covenant is, therefore, *unconditional* in nature. The provisions of the covenant will ultimately meet with literal fulfillment, despite the failures of man.

III. Interpreting the Prophecy's Future Fulfillment

- A. David understood the prophecy had to do with his physical descendants or "house," not a spiritual entity.
- B. The amazing accuracy of the prophecy can be seen in the fact that Solomon's *throne* (I Chron 22:6-10) was promised perpetuity, not his *line*. His *line* was deposed (Jer. 22:28-30).
- C. The ultimate fulfillment of a son of David on David's throne would be Jesus Christ.
 1. Mary's genealogy traced back to Nathan, a son of David, *not* Solomon (Luke 3:23-38).
 2. Joseph's genealogy traced back to Solomon, providing Christ with legal claim to the throne. Jesus Christ is *not* under Jeremiah's curse, since Joseph was His *foster* father via the virgin birth (Mt. 1:2-16).