

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- In Gen. 49:10, Jacob had prophesied that the scepter would belong to the tribe of Judah until the coming of the one to whom such royal status truly belonged. This prophecy finds its initial fulfillment in the establishment of the Davidic kingship.
- An important concept in biblical theology is the theme of rest. The thread is opened from the earliest pages of the creation narrative where on the seventh day God rested.
- It appeared that in David and his offspring, particularly in Solomon, God was fulfilling his covenant promises to re-establish his kingdom. Israel, like Adam, subdued the nations and enjoyed rest from their enemies.

David and Jesus

- Everything that Yahweh had promised to the **patriarchs** and **Moses** was now being invested in the house of David, in order that the whole world might profit **spiritually** and **participate by faith** in that kingdom now being established (**2 Sam. 7:18-29**).
 - ▶ All of chapter 7 closely links the need to build a temple with the following aspects of **Gen. 1:28**: (1) **ruling and subduing (2 Sam. 7:9-16)**, and (2) a blessing on God's kingly **vice-regent (2 Sam. 7:29)**. There is also a likely connection between God telling David, 'I will make for you a great name' (**2 Sam. 7:9**), and God telling **Abraham**, 'I will...make your name great' (**Gen. 12:2**).
- Solomon's building of the temple is the climax of **Stephen's** survey of Old Testament history (**Acts 7:47**).
 - ▶ Stephen does not see, however, that Solomon's temple was the **final fulfillment** of God's promise that David's 'seed' would 'build a house for My name' (**2 Sam. 7:12-13, 26**). No human-built structure could contain the manifestation of God's presence in his **end-time temple (Acts 7:48-50)**.
 - ▶ Just as **Christ's resurrection** was the long-range fulfillment that God would 'establish the kingdom' of the Davidic 'seed ... who will come forth' (**2 Sam. 7:12**), so the promise in the same verse of 2 Sam. 7 about this descendant building a temple likewise discovers its distant realization in **Christ's resurrection**.

- ▶ Solomon's kingdom and temple also could not be the completion of the prophecy because the prediction says that the fulfillment would **last 'forever'** (**2 Sam. 7:13**) and that the temple would be made by **God himself** without human involvement (**2 Sam. 7:11**).
- ▶ In light of this, the New Testament authors find the fulfillment of prophecies like **Amos 9:11** as also referring to **Christ's resurrection**, which opened the gates 'that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord' (**Acts 15:16-17**).
- ▶ The statement about 'rebuilding the tabernacle of David' appears to be the answer about 'what kind of a house will you build for me?' from **Acts 7:49**. No human can build an adequate structure to house God's presence in the eternal new order; only God can do so, which he began to do when he raised Jesus from the dead and **inaugurated the new creation**.

David's Response

- The response of David to this revelation through the prophet Nathan in **2 Sam. 7:18–29** reveals David's own understanding of **the covenant**. In verse **2 Sam. 7:18**, David expresses the fact that he and his house have been highly exalted. Now, however, in **2 Sam. 7:19**, he says that this honor is dwarfed by the promises concerning the **distant future**, and that this is instruction for **all mankind**.
 - ▶ In the ancient Near East, a country or region was thought to be ruled by **the god** of that territory, and **the king** was considered the representative of the local god, hence the king was referred to as the **son of God**.
 - ▶ However, since the god whom the Davidic king represented was not limited to a **local region** but was the **creator of the whole world**, the rule of the Davidic king would have repercussions for all the nations.
 - ▶ As seen in Psalm 2, **faithfulness** on the part of the Davidic son would effect **the divine rule** in the entire world, much as God intended for humanity to do in the covenant of creation, as indicated by the divine image in **Gen. 1:26–27**.
 - ▶ The Davidic king/son of God is the instrument of bringing **Yahweh's Torah** to all the nations. David's own understanding of divine sonship is clearly indicated by his statement in 7:19, that the covenant is God's **instruction for humankind**.
- Theologically, the Davidic covenant could be thought of as Yahweh exalting David to an **elevated position** in Israel's history by making his **name** great. David clarifies the intention of the covenant is not about exalting David's name but **Yahweh's** (**2 Sam. 7:23, 26**).

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<p>2 Sam. 7:18–29</p>	<p>18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! 21 Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? 24 And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. 25 And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. 26 And your name will be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you. 27 For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 29 Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.”</p>
<p>Gen. 1:28</p>	<p>And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”</p>
<p>2 Sam. 7:9–16</p>	<p>9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your 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. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ”</p>
<p>2 Sam. 7:29</p>	<p>Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.”</p>
<p>2 Sam. 7:9</p>	<p>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.</p>
<p>Gen. 12:2</p>	<p>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.</p>
<p>Acts 7:47</p>	<p>But it was Solomon who built a house for him.</p>
<p>2 Sam. 7:12–13</p>	<p>12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your 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.</p>
<p>2 Sam. 7:26</p>	<p>And your name will be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you.</p>
<p>Acts 7:48–50</p>	<p>48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, 49 “ ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? 50 Did not my hand make all these things?’ ”</p>

2 Sam. 7:12	When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
2 Sam. 7:13	He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
2 Sam. 7:11	from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
Amos 9:11	"In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old,
Acts 15:16-17	16 " 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, 17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things
Acts 7:49	" 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?
2 Sam. 7:18	Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?
2 Sam. 7:19	And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!
Gen. 1:26-27	26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
2 Sam. 7:23	And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?