

What is Covenant Theology?

March 6, 2022

Harvest Fellowship PCA

Part VI Covenant with David

An Overview

Covenantal Framework & Noah

Covenant Map (notional with arrows)

Covenant with David

An Overview

Key Themes and Elements of the Covenant

The Davidic Kingdom is Global!

The Davidic Kingdom is an Invitation to me!!

The Davidic Kingdom is present for me because of the Greater Son of David

Reviewing (first pass) the Divine Covenantal Promises

Covenant with DAVID- The Davidic Covenant (Summary Table)

References

FRAMEWORK – Covenant of Redemption



Covenant of Works

Between God and man, requiring
perfect, personal obedience,

OFFERING LIFE

AND

THREATENING DEATH

Covenant of Grace

Between God and the ELECT, requiring FAITH,
Offering FORGIVENESS

AND

ETERNAL LIFE

Secured by God's promise

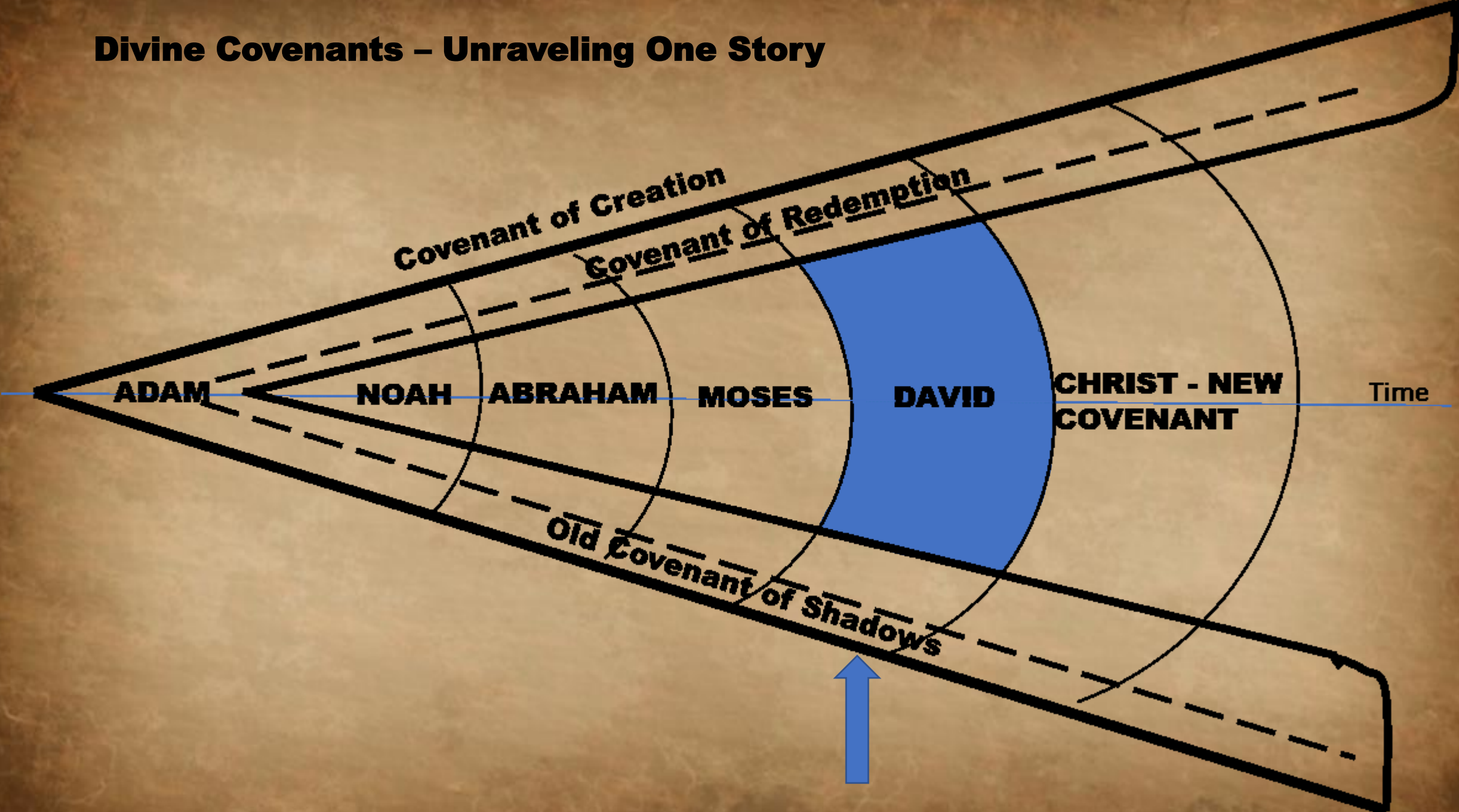
(or oath) (e.g. John 3:16)

**Today's topic:
Of David –
The Covenant of the Kingdom**

(*working terminologies and ideas)

Reference: Elements attributed to Rev Richard Phillips ; Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Divine Covenants – Unraveling One Story



Reference: O Palmer Robertson: "Christ of the Covenants pg 167-200

An Overview

Context

What to know

- a. There is no explicit Covenant expressed but the language shows structure of a covenant.
- b. Israel is no longer wandering in the desert. It was at REST.
 - i.e. “Joshua 21:44 – And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given a all their enemies into their hands.”
- c. All enemies of David (including the Philistines and King Saul) are now dead (see I Samuel 5 and II Samuel 7:1)
- d. David is now King of Israel (II Samuel 5 – 6)
- e. The ark of the Covenant is brought into Jerusalem by David and 30,000 men (II Samuel 6:1 – 3) from the house of Abinadab
 - a. It had no place of REST (II Samuel 7: 6 – 7)

An Overview

Context

II Samuel 7:1-11

- ¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,
- ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”
- ³ And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

An Overview

Context

II Samuel 7:1-11

PREAMBLE of the Covenant

- ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,
- ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, **‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’**
- ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.
- ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

An Overview

Context

II Samuel 10, 11 (The Preamble of the Covenant)

- ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

BLESSINGS of the Covenant

- 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.**

An Overview

Context and Key Passages on God's Covenant with David

II Samuel 7:12 – 17

BLESSINGS of the COVENANT

- 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.”
- ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

God's Objective in this COVENANT with DAVID:

The Immanuel – “God with Us”

1) In David's Time – the Kingdom of God has come

- God establishes a manner in which HE will rule and live among HIS people.

2) Before this point – God manifested Himself as the Lord of the Covenant to individuals

- Now God, the Lord of the Covenant weaves His purpose through a

a. human family line

b. “local place” – Mount Zion in Jerusalem

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

Unconditional aspects of the Covenant

- a. The kingdom of God would be established through his family
- b. The kingdom would last forever.
- c. He was not to rule forever, but a son would achieve it. This implies that he would die.
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.
- d. God's steadfast love preserves the promise of the Royal line of David
¹⁵ ...but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

Conditional aspects of the Covenant

- a. Disobedience to God's laws – could jeopardize David's son's family (Solomon) but the kingdom promise still stays
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

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

Solomon (David's first son)

verse 16 says: "*Your* kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; *your* throne shall be established for ever." This must mean that the kingdom of David would be established and secured by a descendant. But Solomon is depicted as a sinner

His disobedience: He married foreign women and worships their gods:

His chastening: (I Kings 11: 11 – 13)

"The Lord said to Solomon, 'Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.'

Dilemma: I & II Kings records the history of Israel's imperfect kings. The promise of David's Kingdom is not possible because the descendants of David are rebellious and disobedient

Reference: O Palmer Robertson " The Christ of the Covenants " pg 253 – 268

John Piper " God's Covenant with David"

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/gods-covenant-with-david> ; accessed March 6 2022

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

Jesus (David's Greater SON)

He followed all the conditions set in the covenant

David tells Solomon that God said, "If your sons take heed to their ways, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a man on the throne of Israel." (1 Kings 2:4)

God did raise up a

RIGHTEOUS SON

an OBEDIENT SON

Of David to take and deserve the throne.

..described in a Psalm:

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

Jesus (David's Greater SON)

Psalms 89 26 – 37

CONDITIONAL

- ²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'
²⁷ And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.
²⁸ My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.
²⁹ I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.
³⁰ If his children forsake my law
and do not walk according to my rules,
³¹ if they violate my statutes
and do not keep my commandments,

- ³² then I will punish their transgression with the rod
and their iniquity with stripes,

UNCONDITIONAL

- ³³ but I will not remove from him my steadfast love
or be false to my faithfulness.
³⁴ I will not violate my covenant
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.
³⁵ Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;
I will not lie to David.
³⁶ His offspring shall endure forever,
his throne as long as the sun before me.
³⁷ Like the moon it shall be established forever,
a faithful witness in the skies."

Question:

**What are the characteristics
about this Greater Son?**

The benefits of the Davidic Covenant to Gentiles (like me)

Question: Is the Davidic Covenant mappable to Israel only?

Issue: Jerusalem council debating whether Gentiles could benefit from the gospel message and the gift of the Holy Spirit without the rite of circumcision.

Acts 15: 14 – 18

- ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me.
- ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name.
- ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,
- 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
- ¹⁸ known from of old.’
- ¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

Vs 16 quotes Amos 9:11
Q: How does the Davidic Covenant benefit the Gentiles?

Reference: John Piper “ The Davidic Covenant”

Key Theme and Elements of the Covenant

Jesus (David's Greater SON) seen in the New Testament:

Theme: Redemption through this Greater Son of David applies to Gentiles too

1) Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God,

The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Q: How many names does this
Greater SON possess?

Q: What are those names?
What do those names say
about the Greater Son?

2) Romans 1: 1 - 4

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness
by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

Reference: John Piper “ The Davidic Covenant”

The Davidic Kingdom is Global!!

Question: How does this Covenant with David apply to the world (of Gentiles too)

Two sample answers from Scripture:

Recall II Samuel 7: 16

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

And

Isaiah 9:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon His Kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

Reference: John Piper “ The Davidic Covenant”

The Davidic Kingdom is an Invitation to me!!!

Question: How does this Covenant with David apply to the me?

**A: God invites us to be part of his KINGDOM (that has no end)
because of his kindness extended to us (first expressed to David)!**

Isaiah 55:1-3

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

The Davidic Kingdom is present for me because of the Greater Son of David

Question: How does this Covenant with David apply to the me?

A: God invites us to be part of his KINGDOM (that has no end).

It is a Kingdom where we are the people of the Greater SON, we are the Greater Son's possession, and He is our God, who will walk among us..

Revelation 22:16

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Reviewing (first pass) the Divine Covenantal Promises we have seen from the beginning (between God and Man)

- **Adam**
 - Promised Eternal Life on the condition of Obedience
 - Promised seed to crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3)
 - Through the this seed, the redemption of mankind will be achieved (Romans 5: 8)
 - It is through the line of Seth (not Cain), that the Messiah would be that seed
- **Noah**
 - The Promise of the sign of the bow that waters will not kill all living things again. (Genesis 6- 9)
This would enable the gospel (future) to go out where God gathers (harvests) a people for Himself
 - It is through the line of Shem (Luke 3:36), that the Messiah would come
- **Abraham**
 - God promised a land for Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 15 – 17)
 - His obedience in willing to sacrifice his son and believing GOD was counted to him for righteousness
 - It is through his loins that a people of God would be HIS POSSESSION
- **Moses**
 - To the Israelites, freed from bondage of Egypt: God promised that HE will be their GOD and they will be HIS people
 - The law: Blessings and curses (Deut 27-28)
 - It is through his loins that a people of God would be HIS POSSESSION
- **David**
 - A royal SON on David's Throne forever. (II Samuel 7)

Covenant with DAVID- The Davidic Covenant

- **Biblical Reference (II Samuel 7)**

“He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever (II Samuel 7:13)

- **Participating Parties: God and David (and all of Israel)**
- **Covenant Relationship Type: Royal Grant**
- **Covenant Conditions and Obligations: None (Unconditional)**
- **Sanctions and Curses: None**
- **Promise and Blessing: A Royal SON on David’s throne forever**
- **Sign/ Token: House of David(?) ((further for us–(Matt 1:5-7))**
- **WHAT does it mean to ME? David’s greater Son, a king WHO will reign forever. (recall Psalm 22...”the Lord said to my Lord..”)**

WHAT ELSE DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

References

(used in this lesson)

- O. Palmer Robertson, The Christ of the Covenants
- Michael S. Horton, God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology
- Understanding Covenant Theology; by Rev. Richard D Phillips, Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC
- John Murray “The Covenants of Grace” (1953)
- John Piper “God’s Covenant with David”
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Questions