

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 13 | THE DAVIDIC COVENANT I

This presentation introduces the Davidic Covenant and the special relationship that existed between God and the house of David that is important to Israel's history and to Christian belief that Jesus is the promised Messiah. The Davidic Covenant is introduced in 2 Samuel 7. Like the other biblical covenants, there are both unconditional promises and conditional obligations. The unconditional promise is that God will establish David's throne and kingdom forever. God further promises in 7:14 that David's son would also be God's son. Sonship refers to how God would adopt each Davidic king as his son, and these Davidic kings would serve as God's representatives to carry out God's rule here on earth as the leaders of Israel. 1 Chronicles 29:23 even says that Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord when he was ruling in Jerusalem. The stipulation and the obligation (the conditional aspect of the covenant) is that each of David's sons would be blessed or punished based on their obedience to God's laws and commands. What would eventually happen is that most of the sons of David would not follow the Lord, and things were so bad that God had to put an end to the Davidic dynasty to be restored at a later time. When the Babylonians captured Jerusalem in 586 BC, they took the city, burned down the temple, and took away the last Davidic king, Zedekiah as a prisoner. There has not been a Davidic king on the throne in Jerusalem for over 2500 years. That does not mean, however, that the Davidic covenant is finished. Jesus is the son of David who will reign forever in fulfillment of the covenant promises that God made to David.

THE COVENANTS: PART 13

Read the following passages:

Genesis 49:8-12

Numbers 24:17-19

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

2 Samuel 7:1-29

Psalm 2

Psalm 89

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do we learn about God's future plans for Israel's king in the passages in Genesis, Numbers, and Deuteronomy? What type of king would God raise up for Israel and what did God most want and expect from the king?
2. What did David originally want to do for God and what did God promise to do for him instead? What does this show us about God's relationship with David?
3. What son of David is the primary focus in 2 Samuel 7:12-15 and what would this son accomplish?
4. What does it mean that the Davidic kings who ruled over Israel and Judah were God's "sons?" How does their sonship compare to Jesus as the Son of God?
5. How would you see the covenant with David connected to the earlier covenant between God and Abraham? How does the covenant between God and David move forward the earlier promises that he made to Abraham?

THE COVENANTS: PART 13

6. How do we see a connection between the Davidic covenant and the Mosaic Covenant? How are the conditional aspects of the Davidic covenant related to the Mosaic Covenant? What was Israel's problem related to the Mosaic Covenant prior to having a king and how was having a king supposed to provide a solution to that problem? Did having a king ultimately solve this problem?
7. Psalm 2 is likely a coronation song for a new king. What do we learn about God's relationship between the king in verses 6-7? What is ultimately promised to the Davidic king in verses 8-9? Was this ever fulfilled in history and if not, when will it be fulfilled?
8. How do we see the privileged position of the Davidic king in Psalm 89? What was his special relationship with God? What problem about the Davidic Covenant is the primary focus of this psalm and how do we see the conditional aspects of the Davidic Covenant at work in this psalm? What is the psalmist praying for God to do on behalf of the Davidic king in this passage?
9. How has this introductory study of the Davidic Covenant given you a better or fuller understanding of Jesus as the Davidic Messiah?
10. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?