

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 14 | THE DAVIDIC COVENANT II

This presentation will focus on the working out of the Davidic Covenant in the history of Israel. The Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7 promised that the Lord would establish David's throne forever. The covenant was designed to provide leadership for Israel that would enable them to take full possession of the land God had promised to them and for the king to be a godly example of obedience to God's commands for the people to follow. The problem was that the story of the kings is largely one of failure, much like the larger story of Israel as the people of God. The story of Samuel-Kings reflects that the Lord remained faithful to his covenant commitments and promises to the house of David despite the overall failure of the kings to follow the Lord and keep his commands. The failures of the Davidic kings begin early with David's sin with Bathsheba and with Solomon's apostasy. When Israel divides into two separate kingdoms, the kingdom of the house of David is greatly reduced, and more of the Davidic kings who reign over Judah do evil in the eyes of the Lord than what is good. Even the best of the kings (like Hezekiah and Josiah) have their flaws and failures. The disobedience of both kings and people becomes so flagrant that God sends Judah into exile and brings the Davidic dynasty to an end. There has not been a Davidic king reigning in Jerusalem for more than 2,500 years, but we also see that amid judgment, there are reminders that God has not forgotten his covenant promises to David. Those promises are foundational to the story of Jesus as a son of David when we move to the New Testament.

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Read the following passages:

2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

1 Kings 11

1 Kings 12:1-24

2 Kings 11:1-16

2 Kings 18:37-19:37

2 Kings 21:1-18

2 Kings 25:1-6 (about Zedekiah, the last king of Judah—taken into captivity in 586 BC)

2 Kings 25:37-40 (about Jehoiachin, the next to last king of Judah—taken into captivity in 597 BC)

Jeremiah 22:24-30 with Haggai 2:20-23

Matthew 1:1-17

Questions for Discussion: (discussion for this lesson may need to be divided into two parts)

1. What do we learn about the character of God in the working out of the Davidic Covenant in Israel's history?
2. What are some of the specific examples of disobedience on the part of the kings in the line of David highlighted in this lesson? What do these stories reflect about the overall faithfulness of the kings to the Lord? What would you think are the underlying causes that led to this type of disobedience and unfaithfulness to the Lord that characterized the lives of so many of these kings?

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3. How do we see the unconditional and conditional aspects of the Davidic Covenant working themselves out when the kings disobey the Lord? How do we see God dealing with David in both mercy and judgment after his sin with Bathsheba?
4. How do passages like 1 Kings 11:32-39; 15:4; and 2 Kings 8:19 reflect God's continuing faithfulness and commitment to the promises of the Davidic Covenant?
5. How do the actions of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, lead to the division of the kingdom of Israel into two separate kingdoms (Israel and Judah)?
6. Jehoshaphat was a good king overall but made an unwise alliance with the wicked king Ahab (married to Jezebel) by giving his son Jehoram in marriage to Athaliah (see 2 Kings 8:16-18). What consequence did this marriage alliance end up having in the house of David and what did Athaliah eventually do that placed the continuation of the Davidic line in grave danger? How was the Davidic line preserved?
7. How did the faith of Hezekiah prevent Judah from being destroyed and taken away into captivity by the Assyrians just after the northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the Assyrians in 701 BC?
8. What is Manasseh most remembered for as a Davidic king and what did God decide that he would do in response to Manasseh's actions?
9. What happens to Zedekiah as the final king in the Davidic line?
10. How do the following passages offer hope for the continuation of the Davidic line and ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant promises to David: a) 2 Kings 25:37-40; b) Jeremiah 22:24-30 with Haggai 2:20-23; c) Matthew 1:1-17?

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11. 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?