

13. The LORD Makes a Covenant with David

(2 Samuel 7)

4.5 The LORD promises to build David's "house" (2 Sam 7:1-17)

4.5.1 David intends to build a house for the LORD (2 Sam 7:1-3)

4.5.2 The LORD gives promises to David through Nathan the Prophet to build a "house" for him (2 Sam 7:4-16)

- The is the longest monologue from the LORD since the time of Moses. Most scholars view this section as one of the most crucial passages in the Hebrew Scriptures - *some put it on equal footing with the Torah.*
- 7:7-9 - Here the LORD indicates that He has made his presence known, not through a "house of cedar" but through the events of David's life.
- 7:9 - A Great Name for David...
- 7:10ff - Appoint a place for My people Israel...

a "seed" of hope

"The covenant that the Lord established with the house of David became the nucleus around which messages of hope proclaimed by Hebrew prophets of later generations were built (cf. Isa 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 16:5; 55:3; Jer 23:5-6; 30:8; 33:15-26; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos 3:5; Amos 9:11; Zech 12:7-8). To a people broken and humbled by invaders sent as agents of divine punishment, the Lord's promise to David of a kingdom that "will endure forever" (v. 16) was the seed of hope that resurrected a nation. The Lord's promise of an enduring house for David became Israel's assurance that God would once again lift the nation up and cause it to flourish anew."

[Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, 337]

- 7:11 - I will give you rest...and make a "house" for you...
- 7:12 - I will raise up your offspring (lit. seed) and establish his Kingdom...
- 7:13 - He shall build a house for my Name and I will establish the Throne of his kingdom forever.

“In applying v. 13 to Jesus, the New Testament writers took their cue from Jesus himself. Three of Jesus’ claims concerning himself allude to this verse. First, Jesus claimed he would build a temple (cf. Matt 26:61; 27:40; Mark 14:58; 15:29; John 2:19–22). Second, he claimed to possess an eternal throne (cf. Matt 19:28–29). Finally, he claimed to possess an imperishable kingdom (cf. Luke 22:29–30; John 18:36).” [Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, 340]

- 7:14 - I will be his Father; He will be my son...
- 7:15 - My steadfast love will not depart from him...
- 7:16 - And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

4.6 **David responds to the LORD’s promises** (2 Sam 7:18–29)

- This is the second longest monologue by David in the Samuel; the longest is the poem in 2 Samuel 22:2-51.
- 7:18 - David sat before the LORD - most likely he goes into the tent containing the Ark of the Covenant.
- 7:19 - “You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come...”
- 7:19 - “...and this is instruction (Torah) for mankind, O Lord GOD!”
- 7:23 - “making a name”
“In making this confession David echoed a theme prominent in Moses’ Deuteronomic monologues (cf. Deut 7:8; 9:26; 13:5; 15:15; 24:18). The Lord’s actions on Israel’s behalf, like those on behalf of David, were used “to make a name”—that is, to bring glory to God.” [Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, 344]
- 7:24 - The LORD’s people Israel, forever...
- 7:25 - “And now LORD God, confirm forever...”
- 7:26ff - the NAME of the LORD God; the House of David
- **Where does the term “covenant” appear in this passage?**

4.7 **The Significance of the Davidic Covenant**

- David affirmed that the Promises given to him were a Covenant:

2 Samuel 23:5

“For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?”

- **The Psalms** as a whole meditate on the Davidic Promises/Covenant: **Psalm 2** affirms that the King is the “son of God” who has sovereignty over all the other kings of the Earth. **Psalm 89** wrestles with seeming failure of the Davidic promises. **Psalm 132** reflects on the sure nature of the promises.
- The **Prophets** refer to the Davidic Promises as the basis for the future hope of Israel. **Isaiah 9:6-7** - the everlasting ruler on the throne of David whose name is “Mighty God, Everlasting Father.” **Isaiah 16:5** there will be a judge who judges in righteousness and justice in the tabernacle of David. **Isaiah 55:3** - God will establish with His people an everlasting covenant “according to the faithful mercies shown to David.” **Jeremiah 23:5-6** - the righteous branch raised up for David to reign as King. **Jeremiah 30:9** - David the King will be raised up. **Jeremiah 33:15, 22, 25-26** — the righteous branch of David, to execute justice and righteousness. **Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25** - David will be raised up to shepherd Israel. Also Hosea 3:5, Amos 9:11, Zechariah 12:7-12; 13:1
- Jesus is presented as the heir of David, one of the preeminent forefathers in his lineage:

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the son of David**, the son of Abraham.

Romans 1:1-6 ... concerning **his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh** 1:4 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...

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Revelation 22:16 “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.**”

4.8 **A Basic Chronology of Samuel**

Date BC <i>approximate</i>	Saul's Age	David's Age	Event
1100			The Birth of Samuel
1081			<i>Birth of Saul</i>
1051	30		Saul anointed as first King, begins Reign
1041	50		David Born
1040-1035			Saul's early rebellions
1029	62	12	David anointed by Samuel
1025		16	David defeats Goliath
1020-1011			David flees from Saul
1014			Samuel Dies
1011	70	30	Saul Dies David anointed in Hebron
1004		37	David anointed over Israel The conquest of Jerusalem The Davidic Covenant (Traditional)
996-993			Great Famine
993-990			Ammonite Wars
992		49	David's sin with Bathsheba; Murder of Uriah
991			Birth of Solomon
987			The rape of Tamar
985			Death of Amnon
985-982			Absalom's Exile
979		62	Building David's Palace
977		64	The Ark is moved to Jerusalem The Davidic Covenant (Merrill)
976			Absalom's Rebellion
975			David's census
973-971			Co-regency of Solomon
971		70	David's Death and Coronation of Solomon