

2 Samuel 7:1-16 — The Davidic Covenant

April 23, 2023

Good morning CrossWinds! Today, Pastor Jordan and I are swapping pulpits. It is good to be with you. I was looking forward to this day. As we were preparing to open the building, Pastor Jordan told me how excited he was to share the Word of God in the new building. I have a similar excitement, but mine is deeper. I vividly remember the hot summer evening when I invited the elders to my home for the elder meeting. I shared with them the dream of CrossWinds becoming a multisite church to reach more people with Jesus. Even in those early days, we felt God prodding us to open a campus in the Spencer community.

The elders ran with that vision, and you know the rest of the story. There was great excitement when the Spencer Campus opened. There was more excitement as we moved from facility to facility around town. Now we have the privilege of our own campus. I look back on God's faithfulness to CrossWinds on the multisite journey and can say God has been very good to us. Hasn't he?

What excites me more than this new facility is every one of you. CrossWinds's vision is not to build buildings. It is to reach people with Jesus and see lives changed by the resurrecting power of Jesus. This morning, each of you who has been transformed by the power of Jesus, who is in love with the Word of God, and who is using your gifts to serve others on this campus is a delight to me. Lives changed by the power of Jesus is our vision. It is so good to be here and see what God has done. While I am here to share the Word of God, you have no idea how much of an encouragement you are to me.

Speaking of reaching people with Jesus, Pastor Jordan and I are in the habit of beginning our messages with stories of how ordinary people on our campuses, people just like you and me, are reaching people in our community. I want to share one of those stories from the Spirit Lake campus.

I have been at CrossWinds for 15 years. That means I am old. Hair doesn't just grow on my face. It now grows in my ears. One of the benefits of longevity is that I have seen kids grow up in the church, then walk away from Jesus and the church, now turn around and return to the church. This is one of those stories. About 9 months ago, I was in Bomgaars picking up pellets for my pellet grill. I was eyeing the incredibly expensive new grills when I bumped into a young man who grew up at CrossWinds. He left Jesus and the church. He made many poor choices, but here he was in Bomgaars. We had a chance to catch up. Thankfully his life turned around. He was now married, with children, and held a stable job. When we finished the conversation, I invited him to church. He promised me that one day, he would show up. A month and a half later, he showed up with his family. He brought a Bible with him. It was the first time he opened the Bible in years. The Jesus he left behind as a child is the Jesus he wanted to return to. The church he left behind is the church he wanted his children to grow up in to hear about Jesus. For the last few months, this man and his family have been a regular part of the Spirit Lake campus. You never know what happens if we take the time to strike up a conversation in the hardware store, the post office, or the grocery store in town. God has a way of using those

conversations to open doors to tell people about the life-changing power of Jesus and the church where we grow with our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

The best part is that this isn't the point of my story. When people come to Jesus and God is at work in their lives, they get excited to tell other people about Jesus. This new Christian, who came back to Christ has been busy telling others about Jesus. A month ago another young family with young children showed up in church. I introduced myself to them and asked how they came to CrossWinds. They turned to the young man who recently gave his life to Jesus and said, "He invited me!" Then I learned the last time that young man was in church was in junior high school.

This is great! There is a lot of excitement on the Spirit Lake campus that has happened simply from ordinary people like you and me taking the time to talk to people in the community when they meet people in the community. Two families were changed simply when they were invited to church.

The Bible talks about providence. That means God is directing our lives to have us go the places he wants us to go and have us meet the people he wants us to meet. He does that for a divine purpose, so we can tell people who need to hear about Jesus the good news of Jesus and their lives can be transformed. This week, when you are in the hardware store, the grocery store, or at the car wash, and you meet someone from the community, know for certain that the meeting is not random. It is a meeting God has ordained for a purpose. Use that as an opportunity to tell people a bit about Jesus and invite them to a church where they will hear about Jesus. God will use that and lives will be transformed.

Let's turn our attention to our study. We are in 2 Samuel 7. In this chapter, we have a famous speech. In our country, we all know of famous speeches that changed history.

One was given by Martin Luther King. It was his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. "I have a dream that one day my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream."

John F. Kennedy also gave a famous speech that changed history. You may remember his famous line, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." These are just some of the famous speeches that changed our nation.

In 2 Samuel 7, we have a famous speech that didn't just change the history of a country. It changed the history of the world. The speech was not spoken with words of human wisdom, but it was a speech given by God. God's history-changing speech in 2 Samuel 7 is the longest direct speech from God in the Bible since the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

2 Samuel 7 divides into three parts. In verses 1 to 3, there is an introduction, verses 4 to 16 are God's speech to David, and verses 17 to 29 are David's response to God's speech. We will look at verses 17 to 29 next week. This morning, we will look at verses 1 to 16.

Background

Let me set the stage for this chapter. Remember 2 Samuel 5 was about the rise of David. David finally became king over all Israel. He conquered Jerusalem and made it his capital city. For the first time since Saul was defeated

by the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, God enabled David to push the Philistines back and get them out of the land of Israel. 2 Samuel 5 was a chapter about national restoration. 2 Samuel 6 was about spiritual revival. David took the Ark of God, which was neglected and left in a place of obscurity, and he moved it to Jerusalem, making God and the ark the center of the nation's life.

When 2 Samuel 7 picks up, David is at rest. There are no pressing crises to address. There is stability in the nation. David can finally sit in his lazy boy, lift his feet, and grab the remote. What will he do once he experiences a little peace? Let's find out.

David feels guilty about his big house.

Now when the king lived in his house... 2 Samuel 7:1a (ESV)

At this point, David's palace was complete. It was built for him by the carpenters and masons sent to him by Hiram King of Tyre. Hiram sent David great supplies of cedar. David's house was a cedar house. We read about the building of David's place in 2 Samuel 5:11.

Tyre was a seaport city approximately 100 miles away from Jerusalem. The fact that Hiram and David had a lucrative business relationship taking place over this great distance, and this was before the Internet and cell phones, shows us David had the respect of leaders on the world stage. We don't know much more about David's palace other than it was constructed mostly of cedar, which suggests a high level of opulence.

David arrived at a high point in his life. He was king. His personal ambitions were achieved. He had a new capital city and a new palace. His enemies, at least the imminent threats, were conquered. What was he going to

do with his remaining years? How would he spend his energy, time, and money? In our day, David would be considered a wealthy CEO of a rich company, like Jeff Bezos. What will David do with all of his power, money, and free time? Let's see.

...and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 Samuel 7:1b (ESV)

In 2 Samuel 8, we will read about more of David's wars. It is possible those wars were already over when 2 Samuel 7 was written. I think it is more likely that this chapter, which talks about David's rest from his surrounding enemies, is talking about the Philistines, not the wars we will read about in two weeks.

One thing we must notice is where the peace and prosperity David is experiencing came from. David did not create this peace. It was the Lord who created this peace. God was the one who brought David from the pasture to the throne. God carried him through the years of running for his life and now gave him this time of peace and rest.

Here is some good application for us. Are you in a period of peace right now? Have you gone through difficult times but now are in a restful time? Has God been good to you? Has he provided for you? Can you look back and see how God has carried you through trials and difficulties into a time of peace and rest, just like he did for David? If so, we must respond like David. In the peaceful and good times, let us not forget about God, but let our hearts be drawn to thank God for his goodness. Let us credit God as the one who has given us rest and peace. That was David's grateful heart in this season of life, and that should also be our grateful heart in a God-given season of rest in our life.

The danger is that times of peace and success are times when it is easy for our hearts to wander from God, not turn to God with gratefulness and thankfulness.

...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." 2 Samuel 7:2 (ESV)

This is the first time we hear of Nathan the prophet. He will play an important role in upcoming chapters. Nathan was the prophet for King David, like Samuel was the prophet for King Saul in a previous generation. The picture is David and Nathan were sitting on the back porch of David's cedar house, sipping decaf coffee after dinner. David's heart is filled with gratitude to God for his goodness. He shares with Nathan what is on his heart. He says, I am living in this gorgeous house, but God and the ark dwell in a tent. This doesn't feel right. God is the one who has given me every good thing, but he is in a tent while I live in an immaculate house.

David wasn't thinking of abandoning his palace and moving into a tent. He was interested in using his money, skills, and free time to upgrade the accommodations for the Ark of the Covenant.

There is a great lesson here. Many people, when they get to the point in life where they are settled and comfortable so that they can retire, retirement leads to self-absorption and boredom. That wasn't David. He desired to devote his new-found spare time to honoring the God who had been good to him. In a similar way, as Christians, the antidote to boredom and selfishness in retirement is to devote ourselves to honoring the God who was good to us and gave us the success we enjoy. Those in a financially comfortable position in those years

should be the first to give generously in the church as an act of gratitude to the God who made them financially comfortable. They should also be the first to serve and use their leadership gifts for the good of Christ's kingdom now that they don't need to deploy those gifts with such vigor for the good of a company. If someone is a craftsman, they should use those gifts to helping building God's kingdom. This is what David did. It is also what we should do.

David displayed another quality of a godly man. He sought godly counsel when he had an idea. He asked someone he respected what he thought of his idea to build a better home for the ark. For David, the man he respected was Nathan, the prophet. Let's see what Nathan thought of David's idea to use his freedom and stability to build a better house for the ark.

And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." 2 Samuel 7:3 (ESV)

If David is an example of someone who desires to honor God in his success, Nathan is an example of someone who is a good encourager. Just as we should look for ways we can honor God, as David did, we should also look for ways to encourage people who are making positive choices. That may be encouraging people to leave behind a life of drugs and alcohol. It may be encouraging people who are beginning to spend time in God's Word. It may be encouraging a father that is considering taking time out of his busy life to spend a weekend with his sons to make lasting memories.

While things look good, now we have an unexpected change. We learn that godly people with the best motives and intentions can be wrong.

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 2 Samuel 7:4–5 (ESV)

God told Nathan that David needed to put the building project on ice. When David asked Nathan for his advice on building a house for God, Nathan thought it was a good idea, but that was just his opinion. It was not God’s Word. David was a godly guy. Nathan was a godly guy, but their gut instincts on this were wrong. The opinion of godly people, even godly people like Nathan and David, can be completely wrong. The only word we can trust as always right is God’s Word, not our own.

This has practical application. When a Christian friend comes to us asking for wisdom for a difficult decision in life, we need to separate God’s Word on the subject from our words on the subject. Our opinion may be right, or it may be wrong. God’s words on the subject will always be right. They are the only words that are trustworthy. This means that when providing counsel to others, we want to counsel with the Word of God as much as we can. We also want to be clear with others about what the Word of God says that they can trust and what our opinion is that may be wrong. Too many times, Christians give their opinion to others as if it was as authoritative as God’s Word. That isn’t true. Our ideas may be wrong, just like it was for David and Nathan. It is only God’s Word that we can always trust.

Why wasn’t David allowed to build God a house? The Bible gives several reasons for why God would not allow David to build a temple for the Ark. The explanation David would later give to his son Solomon was that he had been a

man of war, whereas the temple was to signify peace and needed to be built by a man of peace.

David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth. 1 Chronicles 22:7–8 (ESV)

While that is the explanation given in 1 Chronicles, it is not the explanation given to David at this time. Let’s see why God didn’t want David building a temple for the Ark.

God gave two reasons why David was not to build the temple.

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. 2 Samuel 7:6 (ESV)

One reason God wanted his dwelling place to be a tent is that a tent allowed God to travel with his people on their journeys. The true God of the universe does not delight in an immaculate house. He delights in being with his people. Here is a point of application. Nothing has changed. God delights in being with his people far more than he delights in an elaborate building. That is why he wanted a tent. He wanted to travel with his people on their journeys to be with His people on their journeys. This is also why Jesus, God’s son, came and took on flesh. He took on flesh so he could be one of us, so he could be with us, so he could save us and eternally be with us. When Jesus returned to heaven, he sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost to dwell in us because his joy is in being with us.

When we gather as a church, God has joy because the Bible tells us God dwells among his people when they are gathered together in an even more intimate way than our time with Him when we are alone.

**For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
Matthew 18:20 (ESV)**

This is why God never asked for a fancy, permanent building. He wanted to travel with his people wherever they would go. In a similar way, God’s delight is not in a building but in being with you and me. I love that about our God.

God gave David another reason why he was not to build a temple for the ark.

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?” ’ 2 Samuel 7:7 (ESV)

God found fault with his people many times in the past, but it was never for failing to build God a house. God never asked for a house in the past. David should not now think God needed David to build him one. In the future, God will have Solomon build him a temple for the Ark, but up to this time, God has never asked any of his people to build a temple for the Ark.

David needed to be careful not to give his life to a project that God did not want, a project God would not bless, a project that would not succeed. This is a great application for us. In a similar way, people today can get themselves involved in all kinds of projects which are their ideas instead of God’s ideas. As David learned, we must be careful not to assume every idea we have for God’s kingdom is an idea God wants for his kingdom. Sometimes our ideas are just too much caffeine, not a project God is placing on our hearts.

How do we know the difference between a God project and a man project we made up in our head? Here are some steps to discern the difference. First, we need to pray about those ideas before we leap after the ideas. Ask God to open or shut doors. Tell him we only want to do what is His will, not our will. God will honor that. Second, check what the Bible says about our idea. If our idea is far out and has no biblical precedent, we better think twice about it. Third, get godly counsel. See what others think about the ideas you have to honor God. Let them critique your ideas.

Next comes what is called the Davidic covenant. In these verses, God will look at David's past, his immediate future, and David's distant future. These are some of the most challenging verses in all of 2 Samuel. As we work through them, realize there is difficulty and humility involved in these verses.

The Lord's Purposes For David.

David's Past

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. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you... 2 Samuel 7:8–9a (ESV)

God was at work in David's life from the beginning. God was involved in his life when he was a boy tending his father's sheep. God had his hand on David when Samuel anointed him as king, even though he was a boy. David's victories, such as over Goliath and the Philistines, were due to the Lord being with him. God was the one who was the source of every bit of success in his life. Even the enemies against David in Israel were cut off by God. God took care of Saul, Abner, and Ish-bosheth without of David needing to lift a finger.

Reading this, in many ways, isn't the same true for us? Can you look back on your life and see how God has been good to you? To this point, hasn't God sustained you? Can you look back in your life on enemies who set themselves against you, but God took care of them?

The reason this is important is that if we wrote the story, David would get all the credit. David would be the one who destroyed all his enemies. It would be David's greatness we would want to hear. That isn't the way God works. Any good thing that comes into our life is all by God's undeserved grace. God gets all the credit because he deserves the credit, not us. After all, when it comes to our salvation, what did we do to deserve it? What did we do to earn it? Nothing! That is the story of our God. He pours on us grace upon grace, far more grace than we deserve.

David's Future.

While God was faithful to David in his past, God now talks about David's future. David thought he was settled. He thought he was at rest. God was not done with David. God had more blessings and grace to give to David.

1. God will give David a great name.

I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth" 2 Samuel 7:9b (ESV)

The Lord planned to give David a great name on earth. To some extent, this had already happened, but God was not done. He was going to make David's name even greater. There is an interesting angle to this if you are a Bible student. Some of you will know of a promise God gave to Abraham in the book of

Genesis. This promise to David is a reiteration and extension of the promise God gave to Abraham.

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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:2–3 (ESV)

These promises to David tie David into God's promise to Abraham. God promises to fulfill the promises he made to Abraham through the line of David. Just as Abraham's name would be great on the earth, God would also make David's name great on the earth, not just in his lifetime but forever.

If you are like me, there is a side of you that wishes God also chose you to have a great name on the earth. As I was in my study, it hit me. God has chosen to make our names great. He has made our name great through Jesus, and we don't deserve any of it.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

We cannot be more blessed in this universe than we are right now because of Jesus and what God has done for us through Jesus. We may not look like we are blessed, but for all of eternity, there will be no names greater than our own, not because of who we are but because of what God has done for us through Jesus. While Abraham and David were blessed by God, nothing in the universe is more blessed by God for all eternity than we are through Jesus. We are a grand display of God's undeserved grace turned on full power as high as it will go for everything and everyone else in the universe to see. That is our identity. We are blessed. God is good.

2. God will give a place for his people.

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.... 2 Samuel 7:10a (ESV)

Here the promise shifts from David to God's people. God promises to give them their own land where they can dwell safely. This refers to the land of Israel being the land of God's people. While the Israelites will later be exiled from the land, God would keep bringing them back to the land. This promise was kept. Israel is still a nation, even to this day.

3. God will give peace to his people.

...And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel... 2 Samuel 7:10–11 (ESV)

David thought the security of the people was already won. God said that was not yet done. There were still more wars to fight and peace to be obtained.

4. God will give David and his people rest.

...And I will give you rest from all your enemies... 2 Samuel 7:11a (ESV)

Now the focus turns back to David. The peace God promised for his people would be accomplished through David. How will that take place? Let's find out.

The Lord's Purposes Beyond David

These promises beyond David involve something that is called telescoping. They will be fulfilled in the near future, but there are elements that could only be fulfilled in the far future in a way greater than any normal descendant of David could achieve. Let's look at these verses.

...Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 2 Samuel 7:11b (ESV)

David wanted to make a house for God's Ark. God had a different plan. He was going to build a house for David. This house would not be a physical house built with wood, bricks, and mortar. It would be a lasting dynasty of kings from David's bloodlines in future generations known as the house of David.

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 Samuel 7:12 (ESV)

David, when you die, God will raise up offspring that will come from you. This is the house God cared about. Not a house of cedar but the house of David, a royal dynasty.

At first, this appears to point to a son of David. There is something odd taking place. The word offspring is in the singular, not the plural. This hints at a special single descendant of David, not just a dynasty of Davidic kings.

This parallels God's promise to Abraham in Genesis.

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:7 (ESV)

The word for offspring in Hebrew is in the singular. In both Genesis 12:7 and here in 2 Samuel, offspring should be plural because David will have a dynasty of descendants, not just one descendent. Why is it singular? It must refer to one particular offspring of Abraham and David.

Paul points out in Galatians 3:16 that the reason the word "offspring" is singular, not plural is because God was referring to one particular descendent of Abraham and David, who is Jesus.

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. Galatians 3:16 (ESV)

Next, we read this.

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 2 Samuel 7:13 (ESV)

Solomon, the son of David, will build God's temple. But again, we find something strange. The throne of his kingdom will be established forever. We know Solomon will die. David and Solomon's descendants will have a lasting dynasty as they rule in Israel, but forever? Won't there be a time when the house of David will come to an end? How can any human being, or even a series of human beings, fulfill a forever promise? That is something only God can do.

Much of the prophets and Psalms look back on this promise of God to always have a descendent of David on the throne.

1 and 2 Kings record God's faithfulness to his covenant with David as David's sons reigned in Judah for 400 years. Even when their sins became intolerable, and God took the kingdom away, God preserved the line of David. When God's people were exiled, it was this promise that sustained their hope. They knew that no matter how bad things looked, God would keep his promise and return a son of David to the throne and return them to the land.

In the days of Amos, when things were terrible, we see Amos turning God's people to this promise God made to David about his descendants as their source of hope and a future in times of trouble.

"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,... Amos 9:11 (ESV)

Isaiah turns to this promise.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of

wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1–2 (ESV)

So we know God talks to David about establishing his dynasty forever. Saul's dynasty came to an end because of his sins. David's dynasty will last forever. Even when David's descendants sinned miserably, God would not reject them.

So far, the term for offspring is singular, not plural. The fulfillment of this promise to David seems to be one offspring in particular. In addition, we see the word forever is used. How can a dynasty of David's line be set up forever? Now we come to another odd descriptor that tells us we are looking for someone more than just another human king in the line of David.

I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son... 2 Samuel 7:14a (ESV)

This descendant of King David, who will set up an eternal kingdom, will have God as his father. When we turn to the New Testament, the book of Hebrews clearly tells us this is speaking about Jesus.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? Hebrews 1:5 (ESV)

Hebrews quotes this promise from 2 Samuel 7, telling us it refers to Jesus. Jesus is the descendent of David, who has God as his father, who sets up the eternal kingdom of David that will never end.

Knowing this, let's look at the familiar Christmas passage of Gabriel announcing to Mary the conception of Jesus in her womb. As we read it, you will see Gabriel takes everything he says from 2 Samuel 7.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And

the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:31–33 (ESV)

Jesus is the one who is of the bloodline of David, who has God as his Father, who will set up a kingdom that will never end. That is what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross to save us from our sins and rose from the grave to offer us new life. Anyone who repents of their sin and places their faith and trust in Him is made part of Jesus’ eternal kingdom.

When we look in the New Testament, we constantly find people turning to 2 Samuel 7, either recognizing Jesus as the king in the line of David, who has God as his father, or asking Jesus if he is the king in the line of David who has God as his father. Once you understand this, you see it everywhere.

Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16 (ESV)

Christ is not Jesus’ last name. Jesus is the Christ. Christ means anointed one of God who is the descendant in David’s bloodline. Peter recognizes Jesus as the fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7, Jesus is the descendent of King David whose father is God.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1 (ESV)

Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God who is part of David’s bloodline, who is the Son of God from 2 Samuel 7.

But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Mark 14:61 (ESV)

Instead of recognizing Jesus as the one who fulfills 2 Samuel 7, the high priest asks Jesus if he is the one who fulfills 2 Samuel 7.

As commonly happens, prophecy elevates to something in the distant future, then it goes back to something in the near future. That is what happens next when the next line of this prophecy returns to focusing on David's immediate descendants, not Jesus, his ultimate descendant.

...When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 2 Samuel 7:14b–15 (ESV)

David's descendants will sin. Until we get to the descendant who is the Son of God, the righteous one, David's descendants will mess up royally. When Saul sinned, God withdrew from him. God shut down his dynasty and replaced him with David. God will not do that with David's dynasty. He will discipline David's descendants for their sins, but not completely wipe out David's bloodline. God promised to preserve it. We see Jeremiah reaffirming this promise from 2 Samuel 7.

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: "Thus says the Lord: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne,... Jeremiah 33:19–21a (ESV)

God also promised Jeremiah that one day there would be a descendent of David who would be different. He would not be known for his sinfulness, but his righteousness.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' Jeremiah 33:15–16 (ESV)

There is coming a descendant of David who is a righteous descendant. His name will be the Lord is our righteousness. This descendant of David will be the Son of God.

When we turn to the New Testament, what do we find said about Jesus?

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:22–23 (ESV)

Jesus is the one from 2 Samuel 7 who is the descendant of David, who is the very son of God. God was pleased with him because he is the righteous one where no sin was found.

Let us go back to 2 Samuel and see how this ends.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” 2 Samuel 7:16 (ESV)

David’s kingdom will last forever. The only one who could make David’s kingdom last forever is someone who is God, or as 2 Samuel calls him, the son of God. Look what Isaiah says about this descendant of David.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)

Application

Next week, we will see how David responds to these promises from God, and how we should respond to these promises from God.

Let me close by reading to you a passage from Matthew.

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 16:15–17 (ESV)

When people were trying to figure out Jesus' identity, Peter responded by recognizing Jesus as the one talked about in 2 Samuel 7, the descendent of David who is the Son of the living God. Jesus told Peter that the reason people recognized Jesus' identity was not that Peter was so smart, but because God graciously opened his eyes and revealed Jesus' true identity to him.

Today, who is Jesus to you? Do you recognize Jesus and the fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7? Do you see Jesus as the long-awaited descendant of David, who is the son of God, who came to set up an eternal kingdom of which you and I can be a part to become forgiven of our sins and the most blessed beings in the universe?

If you have recognized Jesus for who he is, and you have trusted in Jesus and become part of his kingdom, as we close, know the only way we could recognize Jesus' true identity is because God is good to us and he opened our eyes to see the truth about Jesus identity, to trust in Jesus, and be saved by him.

As we close, will you join me in thanking Jesus for revealing to you the true identity of Jesus, our savior, and king?



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