

## **The meaning of...**

# **DAVID'S SON REIGNS**

**To the reader:** Keep your Bible beside you. Always read your Bible first, then read these notes. Check the references and read them also. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.

**Read: 2 Samuel 7:5-17**

### **GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID**

David was the youngest son of Jesse. He kept his father's sheep. When God wanted a man to lead Israel, He told Samuel the prophet to go to David's town called Bethlehem.

God sent Samuel to David's town to the family of Jesse. Jesse had many sons. All were big and handsome. As each son came before the prophet Samuel, God said to him, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him" (1 Samuel 16:7-12).

Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel said, "we will not sit down until he arrives."

When David came in, Samuel saw that he had very fine features and he was handsome. Then the Lord said (to Samuel), "Rise and anoint him; he is the one" (1 Samuel 16:12).

So the prophet anointed David to be king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). But it was many years before David was able to take the throne and rule over the nation.

### **KING SAUL TRIED TO KILL DAVID**

King Saul was very jealous of David and tried to stop him from taking the throne. Saul sent his soldiers to get David and many times they tried to kill him. But God spared this "son of Jesse," and he became one of the great men of the Bible.

David had fought many wars against God's enemies. "War between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time, but David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker" (2 Sam 3:1).

God was with David and gave him success. He said of David, "I took you from the pasture and from following the sheep to be ruler over My people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth" (2 Sam 7:8-9).

The men of Judah had made David their king at Hebron (2 Sam 2:4). Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood...When all the elders of Israel had come to David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel" (2 Sam 5:1-3).

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How did Samuel know which son of Jesse to anoint king of Israel?
2. What had David been doing?
3. Was Saul pleased?
4. What did Saul do?
5. What did God do?

## **Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-4**

### **NATHAN THE PROPHET**

Now David was settled in his palace “and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies” (2 Sam 7:1-4). But the rest did not last for very long.

David wanted to be sure that God had a place where He could be worshipped. Until now, the Ark of the Covenant which God had commanded Moses to make, rested in a tent which David had set up on the lower slopes of the hill Jerusalem.

One day Nathan the prophet came to visit David. David said to Nathan, “Here I am living in a palace of cedar, while the Ark of God remains in a tent.”

Nathan replied, “Whatever is in your mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.” But that night the Lord God spoke to Nathan.

Nathan prayed and waited on God. Then the prophet received this wonderful message from God to give to David (2 Sam 7:4-17). He went straight to the king and gave him God’s message. The message was for David, but it was also for his son, Solomon. And it comes right down through the centuries to us who have put our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus was the final fulfillment of the promise Nathan gave to David that day.

God did not want David to build a temple to His name. David would be kept busy caring for the people in his kingdom and he needed to enlarge the borders of Israel.

David was also called “the sweet singer of Israel,” and God wanted him to write more songs of worship and set them to music. And he had to prepare materials to build the temple that was on his heart to build, but would be built by his son Solomon.

## **Read: 2 Samuel 7:6-7**

### **GOD DOES NOT LIVE IN BUILDINGS**

God told David, “I have been moving from place to place...with all the Israelites...Did I ever say to any of their rulers, “Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?”” (2 Samuel 7:6-7).

Men think church buildings are very important. But God has no regard for beautiful buildings. His presence was with His people Israel when the Ark rested in a tent. And nothing would change that, not even a beautiful temple.

David in the Psalms, calls the tabernacle (which was a tent) a temple (Psalm 27:4), because it fulfilled the same purpose. Nowhere in the Bible did God tell a ruler of Israel that He wanted them to build Him a temple.

God’s people on earth live in frail human bodies, yet they are the ‘temple’ of God (2 Corinthians 6:16).

#### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Why did Saul try to kill David?
2. What did David say to Nathan the prophet (2 Sam 7:2)?
3. What was Nathan’s answer?

## **Read: 2 Samuel 7:10-16**

## **GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID**

God promised David a much greater blessing than anything the 'works' of his hands could accomplish. Let us look at the many parts of God's promise to David:

1. I will provide a place for My people Israel (v 10).
2. Wicked people will not oppress them any more.
3. I will give you rest from all your enemies (v 11a).
4. The Lord Himself will establish a house for you (v 11b).
5. I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body.
6. He is the one who will build a house for My name (v 13a).
7. I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever (v 13b).
8. I will be his Father, and he will be My son (v 14).
9. God would correct him as He would a son (v 15a).
10. My love will never be taken away from him (v 15b).
11. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever (v 16).

This is a very complex yet complete promise. It was fulfilled in part when Solomon, David's son, took the throne. Solomon built the first temple and dedicated it to the Lord God (2 Chron 5:2-14). However, we know that God's promise had another and a more important fulfillment when Jesus Christ was born a babe and came to live among us (John 1:14; Gal 4:4). He was David's greater Son (Romans 1:3).

Only Jesus Christ could reign over a kingdom which would "endure forever" before God (2 Sam 7:16).

David was a great king and a "man after God's own heart," but he "died and was buried." As Peter told the men of Israel, "his tomb is here to this day" (Acts 2:29).

## **GOD SPOKE TO DAVID ABOUT ISRAEL**

First God spoke to David about His people Israel. The nation of Israel was God's chosen people, His special treasure (Ex 19:5). But the nation of Israel also pointed to God's spiritual people. All who are born again by the Spirit of God are His people, the "Israel of God" or "the house of Israel" and sons and daughters of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:29; Heb 8:8).

God's promise would have failed miserably, if it had been spoken only about the nation. But God made the promise to His spiritual family, which He called "the house of Israel" (Jeremiah 31:33). The writer of Hebrews expanded Jeremiah's prophecy by referring to God's covenant with "the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Heb 8:8). There would be one people as Paul so ably points out to the Christians in Ephesus. He said, "Now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near (to God) by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two (Jew and Gentile) one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" (Eph 2:13-14).

Again, the writer was speaking of the New Covenant which Jesus Christ signed with His own blood. At the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples, Jesus took the cup and said to His disciples, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20).

Paul reminded the Gentile believers in Galatia, "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal 3:29). He spoke of the promise God made to Abraham that "all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you" (Gen 12:3). As we have seen, that same promise was given to King David.

David's body (or tent) grew old and fell down into the grave. But Jesus Christ came to rebuild David's fallen tent (Acts 15:16). He came to gather up the promises God made to David. What David could not do, his greater son restored, so that every promise God made to David was fulfilled.

When you believe in Jesus Christ, God saves you from your sins and you become a son or daughter of Abraham. You become a citizen of heaven and inherit all the promises God made to King David.

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Read the list of promises God made to David.
2. What do New Testament writers mean by “the house of Israel” (Hebrews 8:8)?

## **Read: Genesis 13:14-17 (Hebrews 4:8-10)**

### **I WILL MAKE A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE**

God made a very special promise to Abraham (Gen 12:2-3). He repeated it to Isaac and then to Jacob. God promised His people Israel the land of Canaan which Abraham entered many years before. He told Moses, “I will bring them up out of that land (Egypt) into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...” (Exodus 3:8).

Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Joshua led them into the Promised Land. God told them to drive the seven wicked nations out and occupy the land, but they did not drive out the original peoples as God had told them (Judges 1:27-28).

Their enemies raided their farms and stole their cattle. Then God raised up Judges to deliver them.

When God gave His people peace, David extended the borders of Israel to include all the land God had promised His people. And Solomon secured the land for Israel, so that they “possessed the land” from the Ezion Geber, a port on the eastern arm of the Red Sea, to the Euphrates River. But the physical part of God’s promise looked far beyond the physical land of Israel. It pointed forward to heaven. It pointed to the promise Jesus made to His disciples when He said, “I am going there (to My Father’s house = heaven) to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me also that you may be where I am...” (John 14:2-3).

So David’s physical kingdom on earth became a picture of God’s spiritual Kingdom in heaven. The words “and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies,” alert us to the fact that God offers rest to His people.

## **Read: Hebrews 4:8-11**

### **REST FOR GOD’S PEOPLE**

“For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us make every effort, therefore, to enter that rest...” (Hebrews 4:11).

After six days of creating the heavens and the earth, God ceased (or rested). God does not get tired, so we prefer the idea that He ceased creating and called the seventh day a rest day. God did this for man’s benefit. He stamped a seven-day cycle on the world He had created. And He called the seventh day “holy.” (Genesis 2:1). On the seventh day, man would remember God.

Joshua led the people into God’s place of rest. It was a different kind of rest, to the one God offers all believers. All Christians rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The Sabbath-rest the writer spoke of (Hebrews 4:9) is heaven’s rest and it will never end. Joshua could not give the people a complete rest, nor could David. Only Jesus Christ can give men and women heaven’s rest. He said, “Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 12:28).

Speaking of this wonderful place of perfect rest God said, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order

of things has passed away" (Rev 21:4). We will rest in heaven after our work on earth is finished.

## **EVIL PEOPLE WOULD NOT OPPRESS THEM**

In the garden in Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned against God, He cursed Satan and said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He (Christ) will crush your head (Satan), and you (Satan) will strike His (Christ's) heel" (Genesis 3:15).

There would always be conflict between the woman's offspring and Satan's children. Jesus said Satan's children are all these who reject Him and follow Satan (John 8:44).

The first evidence of this conflict showed up in Adam's family. Adam passed on to his sons and daughters the truth of God's promise. He taught them to worship the living God and led them in family worship.

Cain, the elder son named in the record, was a farmer. Abel, the younger son, cared for the sheep and animals. On a day of worship, Cain brought an offering from the field. Abel brought the choice parts of a lamb or lambs.

God accepted the Abel's sacrifice, but not Cain's. In the New Testament we are told that Abel's sacrifice was made in faith and according to God's command; Cain's was not (Gen 4:4; Heb 11:4).

Cain was angry with God and with his brother. Cain called Abel to come to the field with him, then he killed his brother.

Why did Cain kill Abel? Because Abel was righteous and obeyed God. Cain followed Satan. Jesus said Satan is a murderer (John 8:44). He spreads death and destruction and teaches his followers to do the same.

Wicked men have oppressed God's people from the beginning of time (2 Samuel 7:10). The nation has been harassed and persecuted down through the centuries. It holds onto a small slice of land and fights for its very existence.

So God's promise brought comfort to all men and women who obey Him. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In the Amplified Bible this verse is expanded to read: "In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer (take courage, be confident, certain, undaunted). For I have overcome the world (I have deprived of its power to harm you and have conquered it for you.)"

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. What did God promise Abram (Gen 12:2-3)?
2. Did God say only Israel would be blessed?
3. Who else is included in the promise?
4. What did Jesus promise His disciples (John 16:33)?
5. Who oppresses God's people now?

**Read: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; John 19:30**

## **THE LORD WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM**

David established the kingdom of Israel and ruled from the city of Jerusalem. However, David's kingdom was threatened and finally divided. His son Absalom rose up against David and a messenger brought him the sad news, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom" (2 Sam 15:13).

So David fled from Jerusalem and his family with him. They crossed the Jordan at night and took refuge at Mahanaim (2 Sam 17:27-28).

After Joab killed Absalom, David mourned for his son, but for General Joab and his men it was a day of victory (2 Sam 19:1-8).

David lived to a good old age and wrote many psalms and songs of worship. A song of praise is added to the record of David's life (2 Sam 22:1-51). It is followed by David's last words, an oracle or prophecy (2 Sam 23:1-7).

The prophesy speaks of God's "everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part....Evil men are all cast aside like thorns...they are burned up where they lie."

## **JESUS CHRIST ESTABLISHED THE KINGDOM**

Jesus Christ is often called "the Son of David" (Acts 13:23), and God's promise "to establish the kingdom forever" was fully accomplished in Jesus Christ. When we read Nathan's words to David, "Your house and Your Kingdom will endure forever before Me; Your throne will be established forever," it can only refer to Jesus Christ. David's kingdom which fell into ruin was a picture of Christ's Kingdom which endures forever.

David's house and David's kingdom have long since come to an end, but Christ's Kingdom goes on and on. "It will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people" (Dan 2:44). David's rule over Israel was a picture of Christ's rule over the house of Israel. The prophet wrote, "He (Christ) will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on His throne. And He will be priest on His throne, and there will be harmony between the two" (Zech 6:13).

Some think this harmony refers to the Jewish state where king and priest, which were always separate offices, did take counsel of each other. Others think the harmony is between Father and Son and concerns the peace made between man and God by the mediation of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:15).

While the offices of priest and king were separate in Israel, they are one in Christ. As priest and king, Christ will rule over God's Kingdom forever (1 Cor 15:24-25).

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. The word 'forever' in God's promise to David alerts us to a deeper meaning. Whose Kingdom would be forever?
2. Why was Jesus Christ spoken of as "the son of David"?
3. Do you have peace with God and your neighbor?

## **Read: 2 Samuel 12:1-28; Hebrews 2:11-12**

### **THE COVENANT OF ADOPTION**

God made this promise to David: "I will be his Father and he will be My son." He made the same promise to all Israel. After He brought the people out of slavery in Egypt, God said to them, "Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all the nations you will be My treasured possession" (Ex 19:5).

God's covenant set the people of Israel in a special relationship with Himself. Paul said of the Jews, "Theirs is the adoption as sons..." (Rom 9:4). The adoption did not bring them into a saving relationship with God, only faith could do that (Gen 15:6). Their sonship was external and pointed forward to their spiritual adoption through faith in Jesus Christ.

This promise is applied to Christ by the New Testament writer (Heb 1:5). And to all believers by the apostles: "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full right (or adoption) of sons" (Gal 4:4-5). For "He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will" (Ephesians 1:5).

Who is the "us" in this promise? It is all "Those who are led by the Spirit of God." They are sons of God. Paul told the Christians in Rome, "For you received the Spirit of sonship" (Rom 8:14). And the writer of Hebrews told the believers, "You are of the same family (as Jesus Christ)" and heirs with Christ (Heb 2:11-12; 8:17).

## **Read: 2 Samuel 11:1-17**

### **THE PROMISE OF CORRECTION**

God, the Father, would correct David, “for He corrects everyone He accepts as a son” (Heb 12:6).

When David sinned with Bathsheba, God sent Nathan the prophet to him with the warning, “Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in His eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own....Now, the sword will never depart from your house...Out of your own house I am going to bring calamity upon you” (2 Sam 12:9-11).

The revolt of the ten tribes from the house of David and their idolatry led to God’s correction. They were removed from the land and scattered to the four winds (Jer 30:10-11).

The other two tribes clung to the house of David. Though David’s family was cut short, it was not cut off completely, as the house of Saul was (1 Samuel 31:1-4).

God was displeased that He had made Saul king over Israel. Saul had broken God’s covenant and told lies to cover up his sin. Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from Me and has not carried out My instructions” (1 Sam 15:10-11).

#### **TALK ABOUT**

1. God spoke of a special Father-Son relationship. David enjoyed this relationship with God. Do you enjoy a son-daughter relationship with God?

## **Read: Psalm 89:3-4; 35-37; Acts 2:212-36**

### **ONE OF YOUR SONS WILL REIGN**

God swore to David that one of his own sons would sit on his throne (Psalm 89:3,4,35-36). This promise gave David great hope (Ps 119:49).

David applied the promise to his own son, Solomon (1 Chron 22:6-11). At the dedication of the temple, God Himself also applied the promise to Solomon (2 Chronicles 7:18). But the promise pointed forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The promise would be fulfilled in David’s temporal kingdom, through Solomon, and yet again when Jesus ascended to His throne in heaven (Heb 1:3). Otherwise the writer could not have used the word “forever.”

The promise contained a warning to those who did not honor the Lord by keeping His Law (Psalm 89:30-33). David also warned his son, “the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive...If you seek Him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever” (1 Chron 28:9).

This threat of judgment was carried out on David’s family as history testifies.

These judgments seemed to make the covenant promise God made to David of no value: “You have renounced the covenant with your servant,” the Psalmist wrote, “and have defiled his crown in the dust. You have broken through all his walls and reduced his strongholds to ruins” (Ps 89:38-52).

This happened when Nebuchadnezzar attacked and destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC (2 Kings 24).

So we see that this promise, as it concerned David’s natural seed, was conditional. Because Solomon rejected God’s covenant, God took the kingdom from Israel. This was a picture of the final rejection of the Messiah by the Jews (John 1:11; Matt 21:43).

This did not change the promise made to David concerning his greater Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled the spiritual and eternal aspect of this promise when God raised Him from the dead to sit forever on His throne in heaven. David himself understood this and wrote of it (Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:22-36).

## **TALK ABOUT**

1. God's promise to David had conditions. What were they (1 Chron 28:9)?
2. Why did God allow Israel's enemies to scatter them (Jeremiah 7:1-15)?
3. Did the Jews receive their Messiah (John 1:11)?
4. Have you received Him as your Savior (John 5:24)?

## **Read: Luke 1: 32-33**

### **DAVID'S GREATER SON**

The angel said to Mary, "He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:32-33).

David understood that a 'greater Son' would come from his loins. This truth became evident when Nathan or a scribe recorded God's words: "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever" (2 Sam 7:16). And again in his last words David said, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke to me...the Rock of Israel said to me, 'Has He (God) not made Me (Christ) an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will He not bring to fruition My salvation and grant Me My every desire'." (2 Sam 23:2-5; Ps 89:29; Isa 53:11a)?

We are not left in any doubt about the meaning of these words. After Pentecost, Peter speaking under the power of the Holy Spirit quoted David's prophecy from Psalm 16. Then he added, "He (David) being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne. He, seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither did His flesh see corruption..." (Acts 2:25-32 KJV).

David understood God's promise to mean:

1. The Messiah would come in David's family line.
2. He would be crucified and buried.
3. God would raise Him from the dead.
4. He would return to heaven to sit on His throne.
5. This would happen while David "rested with his fathers" (2 Sam 7:12).

While David 'sleeps' with his forefathers, Christ reigns in glory, until all His enemies are made to be His footstool (Heb 10:12-13).

"Then the end will come when He has handed over the Kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet" (1 Cor 15:24-28).

In this age, the Father has put everything under the authority of the Son. Christ is reigning from His throne now; and He will continue to reign until all His enemies are destroyed. Then the commission given Him by the Father will be completed. He will hand over the Kingdom, "so that God may be all in all."

## **TALK ABOUT**

1. Where is Jesus Christ now (Heb 1:3)?
2. What is the next great event in the history of the Christian Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)?
3. Are you watching and waiting for Jesus to come again?
4. Do you share your Bible study with your friends? Have you invited them to join you when you study the Bible?



**Copyright © 2010 by Fred Morris, Manna Publications (USA)**  
**All rights reserved**  
[www.mannapublications.org](http://www.mannapublications.org)

**Copyright © 2023 edited by Manna Publications (UK)**  
[www.manna-publications.org.uk](http://www.manna-publications.org.uk)