

2 Samuel 1:1-9:13

King David's Accomplishments and Glory

The **Book of 2 Samuel** records transfer of **Saul's dynasty** to that of **King David**. Although **Saul** was the **first anointed king** in **Israel**, yet his failures and subsequent **decline** and **eventual death** give rise to **David's Kingship**. **Saul** and his son **Jonathan** die on **Mount Gilboa** at the **end** of **1 Samuel**, thus **2 Samuel** picks up after that and records **David's rise** to the **throne**. David is first **installed** as **king** in **Hebron** by the **tribe** of **Judah**, **2:4**. Later, is **accepted** as **king** by the **remaining tribes** after the **murder** of **Ish-bosheth**, one of **Saul's** surviving **sons**, **5:1-5**. David's **leadership** is **decisive** and effective. David is a **mighty warrior** and **beloved** by the nation as a **national hero** up until this time. You remember the **chant** of 1 Samuel 18:7...

1 Samuel 18:6-7 - 6 And it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that **the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing**, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang as they played, and said, **"Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."** NASB

Now what makes David even **more significant** is that David **unlike Saul**, is **very** much **interested** in acknowledging **God** as the **true King** in **Israel**, and thus his **kingdom** is **established** and **blessed**, in spite of his failures. Thus **Scripture** speaks of **David** as a **man after God's own heart**, **1 Samuel 13:14**. David sees his **reign** as king as a **representative** of **God**, the **true heavenly King** who has **blessed David** and **granted** him **success** in all his endeavors. **David** is a **devout worshipper** of **God** who **trusts Him** with much **faith**. **David seeks** the **Lord** and desires to have **God's temple** built as a **permanent fixture** in **Jerusalem**, yet **God** instead **gives David** the **promise** of an **everlasting dynasty** through **one** of his **sons**, who will be the **Messiah Jesus Christ**. This promise comes in the **Davidic Covenant** which also **advances** the **Abrahamic Covenant** bring its fulfilment into **sharp focus** on the **Davidic line** of **kings**. Moreover, the **Davidic Covenant's** promise will indeed fulfill the original **Messianic promise** of **Genesis 3:15**, that the **"seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent."** Thus, **David** also becomes a **prototype** of the **future Messiah**, **Jesus Christ**. Although **David** has **significant failures** in his life which bring about **serious chastisement** from **God** upon his **household**, yet **David's** failures cause us to **look with faith** to the **future** rule of the **Divine Priest-King** who will **sit upon His throne forever**, even **Jesus**, **David's son** and the **Son** of

God and Heavenly King. This makes **2 Samuel 7** and the **Davidic Covenant** a key passage in the **History of Salvation**, and a **major advancement** in the **biblical theological theme** of the **Kingdom of God**.

The first **9 chapters** of **2 Samuel** record **David's accomplishments** and **glory**, whereas the **remaining chapters** 10-24, record **David's great sin** with **Bathsheba** and subsequent **decline in power**, and **decline in favor** with **God** and men.

David's Rise (1 Samuel 16–2 Samuel 10)

Eager holy warrior
Marries honorably
Protects Saul's life
Decisive
Prayers effective
Fearless when outnumbered
Attracts thousands of followers

David's Failures (2 Samuel 11–20)

Remains in palace
Adultery with Bathsheba
Plots Uriah's death
Indecisive
Prayers ineffective
Fearfully takes census
Loses thousands of followers

Today's Text

David and the death of Saul (1:1–27)

David becomes king (2:1–5:5)

Jerusalem, the city of David (5:6–25)

Zion, the place of worship (6:1–23)

Davidic covenant: eternal throne (7:1–29)

Catalog of David's military activities (8:1–18)

Mephibosheth (9:1–13)

David and the death of Saul (1:1–27)

As the **Book of 1 Samuel** ends, **Saul** and his son **Jonathan** have **fallen in battle** on Mount Gilboa. The book begins with a recounting of **Saul's death**, as the report is **brought to David** at Ziklag. **Broken** over the **news** of Saul and Jonathan's death, **David executes** the man who told him, as he **claimed** to have **executed Saul** upon Saul's request. David **believed** the **Amalekite's** story and on that basis, had him **put to death**. The narrator in 1 Samuel 31 says that Saul **killed himself**. Having already read that, readers know that **this man is lying** to gain **favor** with the person who was most likely to **replace Saul** as **king**. Deeply **distraught** at the news, **David executes** the Amalekite who said **he killed him**.

Here we have a look into **David's heart** as he is **grieved over** the **death** of **Jonathan** his friend and **King Saul** who had sought David's life.

2 Samuel 1:11-12 - 11 Then **David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the Lord and the house of Israel,** because they had fallen by the sword. NASB

As David had done when he was **running** from **Saul**, he greatly **respected** him as the **anointed King**. Thus, David saw **God's good hand** in all that **Saul** had done and **honored** the **authority God** has placed upon **Saul**. David has **modeled** this humble **character** for those followers who had been with **following him** in the **episodes**. David was not a **vengeful rebel** against Saul, and thus can receive the **kingship** in **good conscience**. David is **genuinely grieved** over **Jonathan** and **Saul** and his lament is recorded in **1:17-27**.

2 Samuel 1:23-27 - **23 "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions. 24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,** Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. 25 "How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slain on your high places. 26 "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women. **27 "How have the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"** NASB

David has **lamented publicly** the death of **Saul**, and the **record** of his **rise** to the throne is one of **humility** and **integrity**. Though Saul many times **grievously wronged David**, yet David remained **blameless** and **devoted** to his **king**. David **models** this to the **nation** calling them to **mourn** for **Saul**, and then **Jonathan**, and the **sons of Israel** who had **died** in **battle**. David here is an **example** of a **leader of great character** and **godly integrity**.

David becomes king ([2:1-5:5](#))

Now we remember that God had **rejected Saul** as **king** and **David** had been **anointed king** by **Samuel** at his father **Jesse's** home **1 Samuel 16:13**.

1 Samuel 16:1 - 16 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, **since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons.**" NASB

1 Samuel 16:11-15 - 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." **12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."** **13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.** And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. **14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him.** NASB

Now after **Saul** has **died**, David does not **immediately seek** the **throne**, but waits upon the **Lord** to bring him to **power**. David is **first anointed king** by his **tribe of Judah** in **Hebron**.

2 Samuel 2:1-4 - 2 Then it came about afterwards that **David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up to one of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." So David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron."** 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, each with his household; and they lived in the cities of Hebron. **4 Then the men of Judah came and there anointed David king over the house of Judah.** NASB

Now the **northern tribes** are not so quick to **anoint David** as their leaders are **disheveled** at **Saul's death**. Saul's general **Abner** seeks to **restore Saul's kingdom** with Saul's son **Ish-bosheth** as king.

2 Samuel 2:8-11 - 8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim. 9 And **he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, even over all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he became king over Israel, and he was king for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.**

Through a **series of struggles** between the **northern** and **southern leaders**, Abner decides to **side** with **David**, who **welcomes** him with a **feast**, but **Abner** is **killed** by David's commander **Joab**, who was **jealous** over the **matter**. Earlier **Abner** had **killed Joab's** younger **brother Asahel** in battle between **north** and **south**. So Joab

has it in for him, and this greatly displeases David who pronounces a curse upon him 3:39.

2 Samuel 3:32-39 - 32 Thus they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. 33 And the king chanted a lament for Abner and said, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? 34 "Your hands were not bound, nor your feet put in fetters; As one falls before the wicked, you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him. 35 Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was still day; but David vowed, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else before the sun goes down." 36 Now all the people took note of it, and it pleased them, just as everything the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the will of the king to put Abner the son of Ner to death. 38 Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? 39 "And I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too difficult for me. May the Lord repay the evildoer according to his evil." NASB

Shortly after this, Ish-bosheth the king, son of Saul is killed by two of his own men. The thing greatly displeases David and he has them executed.

2 Samuel 4:5-12 - 5 So the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, departed and came to the house of Ish-bosheth in the heat of the day while he was taking his midday rest. 6 And they came to the middle of the house as if to get wheat, and they struck him in the belly; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 Now when they came into the house, as he was lying on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and killed him and beheaded him. And they took his head and traveled by way of the Arabah all night. 8 Then they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Behold, the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; thus the Lord has given my lord the king vengeance this day on Saul and his descendants." 9 And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, 10 when one told me, saying, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not

now require his blood from your hand, and destroy you from the earth?"

12 Then David commanded the young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet, and hung them up beside the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron. NASB

With no one in the **house of Saul** as a **candidate for king**, all of **Israel unites to anoint the hero David as king**. One cannot escape the fact that in all the **deaths of Israelites on both sides** through this time, the narrator holds **David innocent in each case**, and thus he is **qualified to be king over all Israel**.

2 Samuel 5:1-5 - 5 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Previously, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and in. **And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel, and you will be a ruler over Israel.'**" 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and **King David made a covenant with them before the Lord at Hebron; then they anointed David king over Israel.** 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. NASB

David's Rise ([1 Samuel 16–2 Samuel 10](#))

Eager holy warrior

Marries honorably

Protects Saul's life

Decisive

Prayers effective

Fearless when outnumbered

Attracts thousands of followers

Jerusalem, the city of David ([5:6–25](#))

It is **significant** that the **first conquest** by **David** after being **crowned king** over all Israel is the **fortified city** of **Jerusalem**, which is called to this day, *the City of David*. David captures the **Jebusite city** of **Jerusalem** to serve as the **capital** of his **united Israel**. After he **conquered Jerusalem**, **Hiram king of Tyre** builds him a **royal palace**.

2 Samuel 5:9-12 - 9 So David lived in the **stronghold**, and called it **the city of David**. And David built all around from the Millo and inward. **10 And**

David became greater and greater, for the Lord God of hosts was with him. 11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David. **12 And David realized that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.** NASB

This is a very **important time** for **Israel** as **God** has now brought them much **peace** and **security in the land** under **David's reign**. God has in this transition from **Judges** to **Kings** brought **David** to **rule over** a great swath of the **Promised Land**, and given them **peace** on many **sides**. **Jerusalem** was a **mighty fortified city** and is a very **important geographical place** for the **nation** of **Israel**, both from a **military** and **spiritual perspective**, being **central** in the land for its **Temple worship** with its **annual pilgrimages**. The *ESV Study Bible* notes; *"The account of David's kingship over Israel starts with the capture of Jerusalem, on the boundary between Judah and Benjamin. It had not been controlled by any tribe, and thus it was both symbolically and geographically better suited to be the capital of all Israel than Hebron (in central Judah). Jerusalem was the "Salem" of Melchizedek ([Gen. 14:18](#)). It has been fortified since the Middle Bronze Age, i.e., the first half of the second millennium B.C. In the second half of the millennium it was one of the city-states of Canaan that was under the influence of Egypt..... Several letters from the king of Jerusalem to the pharaoh exist among the fourteenth-century Amarna letters. The Jebusites are listed among the Canaanites in [Gen. 10:16](#) and, broadly speaking, were considered to be among the Amorites ([Josh. 10:5](#)). The city was too strong to be conquered at the time of Joshua ([Josh. 15:63](#); [Judg. 1:21](#)). The Jebusite city, the stronghold of Zion, was located on the western slope of the Kidron Valley above the city's water source, the spring of Gihon. An extensive network of water tunnels has been excavated, one of which was probably the water shaft through which David's men entered the city....According to [1 Chron. 11:6](#), Joab led the attack and was therefore made David's chief commander."* **End quote**. It is worth noting how the **narrator adds** what is happening in **David's personal life** about this time as he has **become king** over **all Israel**. He is **multiplying concubines** and **wives** and **children**. This will surely add to **David's decline** in future days and there is a **significant reason** why this is included.

2 Samuel 5:13-16 - 13 Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who

were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet. NASB Now that **David** is securely in **control** of the **whole house** of **Israel**, God would give him **victory** over not only the **Jebusites**, **Canaanites** who had remained since the **conquest**, but also over the remaining **Philistines**.

2 Samuel 5:17-21 - 17 When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek out David; and when David heard of it, he went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines came and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim. **19 Then David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Wilt Thou give them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand."** 20 So David came to Baal-perazim, and defeated them there; and he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters." Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim. 21 And they abandoned their idols there, so David and his men carried them away. 22 Now the Philistines came up once again and spread themselves out in the valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the Lord, He said, "You shall not go directly up; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees. 24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act promptly, **for then the Lord will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines."** 25 Then David did so, just as the Lord had commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from **Geba as far as Gezer**. NASB

Zion, the place of worship ([6:1-23](#))

Jerusalem sits upon **Mount Zion**, and is often referred to as **Zion**, although that **term** is also used to refer to the **people of God**. Nevertheless, **Zion** is not only the **political capitol** of the **united Israel**, but will also be its **religious center**.

This was surely **God's desire**.

Psalm 132:13-18 - **13 For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. 14 "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.** 15 "I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her needy with bread. **16 "Her priests also I will clothe with salvation; And her godly ones will sing aloud for joy. 17 "There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth; I have prepared a lamp for Mine**

anointed. 18 "His enemies I will clothe with shame; But upon himself his crown shall shine." NASB

One cannot but see the **Heavenly King Jesus** upon His **glorious throne** in the **Endless Day** of the **Eternal State**, reigning in all **His Majesty** in these words! So David will retrieve the **Ark of the Covenant** of the **Lord** and bring it to **Zion**.

2 Samuel 6:1-5 - 6 Now David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. **2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned above the cherubim. 3 And they placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart. 4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark. 5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord with all kinds of instruments made of fir wood, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.**

Here is recorded a very **significant event** as the **Ark** is **brought** to its **place** of **permanent** inhabitation, from **Kiriath-jearim**, where it **had been** most of the time ever since the **Philistines** returned it in **1 Samuel 6:21**. During the **procession**, something **very disturbing** happens.

2 Samuel 6:6-11 - 6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, **Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. 7 And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.** NASB

The **ESV Study Bible** comments, *"The death of Uzzah resembles the outbreak against Beth-shemesh in [1 Sam. 6:19](#). (they looked into the ark and 50,000 people died). Touching the ark was a direct violation of God's law (Num 4:15...so that they may not touch the holy objects and die). Even though Uzzah's motive was clearly to prevent desecration, his fault was occasioned by the earlier mistake in the mode of transporting the ark. This incident was a dramatic reminder to David of God's holiness and of the necessity of approaching God only according to his revealed instruction, so much so that David was afraid even to bring the ark back to Jerusalem."* **End quote.** In great **triumph** and **excitement** David seeks to bring the **presence** of the **Lord** near to himself and to **honor God** and give **Him** the **glory** for His blessing and victory. Yet all the

celebration and **singing** is soon turned to **mourning** and **weeping** merely by the stumbling of the oxen. **Uzzah** seeing that the **Ark** was **shaken**, reached to steady the Ark, but in **violation** of his **sacred Levite trust**, is killed by an **outbreak** of the **holy wrath** of **God**. But God had **earlier warned** those **Kohathites** who were privileged to carry the **sacred objects** and given them **strict orders** to about how they were to be handled.

Numbers 4:5-6,15 - 5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it; 6 and they shall lay a covering of porpoise skin on it, and shall spread over it a cloth of pure blue, **and shall insert its poles.** 15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, **after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they may not touch the holy objects and die.** These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry. NASB

You recall how **Nadab** and **Abihu** had offered **strange fire** and were **killed** in a similar way because they **violated** the **trust** that had as **priests**. At that time **God** had **warned** in Leviticus about this.

Leviticus 10:3 - 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the Lord spoke, saying, **'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'**" NASB

Whether we realize it or not, the text says that **"7 God struck him down there for his irreverence,"** and **Uzzah** should have **known better**. Here we **all see** and feel that the **holiness** of **God** can be a **terrifying** and **vexing** thing. Let us stop and **reflect** upon it, and let us **fear the Lord** and **revere Him** as Holy and Sacred, and **let us** not take the **worship** of the **Lord** lightly, but with the weight and **reverence** that He deserves. Now the whole matter was **troubling** to **David** who became **angry**, but he also greatly **feared** the Lord.

2 Samuel 6:6-11 - 8 And **David became angry because of the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.** **9 So David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"** 10 And David was unwilling to move the ark of the Lord into the city of David with him; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 Thus the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household NASB

After **3 months**, God **greatly blesses** the house of **Obed-edom**, and so David **seeks again** to bring the **Ark** up to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:12-18 - 12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, on account of the ark of God." **And David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness.** 13 And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. **14 And David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.** 15 **So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.** 16 **Then it happened as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.** 17 **So they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord.** 18 And when David had finished offering the burnt offering and the peace offering, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. NASB

With much **ceremony** for the **Lord** and **careful sacrifice**, David brings the **Ark** into **Jerusalem** with **gladness**. Here indeed is the **greatest thing to happen** to **David** to date, the **Ark of the Lord** has come to **him** in **Jerusalem**. Yet not everyone in **David's household** appreciates this moment, and **sadly** for his wife **Michal** the **daughter** of **Saul**, she is greatly **displeased** to see David's blessing and his **love** for the **Lord**.

2 Samuel 6:20-23 - 20 But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "**How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!**" 21 So David said to Michal, "**It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the Lord.** 22 **And I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.**" 23 **And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.** NASB

Let us **learn** here **never** to **despise** someone else's **blessing** and **love** for **God**.

Davidic covenant: eternal throne (7:1–29)

Here God will make **additional promises** concerning the **Messiah**, which will advance the **Proto-evangel** of **Genesis 3:15** and **Abrahamic Covenant** further, and so this becomes a **key passage** in the **history** of **salvation**. The **Messianic Promise** will now **focus directly** on the **lineage** and **dynasty** of **King David**, whom **God** will **promise** that one of his **offspring** will **sit** on his **throne** and be established **forever**. This can only mean that one of **David's seed** will be **God's eternal King**, reigning over **all things** in His everlasting **Kingdom forever**. This of course will be **fulfilled** in the **Person** of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, of whom it was spoken by the angel at the **Annunciation**,

Luke 1:32-34 - 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; **and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.**" NASB

Although this passage does not use the word "covenant," yet it is referred to elsewhere as a **covenant**.

Psalms 89:3-4 - 3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever, And build up your throne to all generations." NASB

David **expresses** his **desire** to **build a house** for the **Lord**. But the **Lord** does **not approve**, and instead states on **his own initiative** that he will **establish** David's house or **dynasty** eternally, promising him an **eternal throne**.

2 Samuel 7:1-7 - 1 Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains." 3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you." 4 But it came about in the same night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord,' Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? 6 "For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'" NASB

An important note from the **ESV Study Bible** concerning the reason why God did not approve.... *“God will not let David build him a house; rather, he will build David a house, a ruling dynasty. According to 1 Kings 5:3, Solomon said David was not able to build the temple “because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him,” and in 1 Chron 22:8 David says the Lord said he could not do so because “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”* **End quote.** Although **David** wants to do this **great thing** for **God**, yet God will do something for **David beyond** his wildest **imagination**. There is a **series of promises** for **David** and Israel starting in verse 8.

2 Samuel 7:8-9 - 8 "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 ruler over My people Israel. **9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.**

Here God promises David that his **name** will be **great**, as great as the **greatest of men**. Here we are some **3000 years** later **studying** this man **King David** from the other **side** of the **earth**! See in this the **faithfulness** of the **words** of **God**! But more, **God** will **promise Israel** that a day will come in their **future** when they will be **planted in the land** and **never** again be disturbed by their **enemies**!

2 Samuel 7:10-11 - 10 I will also appoint **a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,** 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and **I will give you rest from all your enemies.** NASB

As if to say that **God** is **pleased** with **David’s desire** to **build** Him a **house**, yet God will never be **out given** or **owing** to **any man**! Rather **God will do** things for David which are **astonishing beyond** imagining!

2 Samuel 7:11-13 – 11 The Lord also declares to you that **the Lord will make a house for you.** 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, **I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.** 13 He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** NASB

Now what makes this so **profound** is not that it is **David’s son**, but that an **eternal dynasty** can only belong to **God** and **His Kingdom**. So to imagine the

profound greatness of this **promise** of an **eternal dynasty** that God promises David, is to see that **David's son** will be **God's Eternal King!** This surely will be the **One of Abraham's offspring** through whom **"all the nations would be blessed."** The ruler that would come forth from **Judah** of **Genesis 49:10** to whom **"would be the obedience of all the peoples."** From this point forward in God's **special revelation** of His **Word**, all eyes will be **fixed** upon the lineage of David looking for the **Hope** of the **world**, even the **"seed of the woman"** of **Genesis 3:15** who would turn back the **curse of sin** and **death** and **"crush the head of the serpent!"** Here we see the **great unity** of the **Bible** from **Genesis** to **2 Samuel**, weaving as a **golden thread** the **promise** of **blessing** and **salvation** for the **people of God**, **marching onward** from **promise** to **fulfillment**, looking to that **great Day** when **Messiah** the **King** will bring the **Kingdom of God** to the **ends** of the **earth!** Now here in the **language** is a bit of *prophetic perspective*, where the **prophecy** will have **both** a **near** and a **far fulfilment**. The **near fulfilment** will speak of **Solomon** David's son, who will **build** a house (Temple) for God, but the **far fulfilment** will speak of **Jesus**, whose **dynasty** and **throne** will **endure** before God **forever!** The **language** referring to **Solomon** is **obvious**.

2 Samuel 7:13-17 – 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me**; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16 And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."** 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. NASB

Notice here also **God says** that **one** whose **throne** will be **established forever** will be His son. This verse is quoted and applied to Jesus in Hebrews 1:5.

Hebrews 1:5-8 - 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, **"I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"?** 6 And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." 7 And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. NASB

David now is **overwhelmed** by the **kindness** of **God** and issues forth a devoted **prayer of worship** and **praise** to **God!** David ascribes **all the glory** to **God** alone!

2 Samuel 7:13-17 - 18 Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord, and he said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me this far? **19 "And yet this was insignificant in Thine eyes, O Lord God, for Thou hast spoken also of the house of Thy servant concerning the distant future.** And this is the custom of man, O Lord God. 20 And again what more can David say to Thee? For Thou knowest Thy servant, O Lord God! **21 "For the sake of Thy word, and according to Thine own heart, Thou hast done all this greatness to let Thy servant know. 22 For this reason Thou art great, O Lord God; for there is none like Thee, and there is no God besides Thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.** 23 And what one nation on the earth is like Thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for Thee and awesome things for Thy land, before Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed for Thyself from Egypt, from nations and their gods? **24 "For Thou hast established for Thyself Thy people Israel as Thine own people forever, and Thou, O Lord, hast become their God.** 25 Now therefore, O Lord God, the word that Thou hast spoken concerning Thy servant and his house, confirm it forever, and do as Thou hast spoken, 26 that Thy name may be magnified forever, by saying, 'The Lord of hosts is God over Israel'; and may the house of Thy servant David be established before Thee. **27 For Thou, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, hast made a revelation to Thy servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore Thy servant has found courage to pray this prayer to Thee. 28 And now, O Lord God, Thou art God, and Thy words are truth, and Thou hast promised this good thing to Thy servant. 29 Now therefore, may it please Thee to bless the house of Thy servant, that it may continue forever before Thee. For Thou, O Lord God, hast spoken; and with Thy blessing may the house of Thy servant be blessed forever."** NASB

David **responds** with a **heart** of much **gratitude** and **earnestly prays** that God would **bring it to pass**. There is much to **learn** and **reflect upon** in **David's prayer** concerning the **grace** and **faithfulness** of **God**. Let us take it to **our heart** and **know today** that the **Lord is God** in **Heaven** above and **faithful** to all His **promises!** The words of **Psalm 89:34-37** reaffirm this **great promise** to David!

Psalm 89:34-37 - 34 "My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. **35 "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 "His descendants shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me. 37 "It shall be established forever like the moon,** And the witness in the sky is faithful." NASB

Catalog of David's military activities (8:1-18)

2 Samuel chapter **8** records a list of David's **military victories** in the regions surrounding **Judea** and **beyond**. David has had **significant victories** as he was very **careful** to **inquire** of the **Lord** wherever he went. **Psalm 60** records a **prayer** of **David** when he **faced** the **king of Zobah** and also the **Arameans** which is recorded in this chapter **8:3-8, 8:13-14**.

Psalm 60:11-12 - **11 O give us help against the adversary, For deliverance by man is in vain. 12 Through God we shall do valiantly, And it is He who will tread down our adversaries.** NASB

Psalm 60 begins with the words, "*A Mikhtam of David, to teach; when he struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and Joab returned, and smote twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.*" See here **David** would **sing** to the **Lord**, and his **men** would be **taught** of **faith** and **trust in God** as they **faced** their **enemies** in **battle**. David was a **man of faith, guided by God** His **Shepherd**, and so we see the **great wisdom** and **power** behind **David's victories** is **God Himself**, who **ruled through** David as the **True King of Israel**. This of course was the **key** to **David's blessing** and **successful reign**. This is so clearly seen in **Psalm 60** as the **imagery** is of **God** spreading **His own armor** over the **nations** that **David conquers** in **2 Samuel** chapter **8**.

Psalm 60:6-9 - 6 God has spoken in His holiness: "I will exult, **I will portion out Shechem and measure out the valley of Succoth. 7 "Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet of My head; Judah is My scepter. 8 "Moab is My washbowl; Over Edom I shall throw My shoe; Shout loud, O Philistia, because of Me!" 9 Who will bring me into the besieged city? Who will lead me to Edom?** NASB

In this way **David's kingdom** was a **theocratic kingdom**, foreshadowing the **Divine Kingdom** of **Christ the Messiah** to come later and **culminate History**. This **Kingdom of God** broke in to time and space at the **Coming of the King**, the **preaching** and **ministry** and **Ascension of Christ**, and **advances** further at the **Second Coming** in the **Millennial Kingdom**, with **Christ** upon **Jerusalem's Throne**, with **all nations** in subjection **under** His feet (**Psa 2:8-9, Psa 22:27-28, Psa**

72:8-11, Isa 2:2-4, Dan 7:14, 27, 1 Cor 15:22-28). It reaches its **final stage** and glorious **immortal climax** in the **Eternal State**, with the **Heavenly Jerusalem** coming down out of Heaven upon the **New Earth**, (Revelation 21:1-8). We see then in **David** a **type** of the **true King Jesus**, and we also realize how desperately we need a **new** and **better David**, a **sinless**, steadfast and **perfect Divine King** to **conquer** our great **Goliath enemies** of **sin** and **death**, and bring us into **eternal blessings** and **privilege** under His glorious **eternal reign!**

So as **David's victories** are here **catalogued** for us, let us see that **God blesses** those who **look to Him** with **faith** and **inquire** of Him **often**, allowing God to be their **Shepherd** and their guide, **leading** them beside **still waters** and into **green pastures** to rest and lie down!

2 Samuel 8:1-2 - 8 Now after this it came about that **David defeated the Philistines and subdued them; and David took control of the chief city from the hand of the Philistines.** 2 And he **defeated Moab, and measured them with the line, making them lie down on the ground; and he measured two lines to put to death and one full line to keep alive. And the Moabites became servants to David,** bringing tribute. NASB

Here we see some of the **graphic detail** of the **warfare** David was **involved** in. It gives **light to understand** why the **Lord** had said he was a **man of bloodshed** and would not build his Temple (1 Chron 22:8).

2 Samuel 8:3-12 - 3 Then David defeated **Hadadezer**, the son of Rehob **king of Zobah**, as he went to restore his rule at the River. 4 And David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots. **5 And when the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer, king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 Arameans.** 6 Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus, **and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.** 7 And David took the shields of gold which were carried by the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 And from Bethah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, **King David took a very large amount of bronze.** 9 Now when Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, 10 Toi sent Joram his son to King David to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him; for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold and of

bronze. 11 **King David also dedicated these to the Lord, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued:** 12 from Aram and Moab and the sons of Ammon and the Philistines and Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah. NASB

Here again we see David **acknowledging God's power** and **blessing** in all his **victories** as he **dedicates** the **spoils of war** to **God**. Again, David **proves** himself to be a **man of devoted faith** and **worship of God**.

2 Samuel 8:13 - So David made a name for himself when he returned from killing 18,000 Arameans in the Valley of Salt. 14 And he put garrisons in Edom. **In all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the Lord helped David wherever he went.** 15 **So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people.** 16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder. 17 And Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary. 18 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers. NASB

The narrator has repeated the phrase, **"14 and the Lord helped David wherever he went."** Let us learn here that **God blesses** and **keeps** those who **fear Him** and continually **look to Him**, who **worship Him** with all their **hearts!** Here also we see the **record** of **David's early reign** over **all** the **tribes of Israel** where he **"15 administered justice and righteousness for all his people."**

Mephibosheth (9:1-13)

The story of Mephibosheth stands out as a **great act of mercy** in **David's life**. David had earlier **promised Jonathan** that he would show **kindness** to his **descendants** and not kill them as often happened in **changes of dynasty** (1 Sam 20:14-17). Once David has the **kingdom securely** in his hands, he **seeks out** any **living descendants** of **Jonathan** to **intentionally** show them **kindness**. It is even more **remarkable** that **Mephibosheth** is **lame** and unable to **provide** for himself.

2 Samuel 9:1-8 - Then David said, **"Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"** 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David; and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant." 3 And the king said, "Is there not yet anyone of

the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, **"There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet."** 4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. **6 And Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth."** And he said, "Here is your servant!" 7 And David said to him, **"Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly."** 8 Again he prostrated himself and said, **"What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?"** NASB

Mephibosheth's self-abasement and **humility** is remarkable, and this amplifies the **free act of love and mercy** that is given by **David's hand**. See here even **long after** Saul and **Jonathan** have **died**, David's genuine love and respect for them lives on. David will **not only** show him **kindness**, but will **care** for him and his **family** with a **richly** rewarded **estate** and **servants**.

2 Samuel 9:9-13 - 9 Then the king called Saul's servant Ziba, and said to him, **"All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. 10 And you and your sons and your servants shall cultivate the land for him, and you shall bring in the produce so that your master's grandson may have food; nevertheless Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall eat at my table regularly."** Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant so your servant will do." **So Mephibosheth ate at David's table as one of the king's sons.** 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in the house of Ziba were servants to Mephibosheth. **13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.** NASB

Here again we have seen that in **David's early reign** he was a remarkable man of **loyalty** and **character**. All of this clearly shows why David is so highly **regarded** as Israel's **greatest king**. Surely these **acts of kindness foreshadow** the **mercy** and **kindness** of **Jesus** David's greater son!