

DOCTRINE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- I. Preliminary considerations.
 - A. The documentation for this covenant is found in IISam. 7:12-16 and referred to in Ps. 89:3,4,19-37
 - B. The isagogics in view.
 - 1. David had established his authority by defeating his enemies. IISam. 7:1
 - 2. He lived in a great house, made of cedar, and desired to build a house for the glory of God. IISam. 7:2
 - 3. He was initially told to go ahead by Nathan the prophet and then overruled by God Himself. IISam. 7:3-6
 - 4. God promised David that He would provide a posterity for David, a house that would endure forever. IISam. 7:11
 - C. Important terms used in the covenant defined.
 - 1. **House** refers to the Davidic royal dynasty.
 - 2. **Seed** or **descendant** refers to the male heirs, beginning with Solomon and ending with Jesus Christ. IISam. 7:12; Ps. 89:4,29,36
 - 3. **Throne** refers to the right to rule over the kingdom, defined by the land grant of the Abrahamic Covenant. IISam. 7:13,16; Ps. 89:4,29,36
 - 4. **Covenant** describes a binding contract between God and David. Ps. 89:3,28,34
 - D. The Abrahamic Covenant focused on the establishment of a nation through Abraham, obviously requiring a land grant for the geographic positioning of the people. Gen. 12:2, 13:14-17
 - E. The Davidic Covenant focuses on the biological descendant of David's that will occupy his throne forever.
- II. Reasons why David was chosen by God.
 - A. He was a member of the seed of Abraham, God's chosen people, the Jews. Ps. 89:19
 - B. He was from the tribe destined for royalty in Israel. Gen. 49:8-10; Ps. 78:68
 - C. He was in the line of Christ. Rom. 1:3
 - D. He was qualified to be king in Israel, anointed by Samuel to replace the reversionist Saul. ISam. 16:13; Ps. 89:20
 - E. He was a mature believer who was spiritually qualified to inherit great Ph₂ blessing. IISam. 7:8,9; Ps. 89:26-29
 - F. He was physically qualified to act as a warrior-king. Ps. 18:32-42
- III. Promises of the Davidic Covenant fulfilled in David's lifetime.
 - A. The male heir who would succeed him and build a house for God, Solomon. IISam. 7:12-13
 - B. Military victory over his enemies. Ps. 89:21-23
 - C. A great reputation in his generation. IISam. 7:9; Ps. 89:26

- D. An expansion of his kingdom in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. Ex. 23:31; Deut. 1:7-8; IKings 4:21-24
- IV. The future portion of the covenant has two eternal provision, **seed/descendants** and **throne**.
- A. It was promised that there would always be a direct descendant from David. IISam. 7:16; Ps. 89:4
- B. It was further promised that the throne of David would last forever. IISam. 7:13; Ps. 89:4
- V. The problems associated with the fact that the rule of the house of David has been interrupted.
- A. The problems stated.
1. An uninterrupted succession of kings ruled over the house of David from 1010-586 BC.
 2. With the fall of the Southern Kingdom, the throne of David has remained unoccupied from 586 BC to the present time.
 3. Further, God placed a curse on the line of descent through Solomon during the reign of Jehoiakin/Jeconiah/Coniah. Jere. 22:30
 4. This means that no descendant of David's, through Solomon, could ever prosper as a king over Israel, no matter how spiritually great he was.
 5. Yet, the promise to David was that that the throne of his son Solomon would remain forever. IISam. 7:13,16
 6. Therefore, the promise does not require an uninterrupted succession of kings, but it does require the throne to be one that is permanently established.
- B. The solution to the problem.
1. The line of unbroken male descendants continued from the time of the Babylonian captivity to the birth of Christ. Matt. 1:12
 2. Due to the curse on Jeconiah, the individuals of this line could never prosper on the throne of David.
 3. Therefore, God established another unbroken line of descent from David through his son Nathan; this line links Jesus Christ to David biologically, being the line of his mother, Mary. Lk. 3:23
 4. The virgin birth enabled Jesus to bypass the Jeconiah curse and gave Him the legal right to the throne; Joseph being the legal link to the throne and Mary being the biological link to David.
 5. Jesus Christ is, in every way, the legal and biological heir to the throne of David.
 6. The throne will be re-established at the Second Advent. Acts. 15:16
- C. The Covenant did not guarantee uninterrupted rule by David's descendants, but did require that the right to the throne would always remain in David's family.
- VI. The security of the Davidic Covenant.

- A. The Covenant is not altered or affected in any way by the sins of David or the sins of his descendants. IISam. 7:14-15; Ps. 89:30-37
 - B. The Covenant is guaranteed in perpetuity. Ps. 89:4,28,29,36
 - C. It was confirmed by a Divine oath, providing the strongest possible assurance that it would be fulfilled. IISam. 7:13,16; Ps. 89:3,4,33, 132:11
- VII. The Davidic Covenant demands literal fulfillment.
- A. It was established in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The virgin birth enabled Jesus to bypass the Jeconiah curse and be a physical descendant of David.
 - 2. The resurrection of Christ eliminated the need for a continuation of the male genealogy, providing David with an indestructible heir.
 - 3. At the Second Advent, Jesus will occupy the eternal throne for David. Lk. 1:32-33
 - B. Certain portions have already been literally fulfilled.
 - 1. David had a son, who built the Temple, and was disciplined for his sins. IISam. 7:12-15
 - 2. There existed an unbroken line of male descendants from David to Christ, fulfilling the **seed** portion of the promise.
 - C. The Jews understood that this Covenant demanded literal fulfillment. Mk. 11:10; Jn. 7:42
 - D. David believed that it was to be fulfilled literally. IISam. 23:5
 - E. Solomon believed likewise. IIChron. 6:14-17
 - F. The unfulfilled portion deals only with the promise of a **throne**. IISam. 7:16
 - 1. Those who adhere to amillennialism (denial of the literal 1000-year earthly reign of Christ) teach that the throne in heaven is David's throne and that Christ has already assumed that.
 - 2. While it is true that Jesus is seated in Heaven on His Father's throne, the throne of God and the throne of David are not identical.
 - 3. God made it plain that there would be an extended period of time that the political rule of David would be absent and then would be restored. Acts 15:16; Amos 9:11-12
 - 4. The 2500 years since a descendant of David's has occupied the throne of Israel may cause one to believe that the promise has been rendered void, but this is not the case.
 - 5. No matter what problems, discipline, interruptions, etc. occur; the line of David always has and always will retain the right to rule in Israel.
 - 6. This right cannot be transferred to another line since the blessings and promises are eternal. Ps. 89:34-36
 - 7. This is confirmed in such passages as Isa. 9:6-7; Jere. 23:5-6, 30:8-9, 33:14-17,20-21; Ezek. 37:24-25; Dan. 7:13-14; Hos. 3:4-5; Amos 9:11; Zech. 14:4-9
 - 8. While David's throne has been temporarily vacated due to Divine discipline and the sins of his descendants, the promise to rule stands forever and will be exercised by His greater son, Jesus Christ.

9. Although the throne has not been occupied continuously, the lineage and promises remain unbroken.
10. Jesus Christ will establish an eternal kingdom on planet earth in fulfillment of the promises to David concerning an eternal **house/throne/kingdom**.
11. Following the established rules of hermeneutics, the unfulfilled portions of the promises to David will be fulfilled just as certainly as those portions that have been fulfilled!

“I will make Him my first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth. My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to Him.”
Psalm 89:27-28

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star.” Rev. 22:16