



## God's Promises to David

READING FOR THIS LESSON – 2 Samuel 7.

King David was the second king to rule over the Children of Israel. After many trials and adventures, David built a palace in Jerusalem, and there he lived and ruled.

When David thought about the way in which God had blessed him, and then thought about the Ark of God, which was still kept in a tent, he wanted to build a fine Temple at Jerusalem in which the Ark could be kept.

The Ark was a special box containing the Ten Commandments. It had a lid known as the Mercy Seat, above which God's Glory shone.



David told Nathan, the prophet of God, what he wanted to do. Nathan told David to go ahead; but that night God spoke to Nathan, giving him a special message for David.

### God's message to David

Please turn again to 2 Samuel 7. The most important part of God's message to David is in verses 12-16.

Here God promises David an *"offspring"*, which means a son, or descendant.

He says of this promised son,



*"He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"* (verse 13).

This was to happen **after** David's death, for it was to be

*"..when your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom"* (verse 12).

### More about the Son of David

Now David had a son called Solomon, who ruled after him in Jerusalem. But he was made king while David was still alive. And, of course, he did not rule forever. This promised son was to be a very special person, for God says of him,

*"I will be his father, and he will be my son"* (2 Samuel 7:14).

Turn to the first chapter of Luke. Here we read of an angel coming to a young woman - one of King David's descendants - and telling her that she would have a son.

This son was to be born, not from a human father, as all other children are, but through the power of God. For the young woman whose name was Mary was told,

*"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God'"* (Luke 1:35).

The angel also told Mary,

*"He will be great and will 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).

Now we can see how the promise, which God made to David, was fulfilled when Jesus Christ was born.

1. God was his Father.
2. He was to rule forever.

## The King of the Jews

Jesus was born to be a King. The wise men, when they came to worship him, asked,

*"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"*

When Jesus was arrested and taken before Pilate to be tried, Pilate said to him,

*"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.*" (Mark 15:2).



As we have already seen, Jesus Christ will come back to this earth to be King of the Jews, and to rule on David's throne.

## A world - wide kingdom



Jesus Christ is to be the King of the Jews when he comes back. He is also to rule over the whole earth. The Bible says of him,

*"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."* (Revelation 11:15)

## What about David?

Although David knew that this promise was not to be fulfilled for a very long time, he was full of thankfulness to God, and we can read his prayer of thanks in 2 Samuel 7:18-29. God had said,

*"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever"* (2 Samuel 7:16).



So David knew that when at last his great Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) ruled in Jerusalem, he himself would be raised from the dead, so that he might share in the joys of the kingdom.

David often thought about this special promise - or covenant - that God had made with him, and he speaks about it in the Psalms. For example, in Psalm 89:2-4, we read,

*"I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations."*

David also writes of these things in Psalm 16.

*"..because you will not abandon (leave) me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay (turn back to dust)." (verse 10).*

Jesus was God's Holy One, and his body did not turn back to dust. His body did not decay, because God raised him from the dead after three days. Read through the words of the apostle Peter as recorded in Acts 2:22-32.

## **Something to look forward to**

Concerning the faithful believers who had died, Paul writes in Hebrews 11:39-40,

*"These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect."*

Now Abraham, and David, and many other faithful men, died knowing that in the day of Jesus Christ's coming they would be raised again and "made perfect" - given eternal life with all who belong to Jesus Christ.

## **A key verse**

We have seen that Jesus Christ is both the seed of Abraham and the seed of David.

The very first verse of the New Testament, Matthew 1:1 begins,

*"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham..."*

So we are only able to understand the New Testament, if we have read and understood the Old Testament.

## **Summary**

1. God promised David a son.
2. This son was to be the Son of God.
3. He was to rule on David's throne forever.
4. This son was Jesus Christ.
5. When he comes to reign on the earth, all God's faithful servants will be given eternal life, and will share in his Kingdom on earth.