

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT – Session Six



The Davidic Covenant is a covenant of sovereignty, but be reminded that Israel does not have a great record with its leadership, so far.

Leading up to the time of David, there had been a chain of judges; and, let's just say that, like the covenants we have been studying, the judges had a pattern, too.

After Joshua and Caleb led the Israelites into the Promised Land, the tribes of Israel continued their conquest of the southern regions of Canaan; however they were unable to rid the land completely of its native inhabitants as God directed them.



God specifically told the Israelites that these remaining natives would be a barrier to them and their ability to enjoy the Promised Land.

Generations passed, and the new Israelites turned away from God (surprising, right?). This time they inter-married with the Canaanites

and worshipped the local **g**ods (little g) and idols. So, God threatened to abandon them because of the disobedience of these youth. Instead, God selected a series of judges, or rulers, to act as provisional leaders for the people.

Throughout the stories of these judges, we learn that Israel's behavior follows a consistent pattern:

- the people of Israel fell into evil
- God sent a leader (judge) to save them
- once the judge dies, the people commit an even greater evil

It plays out over, and over again! These are the stories of Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and Samson, among others. For the sake of this study, we will not go into them in anymore detail, but invite you to read them for yourselves – they are incredible!

What you need to know for this study is that ultimately the pattern of the judges repeats itself until Israel finds itself without a judge at which

point it becomes even more corrupt, as if that were possible. In fact, their evil almost leads to the decimation of one of Israel's 12 tribes!

Not only did the Israelites have to contend with the consequence for their idolatry and wickedness, then they have to do it without a leader!



Israel did not do so good with the judges, so they asked God to give them a king – a human ruler.

Have you ever heard that old saying, “Be careful what you ask for?” God gave them kings – but because of their own blinders, they never saw what was coming! Saul was the first king. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, which, in the days of the judges, had almost been annihilated. Saul began his reign with a dazzling victory over the Ammonites. Saul disobeyed God, got greedy and self-important, and infuriated God!

The writer of 1 Samuel gets at how God feels about the whole matter:

“I’m sorry I ever made Saul king. He’s turned his back on me. He refuses to do what I tell him.” Things got tough for Saul; and, he is practically driven stark-raving mad as the story of his successor develops.

David, an unlikely king, started out as a little shepherd boy. He was the youngest of the 8 sons of his father, Jesse. He was the musical one – he’d sit out under the will trees while tending to his flock, play the lyre, and sing songs to God.



God, in an act of grace to the people of Israel promoted David in an epic episode that would have him, as a scrappy little teenager, conquering a Philistine Giant named Goliath, who had even the toughest of the Israelite people shaking in their boots! There's that grace, again, that God extends to God's people. God's supernatural care... Always working on behalf of the family of God!

God used David and his armies to conquer the land and drive out the Jebusites (what Israel was supposed to do, originally); David unseated Saul as King and brought the civil war to a close; and, to replaced Saul on the throne.

Then David did something powerful... David had the Ark of the Covenant brought to Jerusalem. THIS IS SIGNIFICANT!

David is had a conversation with his top advisor, Nathan. David had built himself a great palace. He even named Zion the City of David.

Now, after he does all that for himself, he began to think about how he could honor God... see the problem there?

2 Samuel 7:1-16, MSG

7 1-2 Before long, the king made himself at home and God gave him peace from all his enemies. Then one day King David said to Nathan the prophet, “Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent.”

3 Nathan told the king, “Whatever is on your heart, go and do it. God is with you.”

4-7 But that night, the word of God came to Nathan saying, “Go and tell my servant David: This is God’s word on the matter: You’re going to build a ‘house’ for me to live in? Why, I haven’t lived in a ‘house’ from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now. All that time I’ve moved about with nothing but a tent. And in all my travels with Israel, did I ever say to any of the leaders I commanded to shepherd Israel, ‘Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?’

Here is the second instance of God’s GRACE...

David (and Israel) had been at war since the moment they stepped foot in the Promised Land! If the war had not been playing out on the literal battlefield, it was playing out in the hearts of the people regarding idolatry and disobedience. But the Word says that God gave David peace from all of his enemies.

Israel had suffered greatly; they had been divided into 2 kingdoms for what had seemed like forever; political failure; people failure; shutdown; disobedience, idolatry; death, death, and more death.

Quick Question:

When is a time you can remember that God used a young person or people, like God used David, the little shepherd boy, to usher in a time of unprecedented peace from all the enemies in our lives?

David had a thought to do something nice for God in response to his promotion in life. Even though he did it out of order at least he thought about honoring God. And, God appreciated this about David's heart.

Later, his son, Solomon would write this about David:

1 Kings 8:18-19, MSG

7-19 “My father David had it in his heart to build a Temple honoring the Name of God, the God of Israel. But God told him ‘It was good that you wanted to build a Temple in my honor—most commendable! But you are not the one to do it—your son will build it to honor my Name.’

It is as if God is the proud pappa of a son who has just told his parents that one day he would buy them a house! God pats David on the back, gently and says, “that’s a beautiful thing you have on your heart, son,” all the while, thinking to God’s self, it is much more likely that I will buy you one! 😊

But God did not just give David the keys to palace... here comes even more grace. God gave Nathan, David’s trusted advisor, this word:

2 Samuel 7:8-16, MSG

8-11 “So here is what you are to tell my servant David: The God-of-the-Angel-Armies has this word for you: I took you from the pasture,

tagging along after sheep, and made you prince over my people Israel. I was with you everywhere you went and mowed your enemies down before you. Now I'm making you famous, to be ranked with the great names on earth. And I'm going to set aside a place for my people Israel and plant them there so they'll have their own home and not be knocked around any more. Nor will evil men afflict you as they always have, even during the days I set judges over my people Israel. Finally, I'm going to give you peace from all your enemies.

11-16 "Furthermore, God has this message for you: God himself will build you a house! When your life is complete and you're buried with your ancestors, then I'll raise up your child, your own flesh and blood, to succeed you, and I'll firmly establish his rule. He will build a house to honor me, and I will guarantee his kingdom's rule permanently. I'll be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I'll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never remove my gracious love from him, as I

removed it from Saul, who preceded you and whom I most certainly did remove. Your family and your kingdom are permanently secured. I'm keeping my eye on them! And your royal throne will always be there, rock solid."

Here is the 3rd GRACE - DAVID SAW GOD'S SOVEREIGN RULE
ESTABLISHED FOR ALL OF ISRAEL!

The Davidic Dynasty is a lethal blow to the enemies of God. The Israelites, yet again, saw something unprecedented happen - something so completely unusual. Remember, they had been delivered from Egypt; they had crossed the red sea, seen their enemies crushed; they had been given the Promised Land; they had been given to their enemies in the days of the judges, only now to be delivered, once again! Yet another rescue from Heaven!

God had established a sanctuary among them; and, would use David's son, Solomon, to build the temple! God used David to introduce the idea of a **shepherd king** to Israel – If God could just get them to see it!

What does a SHEPHERD KING look like in the family of God?

It looks like Jesus welcoming the children warmly, like riding into Jerusalem on an animal of peace.

Quick Question:

Are you tired of the injustices of this world? Are you tired from battling the enemies you have in your life? Are you tired of the failures of leaders? Are you ready for an unprecedented peace?

Perhaps God is wanting to establish a new king in our lives.

God continued, for a while, to use the earthly kings to establish a pattern so that Israel would ultimately know Jesus as Messiah. God continued the kingships so that Israel would remember their need for rules and a Sovereign ruler of their hearts. And, so that they would repent of their sins and know God's desire to forgive them.

There is no greater expression of that forgiveness than what we will experience during Holy Week together. And, the sovereignty of God's grace and the sovereignty of God's kingdom did not stop with David, or Solomon, either. God would have a Son, too. To give the people a sense of the sovereignty of God's Kingdom... The Davidic Dynasty would span over 400 years and ultimately arrive in Jerusalem with the Savior of the World, on a donkey...

