END-TIMES ISSUES



GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO BE READY.

AND BEYOND!

#150

Davidic covenant – Failure in Israel's history.

1

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- **An *everlasting* covenant.**

David made this statement, based on God's promise.

Is not my **house** right with God?
For He has established with me **an everlasting covenant**, ordered and secured in every part.
2 Samuel 23:5 (BSB)

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

- **A "covenant of salt."**

Do you not know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by **a covenant of salt**?
2 Chronicles 13:5 (BSB)

The salt emphasized the covenant's permanence. This was common in Middle Eastern treaties (covenants) of that time.

2

GOD SAID TO DAVID...

The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will **establish a house** [= dynasty] **for you**:

When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will **raise up your offspring to succeed you**, your own flesh and blood, and I will **establish his kingdom**.

He is the one who will build a house [= temple] **for my Name**, and I will **establish the throne of his kingdom forever**.

I will be his father, and he will be my son.
2 Samuel 7:11b-14a (NIV)

- **God gave David the *plans* for the temple and its contents.** (These things are described in the context surrounding the following verses.)

Then David gave his son Solomon **the plans** ...
He gave him **the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind** ...
"All this," David said, "I have in writing as **a result of the LORD's hand on me**, and he **enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.**"
1 Chronicles 28:11a, 12a, 19 (NIV)

3

- **David provided many of the *resources* that would be used in building the temple.** (The context describes what he provided.)

With all my **resources I have provided** for the temple of my God ...
...I now give **my personal treasures** of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ...
1 Chronicles 29:2a, 3b (NIV)

★ YET HE COULD NOT *BUILD* THE TEMPLE. ★

Here is why:

"**You have shed much blood and waged great wars.** You are not to build a house for My Name because you have shed so much blood on the ground before Me.

But a son will be born to you who will be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side..."
1 Chronicles 22:8b-9a (BSB)

4

WHO WOULD BUILD THE TEMPLE?

- **The original statement does not specify who it would be.** In the long run, this would prove to be an important issue. But at this point in Israel's history, we don't know that. (Only later do we find out.)

ORIGINAL PROMISE

... I will **raise up your offspring to succeed you**, your own flesh and blood, and I will **establish his kingdom**.

He is the one who will build a house [= temple] **for my Name**, and I will **establish the throne of his kingdom forever**.

I will be his father, and he will be my son.
2 Samuel 7:12b-14a (NIV)

- **Soon, we learn that Solomon will build the temple.** Note the parallels between this passage and the original statement.

"... **his name will be Solomon**, and I will grant to Israel peace and quiet during his reign.

He is the one who will build a house for My Name. He will be My son, and I will be his Father."
1 Chronicles 22:9b-10a (BSB)

5

There was also an ominous warning in the original promise: A warning about wrongdoing and punishment.

- **Yet the warning was not *all* bleak. There were also *two promises* connected to it.**
  - ✓ God would continue to have a *commitment love* toward the son who was mentioned in the context. (Eventually, we find out that this is for *David's* sake. Here is why:)
  - ✓ God's promise to *David* would not be cancelled by anything that happened. God's promise to him was *permanently guaranteed*.

ORIGINAL PROMISE

When he does wrong, **I will punish him** with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

But **my love will never be taken away** from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

Your **house** and your **kingdom** will **endure forever** before me; your **throne** will be **established forever**.
2 Samuel 7:14b-16 (NIV)

6

WHAT DID SOLOMON EXPECT?

- **He expected to have a lasting dynasty. He expected David's throne to remain secure forever.**

> And now, as surely as **the LORD** lives—the One who established me, who set **me on the throne of my father David**, and who **founded for me a dynasty** as He promised …
>
> 1 Kings 2:24a (BSB)

> "But King Solomon will be blessed and **David's throne will remain secure** before the LORD **forever**."
>
> 1 Kings 2:45 (BSB)

- **Besides, God also said…** (But note the context – see the next page.)

> "[Solomon] … will build a house for My Name. He will be My son, and I will be his Father."
>
> And **I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever**.
>
> 1 Chronicles 22:9b-10 (BSB)

7

The problem is… there is also an "IF" attached to Solomon's future.
This would determine what happened with the promise.

- **Solomon knew it.** Later in the 1 Chronicles 22 passage (quoting God):

> "Then you will succeed, **if you carefully follow the statutes and ordinances** that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel."
>
> 1 Chronicles 22:13a (BSB)

Other statements made by God:

> [quoted by David:] "**I will establish his kingdom forever, if he resolutely carries out My commandments and ordinances**, as is being done this day."
>
> 1 Chronicles 28:7 (BSB)

> "As for this temple you are building, **if you walk in My statutes, carry out My ordinances, and keep all My commandments by walking in them, I will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David**. And I will dwell among the Israelites and will not abandon My people Israel."
>
> 1 Kings 6:11-13 (BSB)

8

So what happened?

- **Solomon was on the throne; the temple was built.** God kept his promise.

> "**The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel**, just as the LORD promised, and **I have built the temple** for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel."
>
> 1 Kings 8:20 (NIV); also in 2 Chronicles 6:10

- **Then, once again, God warns him about the "IF."**
  - ✓ **First, the "POSITIVE" side of the "IF":**

> "And as for you, **if you walk before Me as your father David walked**, doing all I have commanded you, and **if you keep My statutes and ordinances**, then **I will establish your royal throne**, as I covenanted with your father David when I said, 'You will never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.' "
>
> 2 Chronicles 7:17-18 (BSB); see also parallel passage in 1 Kings 9:4-5

9

✓ **Second, the "NEGATIVE" side of the "IF":**

> "But **if you turn away and forsake the statutes and commandments** I have set before you, and **if you go off to serve and worship other gods**, then **I will uproot Israel** from the soil I have given them, and **I will banish from My presence this temple** I have sanctified for My Name. I will make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.
>
> And when this temple has **become a heap of rubble**, all who pass by it will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'
>
> And others will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, He has brought all this disaster upon them.' "
>
> 2 Chronicles 7:19-22 (BSB); see also parallel passage in 1 Kings 9:6-9

The consequences would affect the entire nation.
What the king did would parallel what the people did.

10

Did Solomon heed God's warning? NO.
He may have had great wisdom… but <u>in this matter, he was very foolish</u>.

- **Solomon married many foreign women who followed *false* gods; and they turned his heart toward those other gods.**
- **<u>THE RESULT</u>:**
  - **① He was no longer fully devoted to the true God.**

> King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women … These women were from the nations about which **the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, for surely they will turn your hearts after their gods."** Yet Solomon clung to these women in love.
>
> … **and his wives turned his heart away**. For when Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and **he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God**, as his father David had been.
>
> 1 Kings 11:1a, 2a, 3b-4 (BSB)

  - **② God raised up adversaries, who would trouble him for the rest of his life – 1 Kings 11:14+.**

11

③ The kingdom that had reached its peak under Solomon would begin a decline that would eventually result in its complete ruin.

- » God would take away 10 of the tribes.
- » For David's sake, the process would begin with Solomon's *son* (instead of with Solomon).

> Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, **I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant**.
>
> Nevertheless, **for the sake of your father David, I will not do it during your lifetime**; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
>
> Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. **I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen**."
>
> 1 Kings 11:11-13 (BSB)

- **And after that, things got worse…** ↘

12

HISTORY *AFTER* THE DIVISION: THE NORTHERN KINGDOM.

- **The Northern Kingdom became apostate rather quickly.**
  - ✓ **King Jeroboam made two golden calves to represent the God of Israel** (a violation of the Second Commandment, about images).
  - ✓ **This eventually merged with the polytheism of the surrounding nations.** In the end, many of the people worshipped a variety of gods (a violation of the First Commandment, about worshipping other gods).
- **The kings ranged from "bad" to "evil" to "very evil."** (One king, Jehu, sometimes seemed "good," when it was to his political advantage.)
- **The main prophets who confronted the sins of the Northern Kingdom were:**
  - ✓ **Elijah and Elisha** (who did not write books of the Bible).
  - ✓ **Amos and Hosea** (who wrote the books that have their names). Both of these prophets said something related to the Davidic Covenant.

13

- **The Northern Kingdom continued to reject God … and God eventually let the Assyrians destroy the nation and deport the people.**

> This happened because **they did not listen to the voice of the LORD** their God, but **violated His covenant**—all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded—and **would neither listen nor obey**.
>
> 2 Kings 18:12 (BSB)

- **It would seem that the Northern Kingdom's end is permanent.**
  - ✓ **Amos and Hosea both warned them**, and their warnings were not heeded.
  - ✓ **Yet these prophets also spoke of a future day** (not yet fulfilled), in which the people would return – both to God and to David. In other words, the apostasy would come to an end, and the divided kingdom would be reunited.

14

HISTORY *AFTER* THE DIVISION: THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH).*

- **The Southern Kingdom became apostate, but at a slower rate.**
  - ✓ **Though the over-all trend** was downward, there were also times of spiritual revival.
  - ✓ **The physical condition of the temple** tended to mirror the people's spiritual condition.
- **There were good kings, as well as evil kings.**
- **In the end, the kingdom was conquered by the Babylonians, the temple burned, and most of the people were sent into exile.**
  - ✓ Years later, they would be allowed to return and build a new temple. But they would be under the rule of foreign nations; and the temple building would never be as glorious as the original one.

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* ("Judah" refers to the Southern Kingdom, after the split. The New Testament term "Judea" represents a smaller administrative territory or province around Jerusalem, defined by the Romans.)

15

- **But they had something the Northern Kingdom *didn't* have.**
  - ✓ Even when God was punishing Solomon, ***God had David on his mind***. Below is what God said (through a prophet) to Jeroboam, who would eventually take-over 10 of the tribes:

> … I will give you ten tribes. … Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand, because **I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David My servant, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and statutes**.
>
> **I will give one tribe to his son, so that My servant David will always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put My Name**.
>
> 1 Kings 11:31b, 34, 36 (BSB)

- **For as long as possible, God protected the Southern Kingdom from being totally destroyed**, even when he had to send other nations ("human hands") to punish them. As the original promise stated:

ORIGINAL PROMISE

> When he does wrong, **I will punish him** with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.
>
> 2 Samuel 7:14b (NIV)

16

- **At the same time, God would continue to show his "commitment love" to the people** – not just by *blessing them* when they were faithful to him, but also by *not utterly destroying them* when they deserved it.
  - ✓ This was based on what God had originally promised:

ORIGINAL PROMISE

> But **my love will never be taken away** from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.
>
> 2 Samuel 7:15 (NIV)

  - ✓ He would do this, even when it seemed to be only for David's sake, so that the original promise could continue:

ORIGINAL PROMISE

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

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES.

17

- ✓ **Abijah (also called Abijam), son of Rehoboam** – His life was characterized by religious compromise and idolatry. But sometimes he sounded faithful to God, such as when he confronted Jeroboam, king of the Northern Kingdom:

> Do you not know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has **given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever** by a covenant of salt ?
>
> And now you think you can resist **the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hands of David's descendants**.
>
> 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8 (BSB)

- ✓ **God would raise up Abijah's son (Asa), who would be a good king.** – He would not commit the spiritual compromises of his father.

> Nevertheless, **for the sake of David**, the LORD his God gave him **a lamp in Jerusalem** by raising up a son to succeed him and to make Jerusalem strong. **For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not turned aside from anything the LORD commanded all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**
>
> 1 Kings 15:4-5 (BSB)

18

✓ **Jehoram, a wicked king** – He followed the ways of wicked Ahab (King of the Northern Kingdom). He even married Ahab's evil daughter. *Yet God did not destroy the nation.*

> Yet **for the sake of His servant David**, **the LORD was unwilling to destroy Judah**, since **He had promised to maintain a lamp* for David and his descendants forever**.
> 2 Kings 8:19 (BSB); see also 2 Chronicles 21:7.

✓ **Joash – when he was about to be made king.** After the death of Jehoram and King Ahaziah (his son), the queen mother (Jehoram's wife) tried to kill-off the remaining royal family. Joash (at that time, a baby), was the only survivor, being kept hidden until he could be made king. When that time came, Jehoiada, the priest presented him…

> "Behold, the king's son!" said Jehoiada. "**He must reign**, **just as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David**."
> 2 Chronicles 23:3b (BSB)

* (A "lamp for David" – figurative language, referring to an enduring royal line. As kings under God, they were also supposed to reflect the "light" of God's truth – though they rarely did, until Jesus Christ, the final "Son of David," came.)

✓ **In the days of King Hezekiah** – He was one of the best kings after David. In his days, God spared Jerusalem from destruction; He also added 15 years to Hezekiah's life.

> I will defend this city
> and save it
> **for My own sake**
> and **for the sake of My servant David**.
> 2 Kings 19:34 (BSB)

> I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city **for My sake** and **for the sake of My servant David**.
> 2 Kings 20:6 (BSB)

★ **Yet in spite of all this** – The time would eventually come, when God had no choice but to punish Judea for its sin and apostasy. The nation was destroyed; the temple destroyed, and the people went into exile.

WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE? DID GOD FAIL?

- **It seems that the covenant failed**, no matter how hard God tried to keep it going.
  - ***But did it?*** The prophets didn't think so. They realized that ***God never fails***. (It's not a matter of God "trying" to make it happen! It *will* happen.)
- **Today, thousands of years later, we know what they didn't know.**
  - **But what if we were living back then?** Would we have believed the prophets?
- **Today, we can see how the promise has been fulfilled (so far):** *partly* and in *ways that are greater* than what we could have ever expected, *if we were living back then.*
  - ***Yet even now, the ultimate fulfillment is still in the future.***

- **Perhaps we could say that what happened in the past (beginning with Solomon's earlier days) was a good start.**
  - ***But it wasn't good enough to completely fulfill the promise.*** It was *doomed* to fail, because *none* of us are without sin.
- **But God had plans… and *no human – or devil – can thwart his plans.***
  - **And the exact wording of the original covenant promise gives us a clue.** It leaves the door open for the final – and greatest – fulfillment.

- **So, can we learn from this?** **Or does it matter?**
- **SHOULD KNOWING THESE THINGS HAVE ANY IMPACT ON *OUR* LIVES?**

OUR MISSION!

For *thousands* of years, people trusted God in many circumstances, *even though they couldn't see the results of what God had promised.*

Hebrews 11 gives us quite a few examples of this.

But there are actually *millions* of other examples – people we will never know, until we meet them, when in Jesus' presence.

CONSIDER THE PROMISES GOD HAS MADE TO YOU.

>> Not daydreams, or things we might *wish* were promises. <<
>> Not misinterpretations, but *REAL* promises in Scripture. <<

Many of them might *never* be fulfilled in this present life.
But do you still trust God to be faithful in what he has said?
Or do you think he might have failed, been wrong, or even lied?

Credits

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