

# 1 Chronicles 17 - The Davidic Covenant

- II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)
  - (4) Davidic covenant (17:1-27)

## The Davidic Covenant in Chronicles

- 1 Chr 17:7-27 - God to Nathan to David
- 1 Chr 22:6-16 - David to Solomon
- 1 Chr 28:6-7 - David to Solomon
- 2 Chr 6:8-12,16-17 - Solomon to the Nation
- 2 Chr 7:17-18 - God to Solomon
- 2 Chr 13:4-5 - Abijah to Jeroboam
- 2 Chr 21:7 - Chronicle's Commentary

## 1 Chronicles 17

(4) Davidic covenant (17:1-27) (Cf. 2 Sam 7:1-10a)

**1** And it came about, when David lived in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "Look, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains."

**1** And it came about, when David dwelt in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I am dwelling in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under curtains."

**1** After David had settled down to live in his palace, he spoke with the prophet Nathan. "Look, here I am living in this cedar palace, but the ark of the LORD's covenant remains surrounded by curtains!"

**1** Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains."

**2** Then Nathan said to David, "Do whatever is in your heart, for God is with you."

**2** Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."

**2** "Do everything you have in mind," Nathan replied to David, "because God is with you."

**2** Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

- Having communicated his desires to Nathan, whose initial response was favorable, David would soon learn that his intentions were premature

— God was also pleased with David's desire (2 Chr 6:8)

3 But it happened that same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,  
3 It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,  
3 But later that same night, this message came to Nathan from God:  
3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

4 "Go and tell David My servant, 'This is what the LORD says: "You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in;

4 "Go and tell David My servant, 'Thus says the LORD, "You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in;

4 "Go tell David, my servant, 'This is what the LORD says:

""You won't be building a house for me to inhabit, will you?

4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

5 for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from *one* dwelling place *to another*.

5 for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from *one* dwelling place *to another*.

5 After all, I haven't lived in a house from the day I brought out Israel until today. Instead, I've lived from tent to tent and from one place to another.

5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.

- The divine message to David through Nathan is almost identical here in its wording to 2 Sam 7:1-17

6 In all places where I have walked with all Israel, have I spoken a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

6 In all places where I have walked with all Israel, have I spoken a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built for Me a house of cedar?'"

6 Wherever I've moved within all of Israel, did I ever ask even one judge of Israel whom I commanded to shepherd my people, 'Why haven't you built me a cedar house?'"

6 Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

- The primary reason God did not allow David to build Him a Temple was that God, not David, was sovereign
- God alone reserved the right to choose who should build such a place, as well as when and where he should build it
- David's plans were premature and presumptuous (Cf. Israel's desire to have a king like other nations), though understandable and pardonable because his intent was to glorify God

### **3 Reasons God Rejected David's Plans**

(1) There was no pressing need to do so since the Ark had resided in tents since the Exodus. The tent currently occupied was the one David had pitched for it in Jerusalem (6:17), not the Tabernacle that then stood at Gibeon (1 Chr 16:1,39; 21:28-30)

(2) God had not commanded His people to build Him a permanent temple. Before God raised up kings in Israel, God Himself dealt directly with the tribes of Israel during the period of the Judges, at a time when the tribal leaders were responsible to shepherd the Israelites in their areas.

(3) David was the wrong person to build a temple since he had shed much blood (Cf. 1 Chr 22:8; 28:3). He had become ritually unclean because of all the killing he had been responsible for during his long reign. This was not true of Solomon (Cf. 1 Kings 6:1).

Notice that it was not because God was disciplining David or had rejected him that He prohibited David's good intention. God was simply redirecting His servant. He was to be a ruler (v8), not a temple builder. Similarly, God does not always permit us to carry out our desires to honor Him, such as becoming a pastor or missionary. He sometimes makes this impossible because He wants us to serve Him in other ways.

7 Now, therefore, this is what you shall say to My servant David: 'This is what the LORD of armies says: "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel.

7 Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel.

7 "Now therefore this is what you are to tell my servant David:

'This is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies says: "I took you from the pasture myself—from tending sheep—to become Commander-in-Chief over my people Israel.

7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheeppcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

8 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have eliminated all your enemies from you; and I will make for you a name like the name of the great ones who are on the earth.

8 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 name like the name of the great ones who are in the earth.

8 ""Furthermore, I have remained with you everywhere you have gone, annihilating all your enemies right in front of you. I will make your reputation great, like the reputation of the great ones who have lived on earth.

8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

- God promised David victory over his enemies; that victory is recorded in 1 Chr 18-20

9 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them *there*, so that they may live in their own place and not tremble *with anxiety* again; and the wicked will not make them waste away anymore as *they did* previously,

9 I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and not be moved again; and the wicked will not waste them anymore as formerly,

9 I will establish a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure location where they will never be disturbed anymore. Wicked people will not oppress them as happened in the past,

9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

### **The Davidic Covenant (Cf. 2 Sam 7:10b-17) [Covenant, Davidic](#)**

- The house to be built for David would be a royal house, a dynasty of kings. It would originate with him but would never end (2 Sam 7:16).
- The kingdom and its throne would be permanent, a realm over which the Son of David would reign forever (2 Sam 23:5).
- The promise that David and his seed would be kings fulfilled the even more ancient Abrahamic Covenant blessing that the patriarchs would be the fathers of kings (Gen 17:6,16; 35:11).
- To Judah, great-grandson of Abraham, was given the explicit pledge that a promised ruler would come from him (Gen 49:10).
- Samuel anointed David himself from Judah, of whom the Lord said, "He is the one" (1 Sam 16:12)

- David was aware of his election by God and of the theological significance of that election as part of the messianic line that would result in a divine Descendant and King (Ps 2:6-7; 110; Cf. Ethan's words, Ps 89:3-4)
- The prophets also attested to the Davidic Messiah, the One who would rule over all and forever on His throne (Is 9:1-7; 11:1-5; Jer 30:4-11; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Amos 9:11-15).
- The promise that the people of the Lord, David's kingdom Israel, would have an enduring land of their own was also based on earlier commitments of the Lord:
  - The seed of Abraham, God said, would be given Canaan as a home forever (Gen 13:15; 15:18; 17:8; Deut 34:4)

### The Kingdom of David's Greater Son

- Is 9:6-7
- Jer 23:5-6
- Jer 33:22,25-26
- Jer 30:8-9
- Jer 33:14-17,20-21
- Ezek 37:24-25
- Daniel 7:13-14
- Hosea 3:4-5
- Amos 9:11
- Zech 14:3-9
- Luke 1:31-33

Luke 1:31-33:

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

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."

The emphasis on this second account of the Davidic Covenant is on the Messiah. The emphasis of the first account (2 Sam 7:4-17) is on Solomon.

10 even from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies.

Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will **build a house for you.**

10 even from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies.

Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will build a house for you.

10 during the time I had commanded judges to administer my people Israel. I'll also grant you deliverance from all your enemies.

""I'm also announcing to you that the LORD also will himself build a house for you.

10 And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

- "...build a house for you" - David is promised a dynasty

11 When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, then I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be from your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

11 When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

11 It will come about that when your life is complete and you go to join your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who is related to one of your sons, and I will fortify his kingdom.

11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

- After David's death, a descendant of one of his sons will be established in the kingdom.

— The account in 2 Sam 7 speaks of one of David's own sons, Solomon; but the 1 Chr 17 passage speaks of a descendant of one of David's sons, namely Jesus, who was a descendant of Nathan.

12 He shall build for Me a **house**, and I will establish his throne forever.

12 He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

12 He will build a temple dedicated to me, and I will make his throne last forever.

12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

- "...house" - dynasty; David learned that God would build a house for David instead! (Cf. v25,27)

— This descendant of David, the Messiah, will also build God a temple, the Millennial Temple, and His Throne will be established forever.

In 2 Sam 7:14-15, God warns of discipline if David's descendants failed were directed to Solomon and the kings that followed him through Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. In 1 Chr 17, those warnings are missing. This likely indicates that the Chronicler was looking beyond

the kings of Judah, who had failed and died, to the King who was yet to come. This King would carry out God's will perfectly

13 I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My favor away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

13 I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

13 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to me. I will never remove my gracious love from him as I did from the one who preceded you.

13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

- God's mercy will never be removed from this One

— The 2 Sam 7 account emphasized Solomon, so there was a possibility of sin. Because the 1 Chr 17 account emphasizes the Messiah, there is no possibility of sin, and therefore no mention of it.

- "...him that was before thee" - 2 Sam 7:15 refers to Saul by name, however here the chronicler simply called him David's predecessor: this may reflect a certain abhorrence toward Saul on the chronicler's part.

— Along with Ps 2:7,12, this verse is one of the major OT revelations on the deity of the Messiah. It foretells Jesus' being uniquely God's Son (Heb 1:5) as it is not applicable to Solomon or to any other of David's more immediate successors.

Two key differences between the Davidic Covenant in 2 Sam 7 & 1 Chr 17:

(1) The subject in 1 Chr 17 comes from one of David's descendants; in 2 Sam 7, it referred to David's direct descendant, Solomon

(2) In 1 Chr 17, there is no mention of sin because David's distant Son will not have a sin nature; 2 Sam 7 refers to Solomon, thus there was a possibility of sin, and thus, discipline

14 But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne will be established forever.""

14 But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.""

14 I will confirm him in my Temple and in my kingdom forever, and his throne will remain secure forever.""

14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

- This eschatological inauguration prophesied here will constitute the most tremendous intervention of divine power in human history
  - Both the Old and New Testament Scriptures all bear witness to this fact
- It is the Messiah Himself who is established forever, not merely the Dynasty, Kingdom and Throne
  - It is Yahweh who was the real King of Israel, even though He exercised His rule on earth through human mediators
- Thus, the Davidic Covenant promised four eternal things:
  - (1) an Eternal Dynasty
  - (2) an Eternal Kingdom
  - (3) an Eternal Throne
  - (4) an Eternal Person
- The eternity of the Dynasty, Kingdom and Throne are guaranteed only because the seed of David culminated in the Person who Himself is eternal.
- The Messiah holds three offices: Prophet, Priest, King. However, He does not function in all three offices simultaneously. Rather, the functioning of these three offices is carried out chronologically.
  - Prophet: During His 1st coming and earthly ministry
  - Priest: Since His death and resurrection, while in heaven, until He returns
  - King: (He has never functioned in the office as King) This will be inaugurated at His 2nd Coming, when He re-establishes the Davidic Throne upon which He will sit to rule as King over Israel and King of the World.
- The Davidic Covenant was unconditional both in its granting and in its perpetuity. However, the benefits of the covenant to David and to the nation depended on their obedience to the terms of the Mosaic Covenant within which the monarchy functioned. In this respect, and only in this respect, was the Davidic Covenant conditional.

### **The Davidic Covenant: 2 Sam 7**

- Affects all that follows in the Scriptures and in the history of mankind:
  - Divine confirmation of throne in Israel
  - Perpetuity of the Davidic Dynasty
  - Davidic Covenant is unconditional
  - Messianic Implications: "Son of David, Son of Abraham" (Matt 1:1); "Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David" (Rev 5:5)

### **The Scarlet Thread Continues**

- The "Seed of the Woman" (The Race) (Gen 3:15)
- Abraham (The Nation) (Gen 22:18)

- Jacob (The Tribe) (Gen 49:10)
- David (The Family) (2 Sam 7:11-16)

### **The Davidic Messiah**

- Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 17:6,16; 35:11)
- Promised to Judah (Gen 49:10)
- Anointed by Samuel (1 Sam 16:12)
- David aware of his election (Ps 2:6-7; 110)
- Prophets attest to a Davidic Messiah (Is 9:1-7; 11:1-5; Jer 30:4-11; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Amos 9:11-15)

15 According to all these words and according to all of this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

15 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

15 Using precisely these words, Nathan communicated this complete oracle to David.

**15** According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

### **David's Prayer of Thanksgiving (Cf. 2 Sam 7:18-29)**

**16** Then King David came in and sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?"

**16** Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?"

**16** Then King David went in, sat down in the presence of the LORD, and said: "Who am I, LORD God, and what is my household, since you have brought me to this?"

**16** And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

17 This was a small thing in Your eyes, God; but You have spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have viewed me according to the standard of a person of high degree, LORD God.

17 This was a small thing in Your eyes, O God; but You have spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the standard of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

17 Furthermore, this is a small thing to you, God, and yet you have spoken concerning your servant's household for a great while to come, and you have seen in me the fulfillment of man's purpose, LORD God.

17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

18 What more can David still say to You concerning the honor *bestowed* on Your servant? For You know Your servant.

18 What more can David still say to You concerning the honor *bestowed* on Your servant? For You know Your servant.

18 "What more can David say to you about how you are honoring your servant, and you surely know your servant.

18 What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.

19 LORD, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have accomplished all this greatness, to make known all these great things.

19 O Lord, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have wrought all this greatness, to make known all these great things.

19 LORD, for the sake of your servant, and consistent with your heart, you have done all of these great things and are now making these great things known.

19 O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

20 LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to everything that we have heard with our ears.

20 O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

20 "LORD, there is no one like you, and we have heard from no god other than you.

20 O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

21 And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for You a name by great and awesome things, by driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed from Egypt?

21 And what one nation in the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt?

21 What other one nation on the earth is like your people Israel, God, which you have redeemed from slavery to become your own people, making a great name for yourself

when you redeemed your people from Egypt. You did awesome miraculous deeds, driving out nations that stood in their way.

21 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

22 For You have made Your people Israel Your own people forever, and You, LORD, became their God.

22 For Your people Israel You made Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, became their God.

22 You took your people Israel to be your very own people forever, and you, LORD, have become their God.

22 For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God.

**23** "Now, LORD, let the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house be established forever, and do just as You have spoken.

**23** "Now, O LORD, let the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house be established forever, and do as You have spoken.

**23** "And now, LORD, let what you have spoken concerning your servant and his household be done forever—and let it be done just as you've promised.

**23** Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

24 Let Your name be established and be great forever, saying, 'The LORD of armies is the God of Israel, a God to Israel; and the house of Your servant David is established before You.'

24 Let Your name be established and magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, *even* a God to Israel; and the house of David Your servant is established before You.'

24 May your name be made great and honored forever: The LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of Israel, is God for Israel, and may the family of David your servant stand before you forever.

24 Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, *even* a God to Israel: and let the house of David thy servant be established before thee.

25 For You, my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a **house**; therefore Your servant has found *courage* to pray before You.

25 For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build for him a house; therefore Your servant has found *courage* to pray before You.

25 "Because of you, my God, I have been bold to pray to you, as you have told your servant that you will build him a dynasty.

25 For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found in his heart to pray before thee.

- "...house" - dynasty

26 Now, LORD, You are God, and have promised this good thing to Your servant.

26 Now, O LORD, You are God, and have promised this good thing to Your servant.

26 And now, LORD, you are God, and you have promised all of these good things to your servant.

26 And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

27 And now You have decided to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You; for You, LORD, have blessed, and it is blessed forever."

27 And now it has pleased You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You; for You, O LORD, have blessed, and it is blessed forever."

27 Furthermore, it has pleased you to bless the dynasty of your servant, so that it will continue in place forever in your presence, because when you, LORD, grant a blessing, it is an eternal blessing."

27 Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever.