

Covenant, Davidic

The Davidic Covenant is found in two passages:

- 2 Sam 7:11-16 - emphasis on Solomon
- 1 Chr 17:10-14 - emphasis on the Messiah

The Davidic Covenant is the foundation upon which the future millennial kingdom of Christ is grounded. This unconditional covenant was made between God and David, who stands as the head of the Davidic House and Dynasty, the only rightful claimant to the Davidic Throne in Jerusalem.

Solomon, whose birth God predicted (2 Sam 7:12), was not promised a perpetual seed, but only assured that:

1. His kingdom would be established (2 Sam 7:12)
2. He would build "an house for my name" (2 Sam 7:13)
3. His throne (i.e. royal authority) would endure forever (2 Sam 7:13)
4. If Solomon sinned, he would be chastised but not deposed (2 Sam 7:14-15)

The continuance of Solomon's throne, but not Solomon's seed, shows the accuracy of the prediction. Most of these items will be fulfilled during the millennial reign of Christ.

From both Biblical accounts, we find 7 provisions:

1. David is promised an eternal dynasty (2 Sam 7:11b,16; 1 Chr 17:10b)
 - a. Nothing could ever destroy the House of David; it will always be in existence
 - b. Although it is unknown who they are, to this day somewhere in the Jewish world members of the House of David still exist
2. One of David's own sons, Solomon, was to be established on the throne after David (2 Sam 7:12)
 - a. Absalom and Adonijah, two of David's other sons, tried to usurp the throne; but Solomon, and Solomon alone, was to be established on David's throne
3. Solomon would build the Temple (2 Sam 7:13a)
 - a. Although David had greatly desired to build God's Temple, his hands had shed much blood and he was guilty of murder at one point. Thus, he was forbidden to build the Temple, and the job would rest with his son, Solomon.
4. The throne of David's kingdom was to be established for ever (2 Sam 7:13b,16)

- a. ***It was not Solomon himself who was promised to be established for ever, but rather, the throne upon which he would sit.***
- b. Earlier God did remove His *lovingkindness* from King Saul because of disobedience. But the promise is made that although Solomon may disobey and require God's discipline, God's *lovingkindness* will never depart from him.
- c. The word *lovingkindness* emphasized covenant loyalty. Solomon did fall into idolatry, the worst sin possible in Scripture. The sin of Saul was not as great as the sin of Solomon. Yet the kingdom was taken away from the House of Saul, but not the House of David. This shows the nature of an unconditional covenant. Solomon was under such a covenant, but Saul was not.

5. The Messiah will come from the Seed of David (1 Chr 17:11)

- a. The emphasis in the 2 Sam passage is on Solomon, but in the 1 Chr passage, it is on the Messiah
- b. In the 1 Chr passage, God is not speaking of one of David's own sons to be established upon the throne *for ever*, but the Seed of one of his sons coming many years later

6. The Messiah and His *throne, house, and kingdom* will be established *for ever* (1 Chr 17:12-15)

- a. In this passage, it is the Person Himself that is established upon David's throne for ever, not merely the throne
- b. Clearly, the emphasis in the 1 Chr passage is not on Solomon, but on the Messiah. That is why this passage does not mention the possibility of sin as the 2 Sam passage does, for in His *throne, His house, and His kingdom* are to be established *for ever*.

To summarize the Davidic Covenant, God promised David four eternal things: an eternal House or dynasty, an eternal Throne, an eternal Kingdom, and an eternal Descendant. The eternality of the House, Throne, and Kingdom is guaranteed because the Seed of David culminates in One who is Himself eternal: the Messiah Jesus Christ.

The unique importance of the Davidic Covenant is that it amplifies the Seed aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant. According to the Abrahamic Covenant, the Messiah was to be of the Seed of Abraham. This merely stated that He was to be a Jew and could be of any of the Twelve Tribes. Later, in the time of Jacob, the Seed aspect was limited to a member of the Tribe of Judah only (Gen 49:10). ***Now the Messianic Seed aspect is further narrowed to one family within the Tribe of Judah, the family of David.***

Thus there has been a gradual narrowing of the Seed:

- According to the Edenic Covenant, the Messiah must be of the Seed of the woman, but this meant He could come from any part of humanity

- According to the Abrahamic Covenant, He had to come out of Jewish humanity, which meant He could come out of any tribe of Israel
 - With the confirmation of this covenant, through Jacob's twelve sons, He now had to come out of the Tribe of Judah, but this permits Him to come from any family of Judah
- With the Davidic Covenant, the Messiah had to come from the seed of David
 - It will be narrowed one step further in Jer 22:24-30, which shows the Messiah had to come from the House of David, but apart from Jeconiah

In a number of other passages, the Davidic Covenant received further confirmation: 2 Sam 23:1-5; Ps 89:1-52; Is 9:6-7; 11:1; Jer 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-17,19-26; Ezek 37:24-25; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11; Luke 1:30-35,68-70; Acts 15:14-18.

David's Throne

Some argue that when Christ ascended to heaven that He sat on David's throne. However, Jesus said, "'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne'" (Rev 3:21). This passage makes it clear that Jesus is not on David's throne today, but seated at the right hand of the Father. The NT further teaches that during His Present Session, He is making intercession for believers (Heb 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2), which explains why He is seated at the Father's right hand. It is true that the NT argues that Jesus became qualified to sit on David's throne at His first coming (Acts 2:22-36), nevertheless, Jesus remains in heaven (Acts 3:21) until Israel repents (Acts 3:19) and then will come the "times of refreshing" and the "period of restoration of all things," (Acts 3:19,21) which we know as the Millennial Kingdom. This is when Jesus will reign on David's throne from Jerusalem. There is no biblical evidence for a present spiritual fulfillment or inaugurated form of the Davidic covenant.

The Davidic Covenant is unconditional and eternal, and is still in effect today.