

The Life of David – Supplement II

The Davidic Covenant

Introduction

- At Christmas, we highlight that Christ was of the lineage of David
 - As a fulfillment of prophecy – Jeremiah 23:5
 - Though Joseph was a legal link – Matthew 1:1,6
 - Through Mary was a physical link – Luke 3:31
- Christ is acknowledged as descendant David some 15x in the New Testament.
 - 6x in Matthew – 12:23, 15:22, 20:30, 20:31, 21:9, 22:42
 - 2x in Mark – 10:47, 10:48
 - 3x in Luke – 1:32, 18:38, 18:39
 - Also in Romans 1:3, II Timothy 2:8, Revelation 5:5, 22:16
- In this lesson we look at the importance of this connection of Christ to David in light of the Davidic Covenant.

Promises of the Davidic Covenant

- The first and fullest details are found in II Samuel 7:12-16. There are many other references to it, including Psalm 89:3-4 and 34-36, Jeremiah 23:5 and 30:9, Isaiah 9:7 and 11:1, Luke 1:32 and 69, Acts 13:34, and Revelation 3:7.
- The five key promises made:
 - David will have another child (Solomon) that will rule after him – II Samuel 7:12
 - That Solomon would build the Temple – II Samuel 7:13
 - The throne would be established through Solomon – II Samuel 7:13
 - God would not remove Solomon, even though he would deserve it – II Samuel 7:14-15
 - David's house (posterity), throne (regal line), and kingdom (rule or kingdom) would be established forever – II Samuel 7:16

Fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant

- The first four promises can be proven historically and scripturally to have been fulfilled. David's royal line continued through Solomon who built the Temple.
- There appears to be a problem when we come to the promise about the throne being established *forever*.
 - The use of language like *forever* means this must extend beyond the historic empire of Solomon.

- Zedekiah was the last king of Judah (II Kings 25), defeated and deposed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and there has not been another king over Israel from the line of David.
 - Does this prove the prophecy untrue? John Walvoord writes: "...the line which was to fulfill the promise of the eternal throne and eternal kingdom over Israel was preserved by God through a lineage which in fact did not sit on the throne at all, from Nathan down to Christ. It is, then, not necessary for the line to be unbroken as to actual conduct of the kingdom, but it is rather that the lineage, royal prerogative, and right to the throne be preserved and *never lost*, even in sin, captivity, and dispersion. It is not necessary, then, for continuous political government to be in effect, but it is *necessary that the line be not lost.*" (as quoted in *Things to Come*, p. 113)
- The solution on the fulfillment of this promise is that there is a future, literal fulfillment.
 - Dwight Pentecost in *Things to Come* (p. 114-115) points to five elements that must be true of Israel's future.
 - Israel must exist as a nation.
 - Israel must be in the land.
 - Christ must be present bodily to reign.
 - Christ must rule over a literal kingdom.
 - A spiritual kingdom does not fulfill the prophecies.
 - There must be no end to Christ's rule.
 - The first two of these are true today after an absence of some 1,900 years.
 - The last three anticipate the Millennial Kingdom of Christ – Revelation 20:1-6