

David's Throne Was Cast Down

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David's Throne Was to Endure Forever (Ps. 89:35-37).

David's Throne Was Cast Down (Ps. 89:44).

At the heart of the apparent contradiction in the scriptures above, is the idea that God has to fulfill His part of a promise, or covenant, even if the other party reneges on their obligations within that same agreement. The truth of the matter is that God will ultimately fulfill all His promises, but that does not mean interim adjustments will never occur. For instance, God promised to give the Israelites their own country but there were conditions attached, and if they failed to obey God's commands they would be removed from their new land,

But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you (Dt. 28:15; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

And it shall be, that just as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and **you shall be plucked off the land which you go to possess.**⁶⁴ Then **the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other**, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) have known – wood and stone (Dt. 28:63-64; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, just as the nation of Israel was eventually cast out of their land, due to persistent disobedience, so David's throne was cast down through the disobedience of successive kings who sat on that throne. God warned all future kings, of both Israel and Judah, that they could be responsible for interrupting the lineage of rulers if they did not obey His commands. When Solomon was about to take over the throne of his father David, God issued a warning about the consequences of disobedience,

When your (David's) days are fulfilled and you rest (die) with your fathers, I (God) will set up your seed (Solomon) after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. **If he commits iniquity** (sin; 1Jn. 3:4), **I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men** (2Sam. 7:12-14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Due to the successive disobedience of numerous kings in Judah and Israel, God suspended, or temporarily "cast down," the throne of David (cf. Ps. 89:44). Being cast down does not mean being permanently destroyed and when God uses the term "throne" in relationship to King David and his descendants, He is describing the authority to rule over God's people. The following summary is helpful because it shows the extent, to which these kings were prepared to go in order to mislead the nation they

were responsible for, as well as the consequences for their actions,

The inspired records of the two-and-a-half centuries of Israel's kings furnish us with little more than **repeated and fearful exhibitions of lawlessness and evil**. Out of the nineteen kings (of Israel) that reigned from the great schism (under King Rehoboam; cf. 1 Kgs. 12:16; 2 Chr. 10:16) to the deportation (of the 10 tribes of Israel) to the land of Assyria, only seven died natural deaths (Baasha, Omri, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, and Menahem); seven were assassinated (Nadab, Elah, Joram, Zachariah, Shallum, Pekaiiah, and Pekah); one committed suicide (Zimri); one died of wounds received in battle (Ahab); one was "struck" by the judgment of God (Jeroboam); one died of injuries received from a fall (Ahaziah); and the other, the last (Hoshea), apparently was "cut off as foam upon water." Also, there were two prolonged periods of anarchy, when "there was no king in Israel," every man doing, in all likelihood, "that which was right in his own eyes" ('The Kings of Judah and Israel', C. Knapp, p 292 – 293).

Sadly, the nation of Judah did not fare any better under its kings, even though God gave them more time to learn from the mistakes of their "sister-kingdom" (cf. Jer. 3:6-11),

The kingdom of Judah continued for more than a century and a quarter after the kingdom of Israel ceased to exist, making its history fully one-third longer than that of the ten tribes. Then it too, like its sister-kingdom, fell into disintegration and decay, and was given up to the first universal empire, under the renowned Nebuchadnezzar ('The Kings of Judah and Israel', C. Knapp, p 293).

With the captivity of the nation of Judah, the last king to rule over any of the twelve tribes of Israel ended around 587 B.C. However, due to the righteous conduct of Jesus Christ, who was a descendant of David, the throne of David was restored and is now occupied by Christ, as the prophet Isaiah predicted (cf. Isa. 9:6-7). Christ's rulership is over the spiritual nation of Israel, which does not recognize one ethnic group over another,

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28; cf. Col. 3:11).

You also (God's people), as living stones, **are being built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1Pet. 2:5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ's obedience, to every word of his heavenly Father (Mt. 4:4), meant that the promise of David's throne lasting forever could finally be fulfilled,

Do not think that I (Christ) came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill (Mt. 5:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It was only due to the weakness of sinful leaders that Almighty God temporarily suspended the promise He made to David regarding one of his descendants being on a throne ruling over Israel forever. This promise has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who now carries the title King of Kings and Lord of Lords by delegation, because these titles originate with, and belong to, Almighty God (Rev. 19:11-16; cf. Jn. 16:15; 17:10; see study: Christ Is Not Equal With God). So there is no contradiction between Ps. 89:35-37 and 89:44.

Finally, there are some who believe that the monarchy in Great Britain represents the continuation of King David's dynasty today. If this were the case, they would have no legitimacy based on the fact they do not adhere to God's law as King David did, and the authority to rule Great Britain comes from its Parliament. The monarchy of England has absorbed the pagan practices of this present evil world and has no more credibility than the ancient kings of Israel and Judah who rejected God's commands, and lost their authority to rule God's people (Gal. 1:4; see study: Pagan Practices).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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