

God's Promise to David

“Then David the king went in, and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who am I, O Lord Jehovah, and what is my house, that thou hast brought me thus far? And this was yet a small thing in thine eyes, O Lord Jehovah; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come; and this too after the manner of men, O Lord Jehovah!” (2 Samuel 7:18-19).

The life of David is a marvelous read. He approached his maturity as a keeper of sheep, but ready to meet any obstacle that came his way. In reference to Goliath, David was not the least apprehensive concerning him: “And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant was keeping his father's sheep; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God” (1 Samuel 17:33-36). But though he was a mighty warrior, a king, and, as Jehovah said, “a man after my heart, who shall do all my will” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22), it was Jehovah's promise to David that would fulfill Jehovah's promise to Abraham, saying, “in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

Concerning this promise, Jehovah said to David, “When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son: if he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men; but my lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thy house and thy kingdom shall be made sure for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever” (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

Not only did this apply to Solomon, but more importantly to the Messiah, as is seen in the remaining text, concerning the vision of Nathan. Thus, the Apostle Paul affirmed, “Of this man's seed hath God according to promise brought unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus” (Acts 13:23).

The promised Messiah, who would fulfill the promise God made to Abraham, had numerous prophecies uttered concerning him. Not only was he to come through David, of the tribe of Judah, as Jacob affirmed, saying, “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh come: And unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be” (Genesis 49:10), but Israel's ruler was to come out of Bethlehem, of which Micah said, “art

little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2). Thus, the king of Israel of whom David was assured would come was to be born in Bethlehem, of the tribe of Judah, of the house of David, and would be God himself.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But when he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins. Now all this is come to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, And they shall call his name Immanuel; which is, being interpreted, God with us” (Matthew 1:18-23 cf. Isaiah 7:14).

Consider the words of David, to Jehovah, saying, “And now, O Jehovah God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, confirm thou it forever, and do as thou hast spoken. And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, Jehovah of hosts is God over Israel; and the house of thy servant David shall be established before thee. For thou, O Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee a house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. And now, O Lord Jehovah, thou art God, and thy words are truth, and thou hast promised this good thing unto thy servant: now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee; for thou, O Lord Jehovah, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed forever” (2 Samuel 7:25-29). ret