

GOD'S COVENANTS WITH DAVID**1 Chronicles 10:1–11:9; 13; 15–17**

Memory Verse: *“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations’”* (Psalm 89:3-4 ESV).

Background Helps:

In our study of “God’s Covenant Story,” we have reached the next important biblical covenant: God’s covenant with King David. Here’s a list of the covenants we have covered thus far, with the Davidic covenant added:

1. God’s “covenant” with Adam (and through him with the whole human race)
2. God’s covenant with Noah (and through him with all living things)
3. God’s covenant with Abraham (and his seed, both physical and spiritual)
4. God’s covenant with Israel (mediated through Moses and sometimes called “the old covenant”)
5. God’s covenant with David (including his seed, ultimately, Jesus Christ)

Each of these covenants builds upon the previous covenant(s). It is interesting to notice that in God’s covenant with Abraham, God promised Abraham that “*kings* shall come from you” (Gen. 17:6), and he promised Sarah that “*kings* of peoples shall come from her” (Gen. 17:16). This promise was fulfilled in the royal line of David. In God’s covenant with Israel through Moses, the LORD gave Israel permission to have a king: “You may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose” (Deut. 17:15). The problem with Israel’s first king, Saul, was that he was the selfish choice of the people: “I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me” (Deut. 17:14; cf. 1 Sam. 8:5, 19-20). As our memory verses indicate (Ps. 89:3-4), David was God’s choice for king.

Our readings this week in 1 Chronicles include:

- The death of King Saul and God’s rejection of him as king (10:1-14)
- The anointing of David as king of all Israel (11:1-3)
- The choice of Jerusalem (Zion) as the new capital of Israel (11:4-9)
- The first attempt to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (13:1-14)
- The second (and this time successful) attempt to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (15–16)
- The LORD’s covenant with David and his prayer response (17)

Notice that David first establishes the worship of the LORD according to the Mosaic covenant in Jerusalem, symbolized by bringing the ark of the covenant into the city. Then the LORD makes his covenant promises to David. (Note: Our readings this week from 1 Chronicles are paralleled in the earlier accounts of 1 Sam. 31:1-13; 2 Sam. 1:4-12; 5:1-3, 6-10; 6:1-19; 7:1-17.)

With this background, our focus this week will be on 1 Chronicles 17, God’s covenant with David. David expresses his desire to build a house for the LORD (vv. 1-2). The LORD responds by


promising to build a “house,” (i.e., a dynasty) for David. Notice the specific promises that the LORD makes to David: (1) promises to be realized in David’s lifetime (vv. 8b-10a) and (2) promises to be realized after David’s death (vv. 10b-14). These future promises include: a seed, a kingdom, and an eternal throne.¹ These promises find partial fulfillment in David’s son, Solomon, and the royal line which followed him. But the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant with David is found in David’s greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. As we will see in the weeks ahead, the Old Testament prophets make frequent reference to this Davidic covenant, and Jesus’ New Testament title of “the Son of David” also refers to this covenant. (See, for example, Matt. 1:1; 21:9, 15; Luke 1:32; Acts 13:22-23; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 22:16.) David responds to these covenant promises with a prayer of praise (1 Chron. 17:16-22) and petition (17:23-27).² Notice also that the specific promise of 1 Chronicles 17:13, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son,” is quoted in Hebrews 1:5 with reference to Jesus Christ.

Lesson Helps:

Two possible lesson aims:

1. My students will learn about God’s covenant promises to David, so that they will acknowledge Jesus as God’s promised Messiah, the Son of David. Although you may want to use earlier chapters of our readings in 1 Chronicles as background, focus your lesson this week on 1 Chronicles 17 and God’s covenant with David. Study the specific promises in verses 10b-14, and show how these promises have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, never to die again, his kingdom is eternal and he will reign on the throne of David forever!
2. My students will learn about God’s covenant promises to David and his prayer response, so that they will respond to God’s promises with praise and petition. Notice that David did not take the fulfillment of these promises for granted. In prayer, he praised God for the promises and asked God to fulfill them. His example shows us how we should respond to the promises of God in our own lives: with prayers of praise and petition.

Home Assignment:

 Read Psalms 89; 132.

 Memorize Psalm 89:1 ESV.

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¹ Peter J. Gentry & Stephen J. Wellum, *God’s Kingdom through God’s Covenants* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 190.

² *Ibid.*, 190-191.