

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID**Psalm 89; 132**

Memory Verse: *I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations* (Psalm 89:1 ESV).

Background Helps:

Once again we take a brief detour from the Old Testament historical books to a couple of psalms: Psalms 89 and 132, both of which reflect poetically on God's covenant with King David. Let's consider each psalm briefly.

Psalm 89 begins with a celebration of God's steadfast love as demonstrated in his covenant promise to David (vv. 1-4), a covenant that we studied last week in 1 Chronicles 17 (paralleled in 2 Sam. 7). In verses 19-37 the psalmist goes into more detail about the wonderful promises the LORD made to David. But in verses 38-45 we discover that the psalmist is writing at a time of national crisis when God seems to have rejected his anointed one and renounced his covenant with David (vv. 38-45). In verses 46-51 the psalmist pleads with the LORD to renew his steadfast love and his faithfulness to the Davidic covenant (vv. 46-51).

Psalm 132 has two main parts: (1) In verses 1-10 the psalmist recalls David's promise to God that he would build a house for the LORD (see 1 Chron. 17:1-2); (2) in verses 11-18 the psalmist reflects on God's promise to David that he would build a "house" (a dynasty) for David (see 1 Chron. 17:10b-14). The psalmist appeals to God to be faithful to his covenant promises to David.

These two psalms give us good opportunity to review God's covenant with David. As we saw last week, the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant 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.)


Lesson Helps:

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn about God's covenant promises to David in Psalm 89 (and Psalm 132), so that they will trust God to fulfill his promises to them. You may want to focus your lesson on the first of the two psalms, Psalm 89. Here is a possible lesson outline:

1. Hook. What are some of the familiar promises of God in the Bible? (Brainstorm. Teachers of children may need to prime the pump.) Has it ever seemed to you that God was not keeping one or more of these promises? (Testimonies.)
2. Book. Study Psalm 89, section by section (vv. 1-4, 19-37, 38-45, 46-51) as explained above in the Background Helps. Can you think of a time in Israel's history when the LORD seems to have renounced his covenant with David? Did God ultimately keep his covenant with David? (Cite one or more New Testament references to Christ as the Son of David.)
3. Look. Focus on one or more of God's familiar promises that he seems not to be keeping in the lives of your students (see "Hook" above).

4. Took. Let's lay hold of this(ese) promise(s) by faith in prayer (just as the psalmist did in Psalm 89), pleading with God to keep his promise(s). Look for opportunities in future weeks to pray in a similar way and to give testimony of how God has kept his promise in answer to our prayers!

Home Assignment:

 Read 1 Chronicles 22; 28; 1 Kings 6; 2 Chronicles 5–7.

 Memorize 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV.

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