

GOD'S COVENANTS WITH ABRAHAM AND DAVID**Matthew 1; Luke 1–2; John 7:37-44**

Memory Verse: *“He will great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end”* (Luke 1:32-33 ESV).

Background Helps:

At last we arrive in the New Testament! For the next fifteen weeks we will study the New Testament teaching on “God’s Covenant Story.” We have referred to some of this material already, by anticipation, in our study of the Old Testament.

This first New Testament lesson will feature God’s covenants with Abraham and David. These two covenants are prominent in the birth narratives of our Lord Jesus Christ. Note the following:

- The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17 emphasizes his identity as “the son of David” and “the son of Abraham” (1:1-2, 6, 17).
- The birth narrative in Matthew 1:18-25 mentions that Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, was a “son of David.”
- In the annunciation to Mary, the angel Gabriel indicates again that Joseph is a descendant of David (Luke 1:27) and, most importantly, that Jesus will be the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to David (2:32-33; cf. 2 Sam. 7:11b-16; 1 Chron. 17:10b-14).
- In his prophecy after the birth of John the Baptist, Zechariah, the father of John, celebrates the fact that God is fulfilling his promise to David (Luke 1:68-71) and remembering the covenant he made with Abraham (1:72-75).
- Again, in the birth narrative of Jesus in Luke 2:1-7, the author mentions that Joseph was in the line of David (v. 4; cf. John 7:42).
- The angels announce to the shepherds that the Savior, Christ [Messiah] the Lord has been born in the city of David (Luke 2:10-11).

Lesson Helps:

We are on familiar ground this week—the birth of Jesus Christ. In your lesson, however, you should emphasize the relationship of his birth to the covenant promises of God to Abraham and, particularly, to David. A possible lesson aim: My student will learn how the birth of Jesus fulfilled God’s covenant promises to Abraham and David [or, to David], so that they will accept Jesus as their Savior-King [or, trust God to keep his promises to them].

In your lesson you could either (1) broadly cover all or most of the week’s Scripture readings to teach the lesson aim or (2) focus (especially in children’s classes) on one or two major passages, for example, Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-20. Either way, be sure your lesson emphasizes the covenant fulfillment aspect of the story. God keeps his promises and agreements!

Use the technique of storytelling to full advantage. (See Forecast for Week #27.)

Home Assignment:

 Read Matthew 8:5-13; 9:27-31; 12:22-32; 15:21-28; 20:29-34; 21:1-11, 14-17; 22:21-46; 2 Timothy 2:8; Revelation 22:16.

 Memorize 2 Timothy 2:8 ESV.