

The Davidic Covenant (c. 995 BC)

2 Samuel 7

God's Promise to David

1 The king settled into his palace, for the LORD gave him relief from all his enemies on all sides.

2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, "Look! I am living in a palace made from cedar, while the ark of God sits in the middle of a tent."

3 Nathan replied to the king, "You should go and do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

4 That night the LORD told Nathan,

5 "Go, tell my servant David: 'This is what the LORD says: Do you really intend to build a house for me to live in?'

6 I have not lived in a house from the time I brought the Israelites up from Egypt to the present day. Instead, I was traveling with them and living in a tent.

7 Wherever I moved among all the Israelites, I did not say to any of the leaders whom I appointed to care for my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house made from cedar?'"

8 "So now, say this to my servant David: 'This is what the LORD of hosts says: I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you leader of my people Israel.

9 I was with you wherever you went, and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth.

10 I will establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they will live there and not be disturbed any more. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning

11 and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. Instead, I will give you relief from all your enemies. The LORD declares to you that he himself will build a dynastic house for you.

12 When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He will build a house for my name, and I will make his dynasty permanent.

14 I will become his father and he will become my son. [\[Heb 1:5\]](#) When he sins, I will correct him with the rod of men and with wounds inflicted by human beings.

15 But my loyal love will not be removed from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 Your house and your kingdom will stand before me permanently; your dynasty will be permanent.'"

17 Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.

David's Response to God

18 King David went in, sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you should have brought me to this point?"

19 And you didn't stop there, O LORD God! You have also spoken about the future of your servant's family. Is this your usual way of dealing with men, O LORD God?

20 What more can David say to you?

You have given your servant special recognition, O LORD God!

21 For the sake of your promise and according to your

1 Chronicles 17

1 When David had settled into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet,

"Look, I am living in a palace made from cedar, while the ark of the LORD's covenant is under a tent."

2 Nathan said to David, "You should do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you."

3 That night God told Nathan the prophet,

4 "Go, tell my servant David: 'This is what the LORD says: 'You must not build me a house in which to live.

5 For I have not lived in a house from the time I brought Israel up from Egypt to the present day. I have lived in a tent that has been in various places.

6 Wherever I moved throughout Israel, I did not say to any of the leaders whom I appointed to care for my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house made from cedar?'"

7 "So now, say this to my servant David: 'This is what the LORD who commands armies says: "I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you a leader of my people Israel.

8 I was with you wherever you went and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth.

9 I will establish a place for my people Israel and settle them there; they will live there and not be disturbed anymore. Violent men will not oppress them again, as they did in the beginning

10 and during the time when I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies.

"I declare to you that the LORD will build a dynastic house for you!

11 When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom.

12 He will build me a house, and I will make his dynasty permanent.

13 I will become his father and he will become my son.

I will never withhold my loyal love from him, as I withheld it from the one who ruled before you.

14 I will put him in permanent charge of my house and my kingdom; his dynasty will be permanent.'"

15 Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.

16 David went in, sat before the LORD, and said: "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you should have brought me to this point?"

17 And you did not stop there, O God! You have also spoken about the future of your servant's family. You have revealed to me what men long to know, O LORD God.

18 What more can David say to you? You have honored your servant; you have given your servant special recognition.

19 O LORD, for the sake of your servant and according to your

<p>purpose you have done this great thing in order to reveal it to your servant. 22 Therefore you are great, O LORD God, for there is none like you! There is no God besides you! What we have heard is true! 23 Who is like your people, Israel, a unique nation on the earth? Their God went to claim a nation for himself and to make a name for himself! You did great and awesome acts for your land, before your people whom you delivered for yourself from the Egyptian empire and its gods. 24 You made Israel your very own people for all time. You, O LORD, became their God. 25 So now, O LORD God, make this promise you have made about your servant and his family a permanent reality. Do as you promised, 26 so you may gain lasting fame, as people say, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel!’ The dynasty of your servant David will be established before you, 27 for you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have told your servant, ‘I will build you a dynastic house.’ That is why your servant has had the courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 Now, O sovereign LORD, you are the true God! May your words prove to be true! You have made this good promise to your servant! 29 Now be willing to bless your servant’s dynasty so that it may stand permanently before you, for you, O sovereign LORD, have spoken. By your blessing may your servant’s dynasty be blessed on into the future!”</p>	<p>will, you have done this great thing in order to reveal your greatness. 20 O LORD, there is none like you; there is no God besides you! What we heard is true! 21 And who is like your people, Israel, a unique nation in the earth? Their God went to claim a nation for himself! You made a name for yourself by doing great and awesome deeds when you drove out nations before your people whom you had delivered from the Egyptian empire and its gods. 22 You made Israel your very own nation for all time. You, O LORD, became their God. 23 So now, O LORD, may the promise you made about your servant and his family become a permanent reality! Do as you promised, 24 so it may become a reality and you may gain lasting fame, as people say, ‘The LORD who commands armies is the God of Israel.’ David’s dynasty will be established before you, 25 for you, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a dynasty for him. That is why your servant has had the courage to pray to you. 26 Now, O LORD, you are the true God; you have made this good promise to your servant. 27 Now you are willing to bless your servant’s dynasty so that it may stand permanently before you, for you, O LORD, have blessed it and it will be blessed from now on into the future.”</p>
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The Birth of Solomon (c. 994 BC)

2 Samuel 12:24b–25

24b He went to her and had marital relations with her. She gave birth to a son, and David named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved the child

25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet that he should be named Jedidiah for the LORD’s sake.

David’s Sons Born at Jerusalem (c. 1003 – c. 990 BC)

2 Samuel 5:13–16

13 David married more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he arrived from Hebron.

Even more sons and daughters were born to David.

14 These are the names of children born to him in Jerusalem:

Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

15 Ibhar, Elishua,

Nepheg, Japhia,

16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

1 Chronicles 14:3–7

3 In Jerusalem David married more wives and

fathered more sons and daughters.

4 These are the names of children born to him in Jerusalem:

Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

5 Ibhar, Elishua,

Elpelet,

6 Nogah,

Nepheg, Japhia,

7 Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) I placed 2 Samuel 7 here in the reading plan due to the comment in 7:1 that God had given David “relief from all his enemies on all sides” (NET). This indicates that more than the Philistines are in view, since the Amalekites, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites and Arameans were all enemies of Israel.
- 2) I placed the birth of Solomon after the Davidic Covenant of 2 Samuel 7 for two reasons: a) it seems doubtful that the siege of Rabbah lasted for almost another full year after the death of David and Bathsheba’s first son (cf. 12:26), and b) the tenor of the message from Nathan suggests that the son who would build God’s house after David was not yet born (cf. David’s charge to Solomon in 1 Chr 22:9).