

Prayer

Dear Father,

What comfort you bring when I submit to your authority and will. Your work is perfect and all your ways are justice, a God of faithfulness and without iniquity.

O sovereign Lord, it is all privilege to know you. May I not just believe in you, but love you with all my heart and soul and mind and strength.

Song: by *James Montgomery*

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

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Scripture

- 2 Samuel 7

Message: David's Son, The King

The seventh chapter of 2 Samuel is considered by some to be the most significant chapter in the Old Testament, and for good reason. Here the Lord God enters into a covenant agreement with David that has ramifications both globally and eternally.

This covenant is the seventh in a series of covenants that were established by God, and it points directly to the One who was to come. In the preceding covenants, especially with Abraham and Moses, as also with this one, there is a strong emphasis on kings and a King, the One who was to come, who would reign forever.

"I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you." (Abraham, Gen 17:6)

The King

“She shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” (Sarah, Gen 17:16)

“Kings shall come from your own body.” (Jacob, Genesis 35:11)

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet.” (Gen 49:10)

“The shout of a king is among them.” (Balaam, about Israel, Numbers 23:21)

“You may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose.” (Moses, Deut 17:14ff)

And then in this Davidic Covenant ...

“I will raise up your offspring and I will establish his kingdom.” (to David, 2 Samuel 7:12)

“The Lord swore an oath to David: One of your own descendants I will place on your throne for ever and ever.” (Psalm 132:11-14)

“I have sworn to David: I will make your throne firm through all generations.” (Psalm 89:4)

Then through Isaiah: “of the increase of his government there would be no end” (Isaiah 9:6-9) and to Mary: “The Lord God will give [your son] the throne of David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:32-33)

And finally at the end, referring to Jesus the Messiah: “King of kings” (Rev 19:16)

The events leading up to the establishment of this Covenant with David are interesting in themselves. There was the disastrous first attempt to move the Ark of the Covenant from Abinadab's house to Jerusalem; disastrous because David used the pagan method of transporting the Ark which resulted in death. Then the second attempt, moving it God's way, and setting the Ark “inside the tent that David had pitched for it” (1 Chron 16:1).

While little is said about this tent, it is worth noting that the Ark in David's tent was deeply symbolic of what was to come, being referenced by both Amos and then James who used this circumstance as the Scriptural endorsement for accepting uncircumcised Gentiles into the church – a connection not immediately obvious, but most definitely there.

David then expressed a desire to Nathan the prophet that he wanted to build a permanent place for the Ark. After initially affirming David's intent, Nathan was corrected by the Lord who, apart from saying the Temple was to be built by David's son, also made some profound statements about the future of David's throne.

Firstly, the symbolism of Solomon building the Temple rather than David. It was David's son who was to build the Temple, just as it was to be “great David's greater Son” who was to build the new Temple, the church.

Secondly, it was the desire of David to honour the Lord God by the construction of a Temple that triggered the amazing revelation to Nathan, and the subsequent establishment of this covenant. We can note in passing that a mistake by Nathan in initially affirming David's desire did not result in any damage done – an encouragement for all of us.

Thirdly, there are several significant aspects to this covenant that are each worthy of in-depth study, but in summary includes:

- Blessing of land (7:10), reinforced by Jeremiah (Jer 25:5)

The King

- Victory over enemies (7:11), ultimately through the cross (Colossians 2:15)
- God's mercy (7:15) which David called upon many times (Psalms 51:1; 56:1; 57:1), fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 13:34) and the surety of the resurrection of all believers in Christ.
- Ongoing Davidic Dynasty (7:16), through the kings of Judah – Solomon, Rehoboam through to Zedekiah (or Jehoiachin, see Matthew 1:12), through to Jesus Christ, the Son of David (Matthew 1:1) who will receive the throne of his father David 'for ever' (Luke 1:32-33) as the King of all kings.

We have the privilege of understanding, at least in part, the fulfilment of this Covenant promise to David, and indeed participating in it both now and in the life to come. It provides an incomparably good and sure foundation for life through all circumstances.

The second half of this chapter is David's response in prayer and praise. Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29.

Prayer for suffering Christians in Nigeria (*from Barnabas Prayer*)



Praise the Lord for the safe return of two church leaders, Matthew David Dutsemi (pictured) and Abraham Saummam, who were abducted in Adamawa State, Nigeria, in February. Three other pastors were among 19 kidnapped victims rescued by Nigerian security forces in Kogi State.

However, the threat of abductions remains high – with Christians, and especially church leaders, in Nigeria's

northern and Middle Belt states remaining at risk.

Pray for the continued protection of our brothers and sisters. Ask the Lord to strengthen those who have suffered trauma, to comfort families still awaiting news of loved ones, and to bring lasting peace to regions plagued by violence.

Hymn: *by Isaac Watts*

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their young hosannas to his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring its grateful honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again, and earth prolong the joyful strain.

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Benediction:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

This service was prepared by Warren Mack for HopeNet SA