

## God's Covenant with David – *Article #13*

**2Sa 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."**

### **The nature of the covenant with David.**

While a contract refers to a legal agreement, a covenant is a "life agreement" between two or more parties. When God makes a covenant, the terms are based on his promises, standards and regulations. The benefits of such a covenant are dependent upon people's obedience, trust and faithfulness to God.

(1) Though the word "covenant" does not actually occur in 2Sa 7, it is clear that God was establishing a solemn life agreement with David. In [Ps 89:3-4](#), for example, God says: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm (i.e., secure) through all generations'" (see also [Ps 89:34-36](#)). This promise that the kingship over God's people would be established forever through David's family line is the same promise that God made to David in 2Sa 7 (note especially v. 16). Later, in 2 Samuel, David himself speaks of the "everlasting covenant" that God made with him ([2Sa 23:5](#)). It is certain that he is speaking of the occasion in 2Sa 7.

(2) The same two principles that apply in other OT covenants are also evident here: **God alone established the promises and obligations of his covenant, and people were expected to accept these terms in obedient faith** (see Articles on [God's Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob](#), and [God's Covenant with the Israelites](#)).

(a) In this covenant arrangement with David, God made a promise to establish the kingdom of David's son, Solomon. Solomon would be the one to build a house, or temple, for the Lord ([2Sa 7:11-13](#); see Chart of [Solomon's Temple](#)).

(b) At the same time, God's promise that David's house, or dynasty, would endure forever was conditional. It depended on the faithful obedience of David and his descendants. This covenant was everlasting only in the sense that God intended to always keep a son of David on the throne in Jerusalem, as long as these rulers remained faithful and obedient to God.

(3) For the next four centuries, David's family line remained unbroken on Judah's throne. Judah was the southern portion of the kingdom that resulted from the

division of Israel, first following the death of King Saul (chs. 2-4), then again after the death of David's son, Solomon (see MAP of [The Divided Kingdom](#)). The kingdom of Judah got its name from the tribe of Judah, which made up most of the southern kingdom. Judah was the tribe through which God would continue to keep his covenant people, establish his eternal kingship and later bring the Messiah (cf. [Zec 10:4](#); [Mt 2:6](#); [Heb 7:14](#); [Rev 5:5](#)). Judah's capital was in Jerusalem. But when Judah's kings, such as the wicked Manasseh and those who reigned after King Josiah, continued to rebel against God by worshipping idols and disobeying his law, God finally removed them from the throne. He allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to invade the land of Judah, attack the city of Jerusalem (586 B.C.) and at the end destroy the city along with its temple in 586 B.C. (see [2Ki 25](#); [2Ch 36](#)). That would be the first time since their slavery in Egypt that God's people came under the control of foreign rulers.

### **Jesus Christ and this covenant.**

There was one part of God's covenant with David that was totally unconditional. God said that in the end the kingdom of David would be established forever.

(1) The main point of God's promise was that [the Messiah](#) (i.e., the "Anointed One," Savior)—the eternal King—[would come from David's family line](#). This King would be ruler not only over Israel, but also over God's followers from all the nations (cf. [Isa 9:6-7](#); [11:1](#), [10](#); [Mic 5:2](#), [4](#)). He would come out of the city of Bethlehem ([Mic 5:2](#), [4](#)), and his reign would reach to the ends of the earth ([Zec 9:10](#)). He would be called "The Lord Our Righteousness" ([Jer 23:5-6](#)) and would bring salvation from sin ([Zec 13:1](#)). The fulfillment of God's promise to David began with the birth of Jesus Christ, announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary, a godly daughter from David's family line ([Lk 1:30-33](#); cf. [Ac 2:29-35](#)).

(2) [God's promise to David broadened and expanded the promise made in Ge 3:15, which predicted Satan's defeat through Eve's offspring](#) (see [Ge 3:15](#), note). It was also a continuation of the covenant given to Abraham and his descendants (see Article on [God's Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob](#)).

(3) The fulfillment of this promise involved Christ rising from the dead and being exalted to his rightful place at God's right hand ([Ac 2:29-33](#))—the place of highest honor in heaven. From this position, he now rules as King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ's first task as exalted (lifted up to the highest) Lord was to send the Holy Spirit to live within his followers and empower them to spread his message ([Ac 1:8](#); [2:4](#), [33](#); see CHART on [The Work of the Holy Spirit](#)).

(4) As part of Christ's reign comes the invitation and call to all people to turn from sin, to accept Christ as Savior and Lord (i.e., the Forgiver of their sins and Leader of their lives) and to receive the Holy Spirit ([Ac 2:32-40](#)).

(5) **Christ's eternal kingship includes**

(a) his present rulership over God's kingdom (see Article on [The Kingdom of God](#)) and his headship over the church,

(b) his future millennial (thousand-year) reign over the nations on earth ([Rev 2:26-27; 20:4](#)) and

(c) his eternal kingdom in the new heaven and the new earth ([Rev 21-22](#)).