

The Promise & David

The Last of the Judges

The last of the judges was a man named Samuel (*1 Samuel 7:6, 15-17*). He was not only a judge; he was a priest and a prophet (*3:20*). When Samuel grew old, the elders of Israel said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have” (*8:5*).¹ Though their motivations were not good (*8:7*), God granted their request, and Saul was anointed² as Israel’s first king (*8:22; 10:1*).



Saul started well, but began to disobey God’s rule, so God rejected Saul as king (*13:8-14; 15:6-33*) and told Samuel to anoint a new king (*16:1*). God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse who had eight sons. Samuel saw the older sons and was impressed with their looks, but God told Samuel, “man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (*16:7b*). God chose the youngest son, named David (*16:11-12*). Samuel anointed him, and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power (*16:13*).

The Promise to David

After Saul died, David became king of Israel (*2 Samuel 5:1-5*). Under King David, Israel prospered (*5:10, 12*). Israel defeated her enemies and extended her territory. There was peace (“rest”) in Israel (*7:1*). David wanted to build a house (dwelling place or temple) for God (*7:1-2*), but God said that He had other plans (*7:4-17*). Read 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 (*copied on page 3*).

1. What did God promise David?

- God would establish a “house” for David (*11b*), i.e., *a line of descendants; a dynasty*.
- David’s “offspring” would succeed him as king (*12*) and build a house for God (*13*).
- David’s house and kingdom would “endure forever” (*16*). His throne would be established *forever* (*13, 16*).³
- God would be David’s offspring’s father, and like a father, God would discipline him, but always love him (*14, 15*).

Fulfillment of the Promise

David and his wife (Bathsheba) had a son named Solomon (*2 Samuel 12:24*). Solomon succeeded David as king of Israel (*1 Kings 1:17, 34; 2:1-4*). Read 1 Kings 4:20-21; 8:20; and 8:56 (*copied on page 3*).

2. What promises (to both Abraham and David) were fulfilled during Solomon’s reign?⁴



¹ This was expected. At least 300 years before, Moses wrote these words of God: “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, ‘Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,’ be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses” (Deut. 17:14-15a)

² “anoint” – to pour or spread holy oil upon a person to set them apart for special service (e.g., priests and kings)

³ David was from the tribe of Judah, whereas Saul (the first king) was from the tribe of Benjamin. Promising David a dynasty is consistent with Jacob’s blessing over 700 years before when he said “The scepter (royal authority) will not depart from Judah” (Genesis 49:10; cf. Numbers 24:17).

⁴ As with many of the Bible’s promises and prophecies, the fulfillment is multiple, involving a temporal, partial fulfillment (during Solomon’s reign) and an ultimate fulfillment.

- ❑ See footnote 5.⁵

A Lesson from David's Life: Sin & Restoration

David was a “man after [God’s] own heart” (*1 Samuel 13:14, cf. Acts 12:22*). In general, his heart was “fully devoted” to God (*1 Kings 11:4*). David became the standard against which all Israel’s kings were judged (*e.g. 1 Kings 15:3, 11*). However, he had his failures. In particular, he committed adultery with Bathsheba, got her pregnant, arranged for the death of her husband, and then married her! (*2 Samuel 11*) He attempted to cover up his sin, but we cannot hide from God.

3. Read Psalm 51 (which David wrote after his sin). Considering David’s sin, why do you think he could still be considered a “man after God’s own heart”? What did David realize about God and himself?⁶



While David was forgiven for his sin and was restored in his relationship with God (*2 Samuel 12:13*), the consequences of his sin were still great (*12:10-12, 14*).⁷

The Rise and Fall of Solomon

“King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth” (*1 Kings 10:23*). However, Solomon took hundreds of wives who worshiped other gods (which was NOT wise!) and his heart was turned after other gods (*11:1-6*). Read 1 Kings 11:9-13 (*see page 3*).

Further Fulfillment of the Promise

Because of Solomon’s sin, Israel became a divided kingdom. Later, because of continuing sin, the divided kingdom was destroyed and exiled (*2 Kings 17:7-23; 2 Chronicles 36:15-20*).

4. God promised David, “Your house and kingdom will endure forever” (*2 Samuel 7:16*). Yet the kingdom was later destroyed. How could this promise be fulfilled? Read Luke 1:26-33.⁸

⁵ Under Solomon, Israel became a “great nation” (Genesis 12:2). The people were as “numerous as the sand of the seashore” (1 Kings 4:20; cp. Genesis 15:5; 22:17). Solomon ruled over the land “from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt” (1 Kings 4:21; cp. Genesis 15:18). David’s son (Solomon) became king and built a temple (house) for God (1 Kings 8:20). Solomon said, “Not one word has failed of all the good promises [God] gave through his servant Moses” (1 Kings 8:56, NIV).

⁶ Psalm 51 reveals the following points, to name a few:

- David realized his need for “mercy.” He realized that he deserved judgment, not favor (v. 1).
- He realized God’s “unfailing love.” God is faithful to His promises (covenant) (v. 1).
- He appealed to God to “blot out,” “wash away,” and “cleanse.” David needed a thorough cleansing and only God is able to do this (vv. 1-2) Verse 7 says “cleanse me,” which literally means “un-sin me” or “de-sin me.”
- David confessed that his sin (which was against others) was primarily against God (v. 4).
- He realized that God is righteous and just to judge (v. 4).
- He knew that his sin was not merely a bad decision or a mistake. He knew that he was a sinner (v. 5).
- David knew that God’s cleansing must take place in the innermost part of his being. He said, “Create in me a pure *heart*, O God, and renew a steadfast *spirit* within me” (v. 10)
- Confession and forgiveness results in praise (vv. 14-15). Reconciliation to God brings great joy (vv. 11-12).
- God desires a humble heart, broken by sin; not mere religious activity (vv. 16-17).

⁷ David’s infant son died (12:14-18). Other sons brought David great anguish by their actions. For example, Amnon raped his step-sister Tamar (13:1-21), and was then murdered by his brother Absalom (13:23-29). Later, Absalom attempted to seize David’s throne, but faced a violent death (18:14-15).

⁸ Jesus would be great (v.32). He would be called “the Son of the Most High” (v. 32). God would give Jesus the throne of “his father David” (v.32) and he would reign forever. His kingdom would never end (v.33).

Excerpts from the Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:11b-16 (NIV): “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you (11b): When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom (12). He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish his kingdom forever (13). I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men (14). But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed before you (15). Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever (16).”

1 Kings 4:20-21 (NIV): “The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and were happy (20). And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon’s subjects all his life (21). Compare to Genesis 15:5, 15:18, 22:17.

1 Kings 8:20 (NIV): Solomon said, “The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.”

1 Kings 8:56 (NIV): Solomon said, “Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.”



1 Kings 11:9-13 (NIV): “The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD (9a)... So the LORD said to Solomon, ‘Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates (11).’ Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son (12). Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen (13).”

Reflection/Application

- The Bible says, “all have sinned” (*Romans 3:23*)⁹ and “the wages of sin is death” (6:23), meaning separation from God who is the Source of life and blessing. Christ came to die for our sins so that we could be forgiven, and our relationship with God could be restored (*Colossians 1:21-22*). Our necessary response is to repent (confess and turn away from our sins) and place our faith (belief, trust) in Jesus Christ (*Acts 2:38*). Do you need to do that?
- The Christian’s relationship with God is based on Christ’s righteousness (it is “by grace, through faith”). Still, sin in the Christian life harms “fellowship” with God. The Bible says, “if we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (*1 John 1:9*). Do you need to confess sin? Reflect on Psalm 51, and remember that God wants our hearts. He wants men and women “after His own heart.”¹⁰

⁹ “Sin” may be defined as any action or attitude opposed to God. In other words, “sin is that condition and activity of human beings that is offensive to God, their Creator” (*The New International Dictionary of the Bible*, p. 946).

¹⁰ To be “after God’s own heart” is to love God, to share His values, and to desire His will.

The Seed of Abraham

