

David Names a Successor

Commentary for December 1, 2015 — Solomon Was God's Choice

David chooses a successor to his throne, and Solomon was his choice. It was also God's choice, as we find out in this month's article "Israel and Judah: 14. David's Life Nears its End." This month's "[December 2015 Newsletter](#)" has additional introductory information, so read that before reading the article.

Decades before David's death, maybe 33 years before (1 Kings 2:11, David ruled 33 years in Jerusalem), God gave a message to David through Nathan the prophet:

"... Yahweh tells you that Yahweh shall establish a royal house [a royal tomb] for you: When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers,

then I will raise up your seed after you that shall come forth from your internal parts; and I will establish [support, assist] his kingdom.

He shall build a House for My Name, and I will establish [make secure] the throne of his kingdom for the eon [not forever].

I Myself shall become for him like a father; and he shall become for Me like a son. When he sins out of depravity, then I will correct him with the club of men and with the contagions of the sons of humanity.

As for My benignity [*chesed*, lovingkindness¹], it shall not withdraw from him as I withdrew it from Saul whom I took away from before you. Your house and your kingship will be authenticated before Me for the eon; your throne, it shall become established for the eon.

• 2 Samuel 7:11–16

YHWH promises a personal relationship with David's successor, just as He had with David. Also like David, God promises to punish his successor (Solomon) with two types of punishment,

- (1) war and raids: **"the club of men."** and
- (2) diseases and plagues: **"the contagions of the sons of humanity."**

In other words, the people of Israel will suffer because of the sins of their King.

God promises not to remove His *chesed*, His unique lovingkindness, from this particular son of David, this new king of His people (as he removed the kingship and throne from King Saul, 1 Samuel 15: 23, 28, 16: 14). Solomon will receive the same lovingkindness, the same *chesed*, King David received from YHWH in spite of David's sins:

"He is the One magnifying the salvations of His king. And showing benignity [*chesed*, lovingkindness] to His anointed, To David, and to his seed for the eon."

• 2 Samuel 22:51

¹ "Lovingkindness" is one English word in the King James Version in Psalms 17: 7, 26: 3, 36: 7, 10, 40: 10–11, 42: 8, 48: 9 (& 14 other Psalm verses); Jeremiah 9: 24, 16: 5, 31: 3, 32: 18; and Hosea 2: 19.

Fulfillment of God's Promise

God's message to David from YHWH begins to be fulfilled as soon as David dies. As you will read in this month's article, David reminds Solomon about God's promise (from 2 Samuel 7:11–16), given to David before Solomon was conceived. David gives different details in 1 Chronicles chapter 17 than we are told in 2 Samuel chapter 7.

I point out in my article "[The Location and Future Discovery of King David's Tomb](#)," the house God "makes" for David was (and is today) the tomb of David. The seed means the institution of King David's progeny (not just the physical territory), which will last for an eon. The kingdom that God promises to provide for the seed of David begins with Solomon.

As highlighted above in the Second Samuel passage, David's house, seed, and kingdom are three distinct promises about different things. The tomb or the "house" of David still remains unopened for an "eon" of time still continuing in our day.

"Men! Brethren! Allow me to say to you with boldness concerning the patriarch David, that he deceases also and was entombed, and his tomb is among us until this day."

• **Acts 2:29**

David's tomb existed at Pentecost and the body was still in the tomb at that time as Peter said. It is still closed today. I believe the "eon" of time regarding David's "house" will end when the tomb is opened (2 Samuel 7:11, 15, 26, 29; and Isaiah 22:22), and surely it will end when Christ returns and "David's house" will no longer have any educative value. This is because David himself will be alive at that time ruling the people of Israel (Ezekiel 37:24).

Regarding YHWH's promise that David's kingdom would last "**for the eon**," that eon ended with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.² David's throne and his kingdom would endure for the eon (referring to Jerusalem, see Psalm 122:5 and Revelation 20:4).

His promise to David about his seed continues in Christ who died but was resurrected, and reigns in heaven to this day — but not yet on earth until His Second Coming.³ At present Christ Jesus is seated at the right hand of God waiting for the time when His Father will "**make your enemies your footstool**" (Psalm 110:1). That will occur when Christ returns. Enjoy this month's article.

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² If Jesus had come as a king in the 1st century, then His throne would become activated, as it will be upon His future return.

³ Those with Jesus after His resurrection asked if He would soon restore the Kingdom (Acts 1:6):

"Those, indeed, then, who are coming together, asked Him, saying, 'Lord, are You at this time restoring the kingdom to Israel?'"

They referred to David's kingdom. No other kingdom ever existed in Israel. The Israelite kings of Samaria to the north were never related to David or part of the promises given to David. YHWH was the great and sovereign king, David was a subordinate king under YHWH as indicated in Psalms 44:4, 18:1, 89:18, and particularly 110:1 (subordinate kings were allowed to sit alongside a sovereign king).