

Davidic Ruler (2 Sam 7:12-13)

I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

During Samuel's time as a judge the people cried out for a king to be like all the other nations (1 Sam 8:20). While Kingship wasn't a bad thing in and of itself (see Deut 17:14-20), the fact God's people wanted a king like all the other nations was a clear rejection of God as their King (1 Sam 8:7). God gives them Saul the king they want, but he's a total failure- he looks good on the outside but fails to obey God. Nevertheless, in God's grace he raises up David, a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14; 16:7).

Under David, Israel is united, defeats God's enemies and enjoys an unheard of period of peace and prosperity (2 Sam 7:1). It's now that David seeks to build a "house" for the Lord, since the Lord's presence had been travelling around for hundreds of years in a tent since the Exodus (2 Sam 7:6). However, in a great reversal God has other plans for David's "House".

God will make David's name great (2 Sam 7:9), keeping his promise to Abraham (Gen 12:2) and they will dwell in the land in peace (2 Sam 7:10). The Promise Keeping God will build a "House" for David from his family line. The coming one will be: The Son of David, rise from the dead, build the "house" of God, possess the throne, possess an eternal kingdom and be the Son of God (2 Sam 7:12-16). These are amazing promises to David!

You can see why one commentator says that this passage contains "the most crucial theological statement in the Old Testament." This promise will shape the messages of hope in the rest of the OT and the expectations of the coming Messiah. But time and again Israel's kings fail again and again, so the question becomes: When will this Promised King, this Messiah finally come and who will he be?

Right at the start of Matthew's Gospel, we're introduced to Jesus via his genealogy:

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew's words are deliberate as he links Jesus right from the get-go with the line of David and God's promises in 2 Sam 7. As we read through the gospels it's clear that Jesus is this long awaited for Son of David, but he fulfills the promises far more than God's people could've hoped.

To ponder:

How is Jesus having an eternal throne and "house" good news for us this Christmas?

To Pray:

Gracious God, we thank you that you promised to King David an everlasting king who would come and rule an everlasting kingdom from an everlasting throne. Father continue to open our eyes and hearts to see who Jesus really is and how wonderful and amazing his kingship

is and the only kingship we need. Give us joy in his kingship and your promise keeping as we await his return. In King Jesus' name we pray, Amen.