



CONNECTING THE DOTS: DAVIDIC COVENANT

There is nothing in the world quite as wonderful as a promise. When I make you a promise I reach into your *unpredictable future*, and make at least one thing in your life *predictable*... A promise is *a known in the unknown*. *It's an island of sureness in a sea of uncertainty*. A promise is one of life's greatest treasures because it's an investment in your future.

And the fact that God has made specific promises to His people is one of the wonders of His grace. We call His special promises **"covenants."** God wants to fellowship with people. Even after we rebel against Him, God still makes promises and sets terms for the relationship He desires.

Amazingly, God interjects His promises when we least deserve them. On the heels of humanity's greatest failures God countered with a covenant... *When the first man lost paradise... After a perverted world was cleansed... When God broke up the rebel party at the tower of Babel... Even when God's own people, Israel, failed to enter the Promised Land...* Every time it seemed we were determined to snuff out the light on our own future, God stepped in and relit a candle. He struck a new deal. He instituted a new covenant that revived our hope and dream of a better life. The Bible is the story of how God keeps reaching into a future we keep trying to make bleak. He created us by breathing into Adam's nostrils the breath of life – and even though we sin against Him – God is recreating in us something better than before by breathing His promises into our future.

The Bible is all about the covenant promises God made with mankind. We normally divide the Bible into two sections - **Old Testament** and **New Testament**. Did you know the word **"testament"** is an old English term for **"covenant?"** It's actually the **"Old Covenant"** and **"New Covenant."** Think of a **"Last Will and Testament."** *My testament* is an agreement between me and my heirs. No one can ignore my *will* and just do as they please. A testament sets out my terms and conditions for the disbursement for my wealth. And this is what God does when He institutes a covenant. God wants to disburse grace, but His covenant lays out His terms.

Your Bible's *Table of Contents* might be divided into *two* covenants, but God has actually instituted *seven* different covenants with mankind... We've discussed the **Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic,** and **Mosaic**... The last of the covenants is the deal Jesus strikes on the

cross – [the New Covenant](#). But the bridge between Moses and Jesus is [the Davidic Covenant](#). Which is this week’s topic in our “[Connecting the Dots](#)” series.

Remember the last two covenants we discussed... After mankind’s revolt at the Tower of Babel, God chose one man named Abraham. God’s plan of redemption became *a family business* – call it “[Abraham and Sons](#).” God promised Abraham and his heirs [a parcel of real estate – a great nation – and a descendent through whom the world would be blessed](#). Here’s [Abraham’s Covenant](#) in a nutshell... **Land, Nation, Blessing**... And like a *Last Will and Testament*, God clarified who would inherit this vital covenant. It passed from Abraham, to Isaac, to Israel, and to his 12 sons. God would bring salvation to the world through [the children of Israel](#).

This is why God wanted to protect His people – put a hedge about them. Either annihilation *OR assimilation* would’ve thwarted God’s plan. God’s strategy was for Abraham’s family to stand out among the nations of the world - to walk in His ways, and reflect His glory – so He brought them to the mountain of God to establish a covenant through Moses... It too, consisted of three promises... **Law, sacrifice**, and a list of **blessings and curses**... *Here’s how it worked...* An obedient Israel would overflow with *blessing*. A disobedient nation would suffer from God’s *curse*. But [either way God would be glorified!](#) By *blessing* or by *cursing* the world would realize that the Almighty God was dictating Israel’s destiny.

Yet sadly, over Israel’s history the people experienced far more cursing than blessing... They refused to adhere to God’s Law, and followed after other gods. Rather than trust in God, they sought for a king like their neighboring nations. They wanted to follow a human leader they could see. Their first king, Saul, *looked the part*, but he *lacked the heart*. Saul was rejected by God, *and God chose a king – “a man after His own heart”* - a shepherd boy named **“David.”** *But what a man he became!*

David was a flawed man, but a man full of faith. He was [a warrior](#) and [a worshipper](#) - and into both arenas he brought this intense passion for God. During the reigns of David, and his son, Solomon – Israel experienced a golden age of God’s blessing. For the first time – *and for the last time I might add* – Israel expanded to fill most of the borders God had promised.

One day, King David was strolling along the portico of his palace. He was surveying the Jerusalem skyline, and he noticed a stark inconsistency. [The king conducted affairs of state in a palatial mansion, while the worship of God was being carried out in a rustic tent.](#) *It just wasn’t right!* David understood that God overflows the heavens, but his abode on Earth – His Temple – wasn’t consistent with His glory. It was a few animal skins over some bronze poles. The gods of other nations all had magnificent Temples dedicated in their honor... *why not the God of Israel?* When foreign ambassadors visited Jerusalem - *the holy city* - they saw *the king in a palace*, but *God in a tent?* It was an insult to the Almighty!

David wanted to build God a Temple. But when he asked for permission God refused. God was tougher on David than *Gwinnett County Planning*... David was *the king*, yet God still denied him a building permit!

David went on to purchase the property, quarry the stone, cut the cedar, gather the gold, recruit the artisans... God let David make all the logistical preparations, *but it would be up to his son, Solomon, to build the Temple*... Yet in response to David’s noble desire to build God a house, God blessed David with a covenant! **He promised to build David a house!**

Not a *literal house*, but a *political house* – a dynasty of David’s descendants would rule over God’s people. Saul’s son had tried to succeed his father, yet failed... But beginning with David, Israel became an *patriarchal monarchy*. A son of David will sit on his father’s throne forever. Speak of the British monarchy, and we call it “*the House of Windsor*.” Well from now on Israel will be ruled over by “*the House of David*.”

In 2 Samuel 7 God delivers to Nathan the Prophet, a message for King David. Let’s read God’s promise, verse 10, “*Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies.*” God reaffirms to David the *land promise* He made to Abraham. Several times throughout her history Israel has been uprooted from her spot on the Fertile Crescent. But ultimately, God will plant Israel in the land, and give her rest from her enemies. *A son of David will rule this land.*

It reminds me of a cartoon. *An American Indian* is in a pow-wow with an *Israeli official*. The chief confesses, “*Quite frankly, in our case the land-for-peace deal didn’t work out too well...*” *And it won’t work for Israel either!* God promised Abraham, and the sons of David, both *peace* and a *land*. Remember, the earth belongs to God. He gives parcels to whomever He pleases. And the land we call “*Israel*” or “*Canaan*” was given to David.

But Nathan continues with an amazing promise. David wanted to build God a house, *instead*, “*The LORD tells you that He will make you a house.*” *When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*” A seed from David’s body – a flesh and blood heir – a son of David - will reign over Israel and build God a Temple. And this “*son of David*” will have a special relationship with God... In verse 14 God speaks of Israel’s King, “*I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.*” God stripped the kingdom from Saul and gave it to another, but not so with David’s heir. God will chasten him when needed, but He won’t reject him.

The immediate fulfillment of this promise was David’s son, Solomon. When his father died Solomon assumed the throne of Israel. He built God a glorious Temple, and God made Israel great among all the nations. But it didn’t take long before the House of David needed the correction God promised in the covenant. Toward the end of his life Solomon strayed from God. He multiplied foreign wives – *700 wives and 300 concubines*. *How does the wisest man on Earth end up with 1000 mother-in-laws? I’ll never know!* But his pagan wives led Solomon and Israel into idolatry.

And according to the covenant, God fulfilled His promise by disciplining the house of David. In fact, the next 500 years was *a series of spankings*. When the kings of Israel and Judah strayed from God’s Law, God would raise up a foreign army to attack and subjugate His people. When the kings walked obediently, God would bless them with peace and prosperity.

God promised David His sons would be *disciplined*, but never *deserted*.

2 Samuel 7:16 seals the deal, “**And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**” What a colossal promise. It transcends Solomon and the 400 year monarchy that followed. God looked down the halls of history, and promised David, he would never be without an heir to sit on his throne.

Apparently, God’s promise to Solomon, like so many biblical prophecies had a dual-fulfillment. “**He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**” Solomon built a Temple, but his throne wasn’t forever. In 586 BC the Davidic Dynasty came to an end. The Babylonians sacked Jerusalem, and took David’s heir, King Zedekiah to Babylon. He died there a prisoner. When this happened the prophets reverted back to the covenant God made with David. They saw in this covenant a future king of the lineage of David who would reign forever. Like many OT prophecies, the Davidic Covenant was a dual-prophecy. It’s immediate, partial fulfillment was Solomon, and his successors - but it’s ultimate, quintessential realization was a future and eternal King.

When a new king took the throne in Israel he was anointed with olive oil. A ram’s horn brimming with oil was poured over his head. The oil was a symbol of God’s Spirit. The King would need the Spirit to govern wisely. Thus, all Israeli kings were called, “**The Anointed One.**” But in light of the Davidic Covenant this term took on a special meaning. The Hebrew word “**Messiah,**” and its Greek translation “**Christ,**” both mean “**Anointed One**” - and they became titles for the eternal king who would sit on David’s forever throne. They answered the Davidic Covenant.

The implication here is astonishing - since Messiah, God’s ultimate, eternal King, is David’s heir and sits on David’s throne - and since David’s throne is the throne of Israel - that means Israel will one day rule the world. A tiny country like Israel is destined to be a world-governing empire. *This is just like God...* He chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and the weak things of the world to confuse the mighty. If God were concerned with earthly criteria Messiah would be a US President, or Leader of the European Community, or the ultimate Chinese Premier... But God picks a *besieged nation with a slim population for world domination*. Messiah will sit on David’s throne and reign from Israel.

God recognizes the irony of His choices, that’s why He went to great effort to track His promise through the various covenants we’ve studied... As far back as the Garden of Eden, God promised a “**Seed**” to be our Savior. Genesis 3:15, “**The seed of the woman**” would crush the serpent’s head. Eve would bear a son who would destroy the authority of Satan. But Eve was “**the mother of all living.**” Eve sired many sons. So God narrowed down the lineage of the Savior to a man named Abraham.

In Genesis 22:18 God promised Abraham a special “**Seed**” – “**In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed...**” But twelve tribes came from Abraham, so who was the “**Seed**” who would become the Savior? Well, God further narrowed the choices to one of the tribes of Abraham. He chose “**Judah**” to be the royal tribe. Father Israel said of his son, “**The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**” The Savior - or “**Shiloh**” - would come through the lineage of Judah. But the tribe of Judah had many families. That’s why Isaiah 11:1 predicts, “**There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him...**” or literally, He’ll be *anointed*. Messiah will come from Jesse’s family. He’ll be a “**branch**” or “**stem**” off Jesse’s limb on Abraham’s family tree.

But Jesse had eight sons? His youngest wasn't even present when Samuel came to select a new king for Israel. They had to fetch the kid out of the fields... But a humble sheep-herder was the man God chose to shepherd His people, Israel. This was the man who became a great king. Jesse's "*stem*" was a boy named David. And it was from his loins – "*his own body*" – that a *forever king* would rise to rule *God's forever kingdom*.

All along God was connecting the dots... From Eve to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Judah to Jesse to David... *God didn't want us to miss Messiah!* God was sending a Seed, His Son, into the world to redeem us from sin and reign over us in love. And God went out of His way to point Him out! We don't have to canvass the globe to find Messiah. God's GPS picks out the land – *Israel*. We don't have to comb through the genealogies of the human race, God earmarks *the family of Abraham*, and *sons of David*. He even traces David's lineage down to a single person...

This is why the whole OT, all 39 books, from Genesis to Malachi, comes together in one verse. The Gospel begins in Matthew 1:1, "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham...*" Here He is! The thread that runs the length of your Bible culminates in Jesus! He's the promised "*Son of David*" and "*Son of Abraham...*" God raised up prophet after prophet so we wouldn't miss Him... It gives weight to Revelation 19:10, "*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*"

This is why both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' genealogy. **Matthew** traces Jesus' roots back to David through his son Solomon, and proves Jesus to be the legal heir of the Davidic Covenant. **Luke** follows the bloodline from *David's son, Nathan*, to *Jesus' mom, Mary*, to prove Jesus was a genetic heir. He possessed both a legal and a natural right to sit on David's throne, and rule both Israel and all the Earth! It's interesting, the ancient Jews stored their genealogies in the Temple, but when it burned in 70 AD their records went up in smoke. That God allowed the destruction of the genealogies was proof Messiah had already come. If He had come afterwards, He could've never proved His pedigree.

Jesus was the ultimate heir of the promises God made to David. Like Solomon, *God chastised Jesus, but never rejected Him!* On the cross Jesus was judged and punished - *not for His own sins, but for ours*. Today, the Son of David is building a spiritual Temple – the Church.

It's interesting, when Mary birthed Jesus it had been 580 years since a son of David had sat on the throne in Israel. How exciting it must've been for her when the angel appear, and spoke to her the words in Luke 1... "*Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.*" Jesus is the eternal king promised in the Davidic Covenant!

The OT was full of prophecies that not only traced Messiah's lineage, but colored in what we could expect from His life, and work, and ministry... Of the tree of Abraham - of the sons of David - there was only one person who fit all the prophecies spoken of Messiah - and that was Jesus.

Take the Prophet Isaiah for example. He wrote his prophecy around 700 BC... *about the time Rome was founded... 70 years before the Greeks held the first Olympic Games... and seven centuries before the Angel Gabriel would visit a young woman named Mary with the promise of a Son.* Isaiah stood up for God in a terrible time. One of David's successors, Manasseh, was king over God's people. Manasseh was so evil he single-handedly provoked the Babylonian spanking of the Davidic dynasty. In fact, the king later ordered the Isaiah sawn in two. You might say Manasseh and his executioner had a business deal... *to split the prophet!* Isaiah was labeled "a seer." *He saw the future...* And much of what he saw was Jesus. God gave him amazing insights about the future Messiah.

Isaiah 7:14 predicts that Messiah will be born of a virgin. The same verse tells us He'll be given the name, "Immanuel." Isaiah 9 predicts that much of the Messiah's ministry will occur in and around the region of Galilee - and that He'll reach out to the Gentiles. Isaiah 35 predicts miracles – *the deaf will hear and the blind will see.* Isaiah 50 predicts Messiah will be beaten, and mocked, and spit on. Isaiah 53 paints a picture of His cruel death on the cross... He'll be executed among thieves... buried in a rich man's grave... eventually rise from the dead... Isaiah charts Messiah's life from birth to resurrection...

And that's just Isaiah. One of Isaiah's contemporaries, the Prophet Micah foretold in 5:2 that Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem. Psalm 22:16 tells us His hands and His feet will be pierced. In fact, Psalm 22 depicts Christ on the cross in vivid detail, 500 years before the Persians had even invented crucifixion. It forecasts how he was mocked – how his bones weren't broken – how men gambled for his robe. Psalm 41:9 tells us in advance that Jesus was betrayed by a friend. Zechariah 9:9 predicts His journey into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Daniel 9 is one of the most amazing Messianic prophecies in all the Bible. Daniel is a Jew living in Babylon. Yet God shows him Israel's future. Israel will return to the land. Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt. The son of David – *the Messiah* – will fulfill God's promises to Israel. And Daniel sees a timeline. From the command to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of "Messiah the Prince" there will be 69 weeks or 483 years. History tells us the Persian Emperor Artaxerxes gave the decree to rebuild Jerusalem on March 14, 445 BC. Mark off 483 years, or 173,880 days, and you arrive at April 6, 32 AD – the very day of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In Daniel 9, God pinpoints the exact day the Messiah will present Himself to the nation Israel - over 550 years before it happens.

Daniel 9:26 goes on to say that shortly thereafter Messiah is "cut off, but not for Himself..." The phrase implies a violent death. He'll be executed, but not for His own crimes. He'll be put to death for someone else's sins. Obviously, Daniel 9 speaks of the crucifixion of Jesus. This chapter is one of the most fascinating in Scripture. It put the Messiah on the clock.

But there are over 300 OT prophecies that predict details of Messiah's ministry! When you think of the probabilities of one man accidentally fulfilling all 300 of these prophecies, you realize the certainty of His identity. There is a classic book by Peter Stoner - the former head of the Math and Astronomy Department of the Pasadena City College. He wrote a book entitled "*Science Speaks.*" And in his book Stoner calculates the probability of a single man fulfilling just eight of the 300 OT prophecies that concern Jesus – the probability he reaches is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That's a number with one in front, followed by 17 zeroes. Keep in mind the probability of dying in a fire is 1 in 40,000 – that's 4 followed by 4 zeroes... The odds of getting struck by a baseball at a Braves game is 1 in 300,000... that's 3 trailed by 5 zeroes. And the possibility of getting hit by a lightning bolt is 1 in 2 million... that's 2 followed by 6 zeros... Yet the probability of Jesus accidentally fulfilling just 8 of 300 OT prophecies is 1 in 10 followed by 17 zeroes... Your chances of getting struck by lightning are 50 billion times better than Jesus accidentally fulfilling just eight of these promises... That's not counting the other 292.

Let me provide a little more perspective... Think of a bed of silver dollars two feet deep, covering the entire state of Texas. Paint one of the silver dollars red, then mix up all the coins. Now reach into the pile - and the odds of drawing out the one red coin are the same odds of Jesus fulfilling by chance just 8 of the 300 OT prophecies. Here's the point, the only explanation for the Bible's fulfilled prophecies is that Jesus is who He says He is – He's the Messiah, the Son of David.

Yet if the evidence was so overwhelming why did the Jews reject Jesus as their Messiah? The answer is they overlooked some prophetic details. They latched on to what they wanted to believe and ignored the rest.

For example Daniel 7:13-14 was a favorite Messianic passage among the Jews. Daniel writes, “I was watching... and behold, *One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and... to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*” The Jews liked the idea of Messiah coming in the clouds, but when Jesus tried to wash His disciples feet, they balked. They liked a flying and reigning Messiah. They thought Messiah should be served, not serve. A humble Messiah didn't fit the Jewish expectations. They hadn't considered all the Messianic prophecies – like Isaiah 42, “*My Servant... I have put My Spirit upon Him... He will not cry out, nor raise His voice... a bruised reed He will not break...*” The Jews hoped Messiah would break some legs, and raise His voice, and throw His weight around.

The Jews saw the Messiah as a political leader. They read passages like Isaiah 9:6-7, “*Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom...*” The Jews saw Messiah as a political powerhouse. He'll shoulder the government. Usher in a new age for Israel. They didn't realize His first priority was the condition of their soul.

It's interesting, the Jewish Rabbis at the time of Jesus had difficulty with the thought of one Messiah doing all the OT had foretold that He would do. Some rabbis taught there were actually two Messiahs... “*Messiah ben Joseph,*” or “*Son of Joseph*” was the servant of the people. Whereas, “*Messiah ben David,*” was the mighty ruler who would defeat His enemies. Other rabbis taught that the Messianic prophecies were conditional on the Jews' reaction... If they were faithful, Messiah would come to Earth riding on the clouds. If they weren't, He'd come mocking them - on the back of a donkey... They didn't see how there was room for both scenarios.

The Prophet Zechariah predicted Jesus would come *riding on a donkey*. That was fulfilled on Palm Sunday when He entered the city of Jerusalem. But Daniel 7 foresaw the Messiah *riding on the clouds*, and Jesus will fulfill that promise too... Remember at His trial before Caiaphas, Jesus was ordered, “*Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!*” Jesus replied, “*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*” Jesus will also fulfill Daniel's vision, but it'll be “*hereafter*” or later. Messiah comes to Earth *twice*... The first time as a *Suffering Servant* intent on salvation. But then at the end of the age, as a *Conquering King*. Jesus came to *save His enemies*. He'll return to *crush His enemies*.

Messiah makes *dual-visits* to the Earth, and He also has a *dual-nature*. Messiah was [the son of David](#) AND [the son of God](#). He was the God-man. This is what Jesus brought up after the Jews approached Him in the Temple and tried to trap Him. Jesus asks them, “[What do you think about the Christ \(or Messiah\)? Whose Son is He?](#)” They said to Him, “[The Son of David.](#)” He said to them, “[How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ If David then calls him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?](#)” Messiah was *the son of David*, but He was also *David’s Lord or Master*. The king only had one Master and that was God. *So is David calling the Messiah God?* Indeed he was. Jesus was pointing out that the Messiah would be both human and divine – [the son of David](#) AND [the Son of God](#). Why did the Jewish leaders crucify their Messiah? *They failed to connect the dots!* The never recognized Jesus’ *dual-nature* and *dual-visits*.

Let me read one more Messianic prophecy. Jeremiah 23:5, the Lord speaks, “[I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in safety; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS...](#)” I love that name... The Lord saves... He gives us His righteousness.

The Mosaic Covenant set the bar of righteousness out of our reach. No matter how hard Israel tried to act right, the sin in their heart sabotaged their efforts. Spanking after spanking made it obvious God’s people needed a Savior. *And that’s exactly what the Davidic Covenant promised.* On our own we pull up terribly short, but when we trust the Messiah, the Lord Jesus shares His righteousness with us. It was said of Abraham, “[he believed in the LORD, and \(God\) accounted it to him for righteousness.](#)” The world we occupy is wrong-side up. But Jesus is into right-ness. And how He makes us *right again* is our subject next week - [the New Covenant](#).