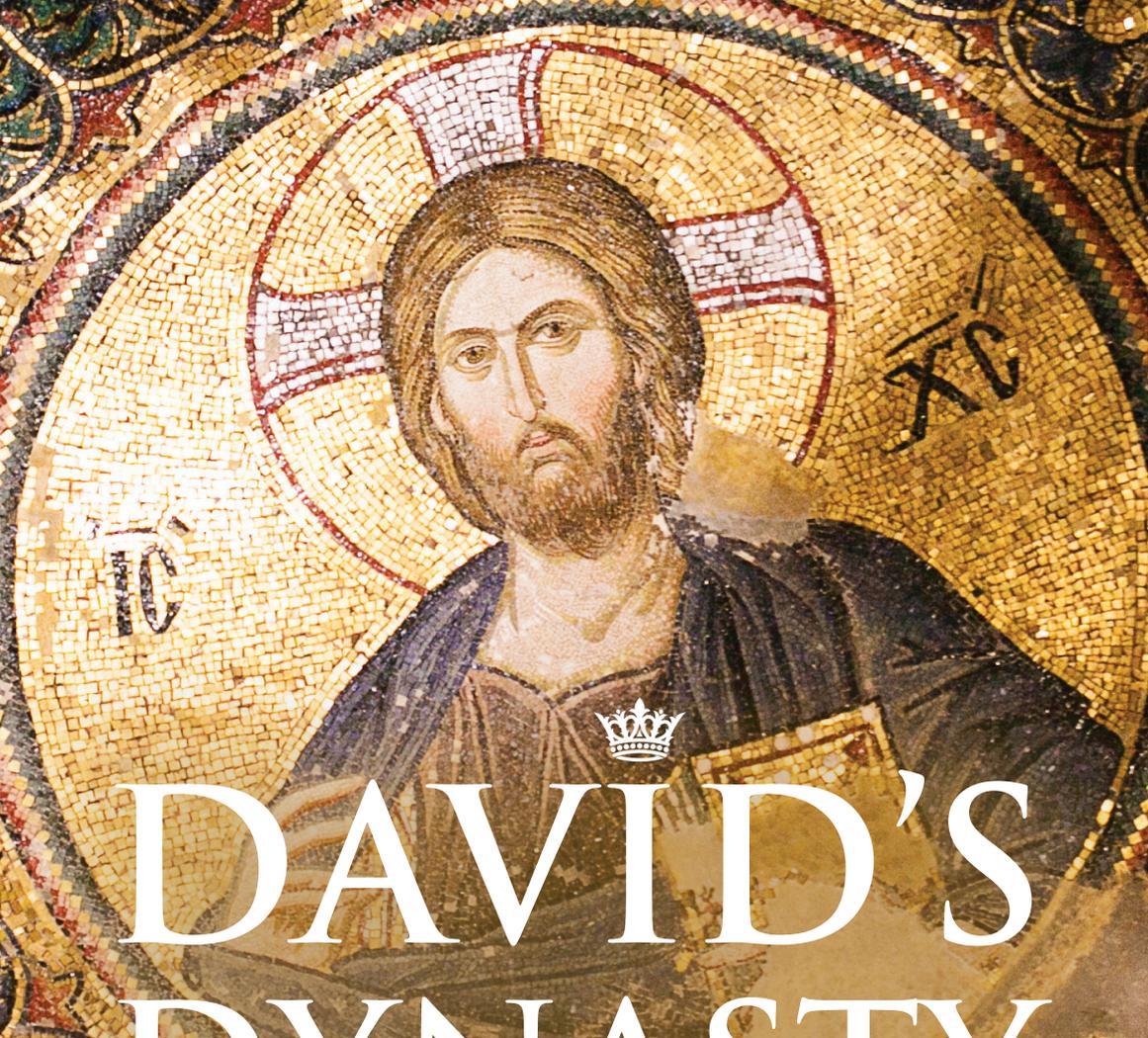




TGP: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Mosaic in the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, Istanbul.

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DAVID'S
DYNASTY

BY BYRON LONGINO

DAVID HAD A PLAN; HE WANTED TO build a house—a temple—for God. The Lord, however, had a better plan. Speaking through Nathan, the prophet, God revealed plans and promises for David and his descendants (2 Sam. 7:1-17). The Lord promised to make an eternal house, that is, a dynasty for David and to establish forever David's kingdom with his throne. Underlying these promises was the reassurance that God's steadfast love would never depart from David and his descendants.

God reminded David that He had taken him from a life of shepherding and had protected him from his enemies. The Lord reminded David that He always had proven Himself faithful in David's life.

Promises For David's Dynasty

Nathan then mentioned the reason for the promises. The Lord wanted David's sons to rule over His people and wanted David and his descendants to live in peace. To accomplish this God would create a dynasty of Davidic rulers by blessing David,

Below: Large flock of sheep about a mile north of Jericho. Shepherds are mentioned over 200 times in Scripture. Evidence of his humble beginnings, David had been a shepherd in his youth.

the sons of David, and ultimately the Son of David. These promises impact believers today and forever.¹

God promised to make David's name great, that is, his reputation would be among the greatest of men. This resembles His promise to Abraham:² "Your name will no longer be Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations" (Gen. 17:5, CSB). The Lord also promised to provide a homeland for peace and security. God extended His promises to include making a "house" for David following his death. David wanted to build a house, that is, a temple for the Lord; but God would instead build a house, that is, a dynasty for David.

God concluded by promising to establish an eternal kingdom and throne for David's dynasty. Nathan reinforced this kingdom's permanency by using the word "forever" three times; this emphasized that the reign would go beyond David and Solomon—for all eternity. When God says "forever," He means for eternity—nothing less.

Conditions for David's Dynasty

God made these promises in the form of a covenant with David.³ The Chronicler recorded Nathan's message to David as we have examined above and then added this caveat: "I will establish his kingdom forever if he perseveres in keeping my commands and my ordinances as he is doing today" (1 Chron. 28:7, CSB).

Second Samuel 7:12 speaks of David's death; verse 14 speaks of Solomon's sins, his sons, and their punishment. Other biblical passages reveal the end of David's descendants from the throne of Israel. Verse 15, however, emphatically states God's promise not to take the throne from Solomon as He did with Saul because the Lord has a "steadfast love" (ESV) for David's dynasty. "Steadfast love" means God never fails to love His people.



Above: Lyre dated to about 1450 BC. In his youth, David played a lyre to help calm King Saul. Centuries later, the prophet Amos recalled David's musical talents and abilities: "They improvise songs to the sound of the harp and invent their own musical instruments like David" (Amos 6:5, CSB).



Below: Large flock of sheep about a mile north of Jericho. Shepherds are mentioned over 200 times in Scripture. Evidence of his humble beginnings, David had been a shepherd in his youth.



Predominantly residential area of modern Bethlehem.

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Solomon deserved to lose the throne. He married foreign women and worshiped their false gods. In spite of this, God demonstrated His steadfast love and still honored His promise to Solomon:

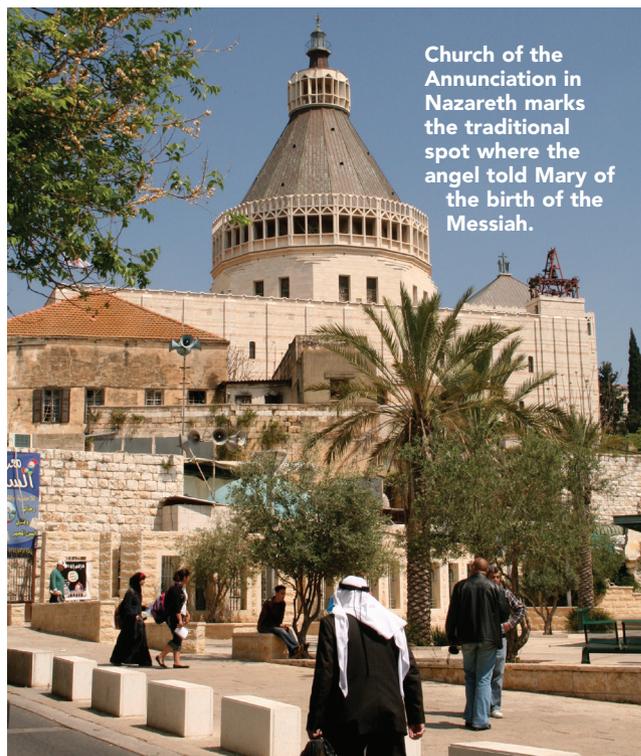
Then the LORD said to Solomon, “Since you have done this and did not keep my covenant and my statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. However, I will not do it during your lifetime for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of your son’s hand. Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem that I chose.”

—1 Kings 11:11-13, CSB, emphasis added

These promises to David compressed near and distant events and viewed them together.⁴ Scholars often refer to this as a “telescopic” effect since looking through a telescope makes objects far away appear much closer than they actually are. These promises extend far beyond Solomon’s time (vv. 11-16); his “house,” “throne,” and “kingdom” will last forever.

Fulfillment of David’s Dynasty

The disobedience of Solomon’s family brought God’s punishment upon the people and disqualified the sons to remain on the throne. God’s promising that David’s throne would be established forever meant, however, that a descendant of David must be coming who would be obedient, fulfill the



Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth marks the traditional spot where the angel told Mary of the birth of the Messiah.

ILLUSTRATOR PHOTO/BRENT BRUCE (60/9811)

conditions of the promises, sit on Solomon’s throne, rule forever, and never create another gap of an empty throne. The Lord knew that a line of sinful kings would always disqualify themselves, so He raised up a righteous, obedient Son of David to rule on the throne.

God’s plan, however, continued to be fulfilled over time and increasingly focused on the coming Son of David. God

Right: Ruins of the eastern side of the ancient City of David; on the right is what is known as the Stepped Stone Structure; it is located in the Millo. At about 60 feet in height, this is one of the largest Iron Age structures in Israel. Its exact purpose has been debated; some believe it supported a royal building, maybe David's palace.



Far right: Cenotaph covered with a modern pall at David's tomb on Mount Zion in Jerusalem; silver Torah arks are above. This, the right side, is reserved for men; the left is for women.



spoke this promise through the prophet Isaiah:

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.

—Isaiah 9:6-7a, CSB, emphasis added

Indeed, this fulfillment came in Christ.

The angel Gabriel told Mary:

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.

—Luke 1:31-34, CSB, emphasis added

The Bible explicitly states Jesus Christ came as the fulfillment of God's promise to David that one of his descendants would rule forever.

Jesus shared the word when He foretold that He would build a temple: "Jesus answered, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days'" (John 2:19, CSB). He said

He would sit on an eternal throne: "In the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne" (Matt. 19:28, CSB). And He promised to rule over His kingdom: "I bestow on you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one on me" (Luke 22:29, CSB).

Paul stated that a son of David had come who was also the Son of God as demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:1-4). God's perfect plan and promise consisted of sending His Son who is also the Son of David; this Son would endure the "rods of men," immediately prior to and on the cross, not for His sins—He had none—but for ours. God the Father put God the Son on the throne. With God on the throne and blessing believers with a "steadfast" love as He promised David, God's people can always live in peace and security. Isaiah saw it in the future; believers have the joy of living it in the present. 🔥

1. Joe Lewis, *1 Chronicles*, vol. 5, Layman's Bible Book Commentary (Nashville: Broadman, 1980), 90.

2. Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 1996), 339.

3. Stephen J. Wellum, "Covenants," in *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, gen. ed. Chad Brand, rev. ed. (Nashville: Holman Reference, 2015), 359.

4. *Ibid.*, 356-59

Byron Longino is pastor of Holly Springs Baptist Church in Homer, Louisiana, and teaches Old Testament, Hebrew, and archaeology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana.