



**GLORY**  
**TO**  
**WALKING**

**JANUARY 19, 2025**

Jesus: Messiah

PART TWO

## **JOURNEY TO THE FAITHFUL KING**

As we have seen over the last two weeks, “the God Who Rescues” does so through the lives of His chosen servants. Those servants are carriers of God’s Eden-promise to conquer the offending serpent who brought sin and death into the world. It must be remembered, though, even those chosen servants were far from perfect. They were sinners, every last one of them. God works through fallen people. There are no other kind of people...except Jesus!

God uses the language of “covenant” to reveal and project His redemptive purpose for fallen humanity. We have seen covenants God made with Noah - the earth itself (Gn. 9.17), Abraham - his descendants (Gn. 12.1-3; 15; 22.15-19), Moses - nation of Israel (Ex. 19.1-6; Leviticus 26; Deut. 27-30; Joshua 8.30-35).

Today we look at the covenant God made with David. Like His covenant of everlasting blessing to the world through Abraham, God’s covenant with David (through David’s descendants) is also everlasting. Unlike the temporal blessing of land conditioned upon human obedience, God’s everlasting covenant is upheld by God’s own faithfulness. The long workings of God through the fallen, even immensely wicked kings who follow David do not negate His covenant with David. Rather, David - himself a sinner, yet with heart turned towards God - is held up as the type who points to sinless and faithfully obedient Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate King for God’s people.



## 2 Samuel 7.1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build Me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"

<sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

<sup>15</sup> but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

<sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

## **DAVID: THE KING WHO POINTS TO JESUS**

Through Moses, God had spoken about a future king who would be acceptable as a ruler over God’s people (Deut. 17.14-20). That king would be one from among his own brothers, unwilling to revert to pagan alliances, not greedy for the wealth and trappings of rule, not given to fleshly excess, but given to learning and keeping the law of God. Further, this future king’s heart would “not be lifted up above his brothers”, nor would he “turn aside from the commandment, either to the right or to the left”.

In the Old Testament the king by whom the acceptability of all other kings is measured is King David. For example, Jehoshaphat ruled at least 120 years after David, but he is remembered by the formula, “The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals.” (2 Chron. 17.3) The same formula held true for Josiah well over 200 years later, who “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.” (2 Chron. 34.2)

Why?

The answer is found in Samuel’s response to the failure of King Saul, “But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” (1 Sa. 13.14) Amazingly, God saw in David “a man after His own heart”.

I say "amazingly" because the personal flaws of David were deep-seated and well-documented: vanity, sensuality, favoritism, passivity AND impulsiveness, adultery and even murder.

Yet David truly did possess a heart for God! He was obedient, repentant, sincerely dependent upon God and earnestly desirous to please and worship God with his whole being. In David, God saw a man keenly aware of living his whole life in the presence of God (Psalm 139). And not only 'aware', but intensely passionate for God to be glorified. Consider his reason - as only a young man - for fighting the giant Goliath: "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hand." (1 Sa. 17.46,47)

## **THE SHEPHERD-KING**

God tells David, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel." The image of the Shepherd-King is attributed to David when the tribes embrace him as their ruler: "And the Lord your God said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over my people Israel.'" (1 Chron. 11.2) The Psalmist remembers David not primarily as a great manager of the machinery of government, but as a shepherd of people:

He chose David his servant  
and took him from the sheepfolds;  
from following the nursing ewes he brought him  
to shepherd Jacob his people,  
Israel his inheritance.

With upright heart he shepherded them  
and guided them with his skillful hand. (Ps. 78.70-72)

Jesus came as the Shepherding-Savior. Compassion for people overcame Jesus during His ministry. "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Mt.

9.36; Mk. 6.34) Jesus called Himself the “good Shepherd” Who lays down His life for the sheep. (Jn. 10.1-16) Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep, emphasizing the heavenly value of one soul. (Lk. 15.3-7)

Jesus was remembered for His shepherding leadership. Peter, echoing Isaiah 53, points to Christ, *“By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”* (1Pt. 1.24, 25) The writer of Hebrews finishes his letter with the warm benediction:

Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

(Heb. 13.20, 21)

It is not just, or only, the direct physical lineage of Jesus which makes Him the “Son of David”, thus fulfilling the covenant prophecy of 2 Samuel 7. Certainly, there was that! (Micah 5.2; c.f., Mt. 2.1-6; Lk. 2.4) It is His devoted heart of obedience and love towards God. It is His self-sacrificing, protective care for God’s people.

Famously, when Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final time, the crowd welcomes him with, “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Mt. 21.9) The crowd raised this cry in anticipation of the Messiah who, at least in their estimation, would return their nation - politically, militarily - to former Davidic glory. For them, the kingdom their “Son of David” would restore was a here-and-now worldly reality. But just a few days later the same week Jesus challenges those expectations, after quoting from Psalm 110.1, with a pointed question: “David himself calls Him Lord. So how is He his son?”

Jesus knew He was the true Shepherd-King anticipated by David. This was why Jesus, at times would deflect or demure

from acknowledging the Messianic associations attached to the title "Son of David" throughout His earthly ministry. (Mt. 9.27-31; 12.22-24; 15-21-28) He did not want to be associated with the nationalistic, here-and-now, worldly kingdom expectations so common in His day. Jesus was a different kind of Shepherd King gathering a different kind of flock: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." (Jn 10.16) His kingdom was "not of this world." (Jn. 19.36)

The promise made to David is echoed in the Old Testament prophets. Isaiah foretold "Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this." (Isa. 9.7; c.f., 16.5; 55.1-5; Jer. 23.1-6; 33.14-22; Ez. 34.11-24; Hos. 3; Zech. 12.10)

Jesus testified to John, in the closing words of the Revelation, "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (Rev. 22.16) This is the view from heaven. "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." (Rev. 5.5) This Davidic King ransoms God's people "from every tribe and language and people and nation...a kingdom and priests to our God". (Rev. 5.9, 10) Jesus is not only from David; as His kingdom is greater than David's, so He is greater than David. From the view of heaven, the perspective of redemptive history does not look backwards from Jesus to David, it looks forward from David to Jesus.

## The 4 "D's"

**Drama: The Big Story** – David's story is often told from a singularly heroic perspective: see the unknown shepherd rise to become the glorious King. Yet the Bible is plain, even fulsome, about David's evident personal flaws. David is not great because he overcame those flaws. God worked greatness through David despite his flaws. David's heart for God, along with his genuinely pastoral care for God's people, pointed to those qualities of faithful obedience which defined the life of Jesus.

**Doctrine: What We Believe** – Where do you see the parallels between the life of Jesus and the life of David? Passion for God's glory? Unifying nature of kingly rule? Compassion for people who are like "sheep without a shepherd"?

**Doxology: Praise & Worship** – What praise can be given to Jesus regarding His role as the Shepherd-King? Where in the Psalms can you have cause to adore Jesus as Shepherd-King? (hint: Psalm 2 and 23)

**Discipleship: How We Live** – The pulse of our culture throbs with individual freedom and independence. How does the "King-ship" of Jesus impact our discipleship? How much authority does Jesus exercise over your daily life? How dependent upon Jesus are you to 'fight your battles' and provide your security in life?