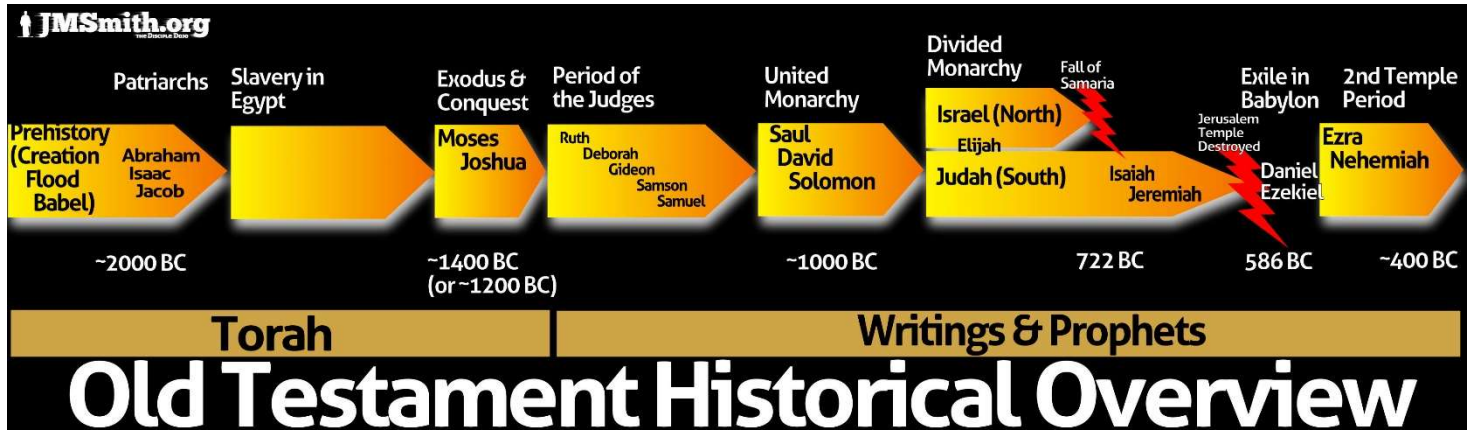


THE DAVIDIC COVENANT – PART 1

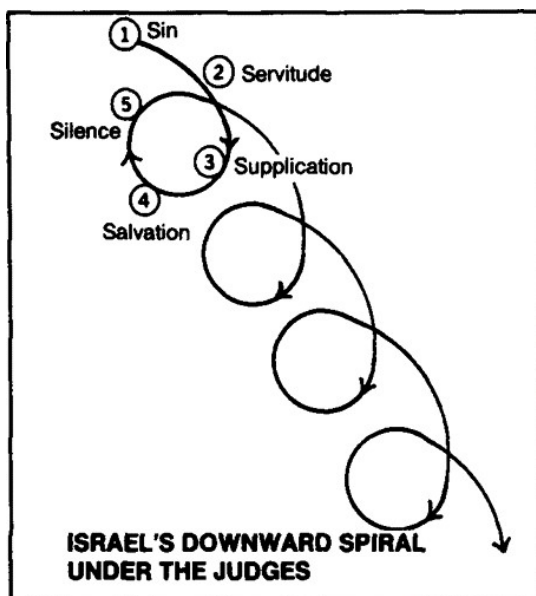
THE BACKGROUND OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT



- The Davidic Covenant takes place some 400 years after the renewal of the Mosaic Covenant in the plains of Moab
- Israel failed to completely drive out the inhabitants of the land, as God had commanded her to
- Joshua warned the people about the foreigners who remained in the land:

Joshua 23:13 ~ know with certainty that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and a trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

- Judges 2:10 states that after Joshua’s generation “there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel”
- This begins a “spiraling down” effect, recorded in the book of Judges and described in Judges 2:11-19



1. The **Sin of Israel** through idolatry or apostasy = Judges 2:11-13
2. The **Servitude of Israel** to foreign people’s due to retribution from the Lord = Judges 2:14-15
3. The **Supplication of Israel** = Judges 2:18
4. The **Salvation of Israel** (military deliverance) and restoration to favor by the Lord through a Spirit-empowered deliverer (a judge) = Judges 2:16-18
5. The **Silence in Israel** when the people and the land had rest and cessation from war = Judges 3:11

The cycle repeats in descending levels of apostasy= Judges 2:19

- The people grow tired of this spiral, and ask for a king

1 Samuel 8:4-9 ~ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; 5 and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.” 6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 The LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. 9 Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.”

- Saul was Israel’s first king. He started well, but was not completely devoted to the Lord, as evidenced by:
 - His offering of burnt offerings instead of waiting on Samuel (1 Sam 13:8-14)
 - His failure to execute Agag, King of the Amalekites (1 Sam 15:7-11)
- Because of this, God chose David, a man after His own heart, to be Israel’s new king
- Though Saul continually seeks to kill David, David refuses to lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed
- David does eventually assume the throne at age 30 (2 Sam 5:4,5)
- After the capture of Jerusalem from the Jebusites and two decisive battles over the Philistines (2 Sam 5:17-25), David brings back the ark to Jerusalem and thus establishes this city as the center of Israelite worship (2 Sam 6)

THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- Having been given rest by the Lord from all His enemies and having built a house of cedar for himself, David now desires to build a house for the Lord
- Although Nathan tells him to do so, the Lord comes to Nathan and tells him that David would not be the one to build Him a house

2 Samuel 7:4-7 ~ But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 “Go and say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? 6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ’

- It was David’s purpose to build a suitable dwelling place for God; however, because he had been a man of war, David was not permitted to build that house

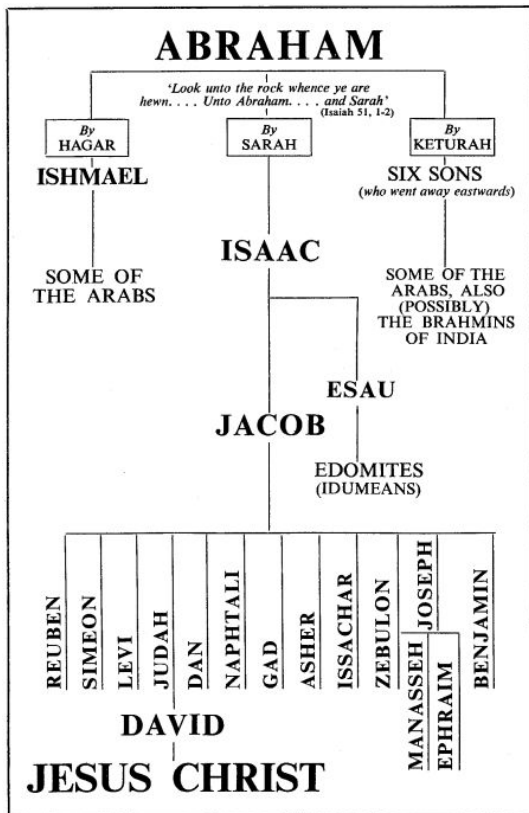
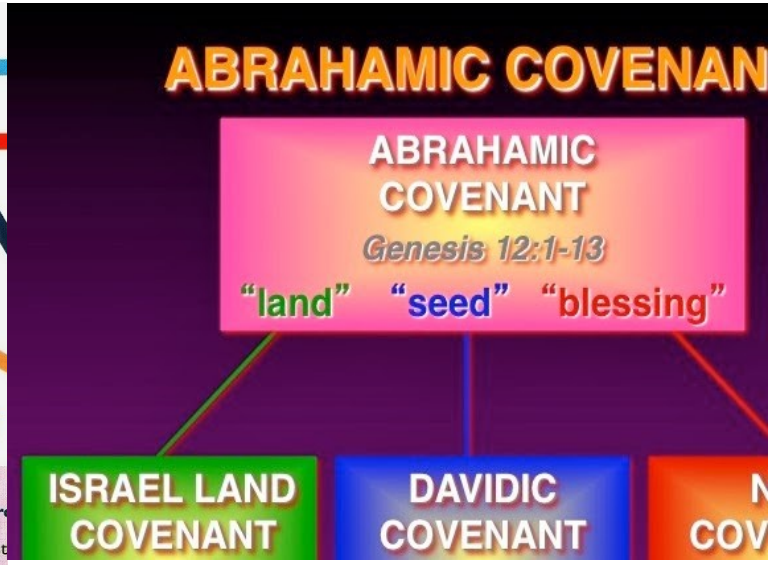
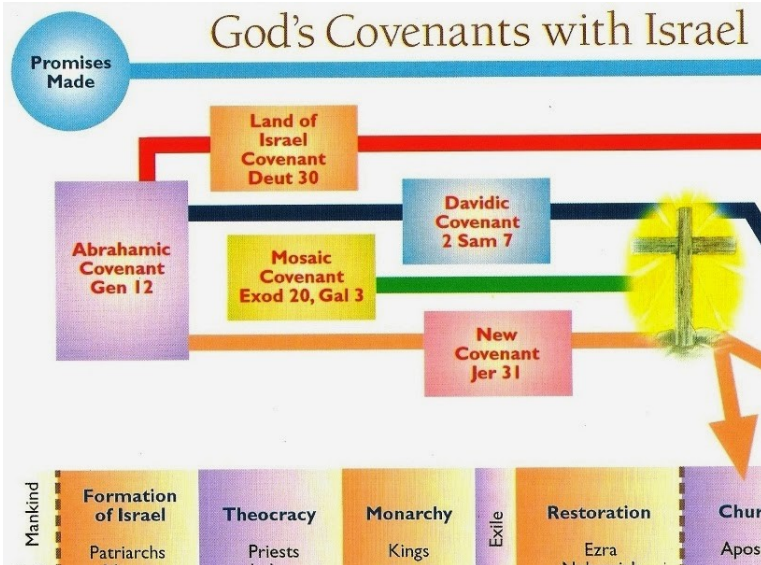
1 Chronicles 22:8 ~ But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.

1 Chronicles 28:3 ~But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name because you are a man of war and have shed blood.’

- Contrary to David’s desire, God did not want a house to be built at that time and did not want David to build one
- The responsibility of building God a house was left to Solomon
- However, God does make certain promises to David concerning the perpetuity of his house....promises which constitute the Davidic Covenant

THE PROMISE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- God’s covenant with David is an expansion and development of the “seed” promises of the Abrahamic Covenant
- The promise that David and his seed would be kings fulfilled the even more ancient Abrahamic covenant blessing that the patriarchs would be the fathers of kings



- In the AC, God told Abraham that he and Sara would have a son and that a great nation would come from him
Genesis 17:6 ~ I have made you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.
- This promise eventually narrowed on Isaac, then Jacob
- Later, the promise of a kingdom and a throne narrowed to the tribe of Judah
Genesis 49:10 ~ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
- Balaam promised a “star” and “scepter” would come from Israel
Numbers 24:17 ~ A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel
- These texts all pointed toward the DC where the scope of God’s promises narrow in on one family within the tribe of Judah, the family of David

- Thus, the DC is a covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever
- God promised to give David a great name and, under David's leadership as king, to provide a secure place for the nation of Israel to dwell, in accordance with the original promises of the Abrahamic Covenant
- God also promised that a descendant of David would build the Temple that David himself had wanted to build, and that the Davidic dynasty would endure forever.
- David would never lack a man to sit upon God's throne in Jerusalem...God promised to establish a descendant of David on his throne forever
- Thus, the DC secures in perpetuity a Davidic "house" or line, a throne, and a kingdom
- The specific promises God made in His covenant with David are stated in 2 Samuel 7:8-16

2 Samuel 7:8-16 ~ 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, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, 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. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.'" ' "

- Even though the word "covenant" is not used in that passage, the idea of a covenant is there
- David himself even calls this a "covenant" later:

2 Samuel 23:5 ~ Truly is not my house so with God? For He has made an everlasting covenant with me, Ordered in all things, and secured; For all my salvation and all my desire, Will He not indeed make it grow?

- Other restatements of the DC:

1 Chronicles 17:11-14 ~ When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up one of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. 14 But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.

2 Chronicles 6:16 ~ Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David, my father, that which You have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way, to walk in My law as you have walked before Me.'

Psalms 89:3-4, 34-37 ~ I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever And build up your throne to all generations...34 My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 is descendants shall endure forever And his throne as the sun before Me. 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, And the witness in the sky is faithful.

Isaiah 9:6-7 ~ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isaiah 11:1-5 ~Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the

fear of the LORD. 3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; 4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ~ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The LORD our righteousness.’”

Jeremiah 30:8-9 ~ ‘It shall come about on that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves. 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.’

Jeremiah 33:14-17 ~ ‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.’ 17 “For thus says the LORD, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;’

Ezekiel 37:24-25 ~ My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. 25 They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.

Daniel 7:13-14 ~I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Zechariah 14:4, 9 ~In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south...9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

- As is clear, the DC is a major emphasis in the OT...it has been estimated that over 40 individual biblical passages are directly related to the DC
- The ultimate fulfillment comes at Christ’s second coming when He sets up His millennial kingdom on earth

THE NATURE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

It is an Unconditional Covenant

- Like the AC from which the DC flows, there are no conditions attached to its fulfillment
- God commits Himself to fulfill it
- “He declares that He will never break this covenant, that He confirms it on His oath, and that His zeal will accomplish it (Ps 89:3-4, 4-35; Is 9:7). Once again it is necessary to emphasize that disobedience could negate the blessings of the covenant to any individual or generation but could not set the unconditional covenant aside. God could (and did) discipline for sin, but His loving-kindness would not depart from David...If God wanted an excuse to cancel the covenant with David, He had many opportunities to do so. But unconditional covenants are not set aside by the failures of the party on whom lay no requirements for the fulfillment.”¹

¹ Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*, 58-59.

- This is important to understand because, if God made the DC with the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, then the covenant must be fulfilled with them...it cannot be transferred to another group
- Thus, Israel must be preserved as a nation, eventually return to the land of promise, and be ruled over by Jesus Christ, the greater son of David

It is an Eternal Covenant

- Numerous times, the DC is referred to as an everlasting covenant

2 Samuel 7:13, 16 ~ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom **forever**...16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me **forever**; your throne shall be established **forever**.” ’ ”

Psalms 89:3-4, 35-37 ~ I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed **forever** And build up your throne to all generations...35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 is descendants shall endure **forever** And his throne as the sun before Me. 37 It shall be established **forever** like the moon, And the witness in the sky is faithful.

- “The ‘forever’ language of this covenant demands that this passage looks beyond Solomon to an even greater Son of David...The ‘house’ is a reference to a dynasty, and a dynasty looks beyond first and second generations. The kingdom will remain within the line of David. Since both David and Solomon and other descendants of David have died, the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant must be met in One who is eternal. Did David consciously understand this? Much debate exists on this issue but the best answer is that he did. In Acts 2, Peter explicitly stated that David ‘looked ahead’ as a prophet and ‘spoke’ of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of this covenant: “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ...” (Acts 2:29-31). According to Peter, David was a prophet who understood a future son would sit on his throne. David possessed prophetic knowledge of Jesus’ resurrection.”²

THE PROVISIONS OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- Although David desired to build a “house” for the Lord, God revealed that it was not His will for David
- Instead God would build a “house” for David...the house to be built for David would be a royal house, a dynasty of kings
- It would originate with him but would never end
- The kingdom and its throne would be permanent, a realm over which the Son of David would reign forever
- 2 Samuel 7 is one of the most significant passages concerning the kingdom of God in the Bible because, in it, God promises David a dynasty and kingdom that will never end
- Thus, the DC centers on several key promises that are made to David
- The Promises to be fulfilled in David’s lifetime:
 - A Great Name (v. 9)
 - A Place for the People (v. 10)
 - Rest (v. 11a)

² Michael Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*, 116-117.

- Promises to be fulfilled after David’s death:
 - A House (v. 11b)
 - A “Seed” or Descendant (vv. 12-14)
 - A Kingdom (v. 16)

God Would Grant David a Great Name

2 Samuel 7:9 ~ I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

- That the DC is closely connected to the AC is clear from the fact that God also promised that Abraham would have a great name

Genesis 12:2 ~ And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing

- This was fulfilled in David’s lifetime

God Would Grant Israel Rest From Their Enemies

2 Samuel 7:10-11a ~ I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

- This is exactly what happened under David...the people enjoyed rest from their enemies and dwelt securely in their own land

God Will Make a “House” for David

2 Samuel 7:11b ~ The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.

- The house to be built for David would be a royal house, a dynasty of kings...in David’s physical line
- God promised that the line of David would endure forever and never be cut off

God Will Establish David’s Throne Forever

2 Samuel 7:12-14 ~When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, 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. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

- It would be Solomon who would build the “house” for the Lord, the temple
- David would have a son who would sit on the throne of the nation
- The “throne” speaks of ruling authority...this is a promise that the right to rule would always belong to the line of David...and would never pass away permanently (even though there might be times when it might not be exercised)
- “The covenant did not require an unbroken succession of ruling kings in the Davidic dynasty.”³
- This does not mean that there cannot be interruptions in the reign of David’s line, but rather that the outcome is guaranteed

³Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*, 59.

- The near fulfillment of this promise is David's immediate physical descendants: Solomon, Rehoboam, etc.
- They ruled over the temporal kingdom of David's family in the land
- When God says, "I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men," He is referring to the fact that He would discipline the seed of David when necessary (i.e. Solomon, etc.)
- But the ultimate seed of David will not be a sinner like David's descendants and will, thus, not need such discipline
- Obviously, this provision of the DC refers to David's greater Son, Jesus Christ...the one who would assume David's throne (see Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Luke 1:69)
- Christ's Davidic reign will conclude human history

God Will Establish David's Kingdom Forever

2 Samuel 7:15-16 ~but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.

- Notice the 3 phrases which really summarize the DC:
 - 1) your house – refers to a dynasty in the lineage of David
 - 2) your kingdom – refers to a people who are governed by a king
 - 3) your throne – refers to the authority of the king's rule
- What began as a promise that David's son Solomon would be blessed and build the temple turns into something different – the promise of an everlasting kingdom
- Another Son of David would rule forever and build a lasting House
- This is a reference to the Messiah, David's ultimate Son, who would rule a kingdom that will never end
- "forever" emphasizes the eternal and unconditional nature of this promise to David and Israel