



Teaching Sermon Notes: “David: A Covenant Man” Part Two of “David: The Covenant of the Kingdom”

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Every war has weapons. Ours are spiritual. God has given His children spiritual weapons as they wage war against the world, the flesh, and the devil in their personal lives. In this regard, we are told in scripture to look to the examples of those who have preceded us in the faith. One such person from whom we can learn is David.

Saul had been chosen by lot in answer to the people's rejection of God as king over them and in fulfillment of their desires for an earthly king. (1 Samuel 8-10) In 1 Samuel 15 we find out that the Covenant Lord rejected Saul from being king because he had rejected the word of the Lord. Saul feared the people and obeyed their voice and not God's commandment. It ended up that Samuel mourned for Saul; and the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. Now there would be a change. God would provide Himself a king.

1. David was chosen by God and anointed. The Spirit of the Lord came upon and prospered David from that day forward (and turned aside from Saul). Samuel was then ordered to go to Jesse the Bethlehemite for God said, “I have provided me a king among his sons.” (1 Samuel 16.1) Samuel followed God's instructions, sanctifying Jesse and his sons and calling them to the sacrifice. Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but the youngest, David, was not among them. When David finally stood before Samuel, the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him: for this is he.” Samuel anointed David, and “the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.” (1 Samuel 16.13)

2. David learned to submit to authority; he found favor in Saul's eyes and ministered to Saul. An evil spirit from God troubled Saul when the Spirit departed from him. Saul desired someone who could play an instrument. By this time, David was being described as “a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him.” (1 Samuel 16.18) David became Saul's armor-bearer, played the harp to soothe Saul, and submitted to Saul's authority.

3. The Philistines boldly and confidently thought they would win and set the terms of their fight with Israel. Israel was on a mountain on one side and the Philistines stood on a mountain on the other side with a valley in between. Goliath came out to defy the armies of Israel, making Saul and all Israel afraid. If Goliath got killed, then the Philistines would be servants to the Israelites, and vice versa.

4. David demonstrated obedience. David had returned to tending his father's sheep. For 40 days the Philistine Goliath presented himself in challenge to the Israelites. David was sent by his father Jesse to take supplies to his brothers that were in the battle trenches. As David came and saluted his brothers, out came Goliath. This Goliath was formidable; but David wanted to know what reward was in play for slaying Goliath and taking away the reproach from Israel.

5. David learned of the rewards to the one who smote Goliath, rewards to be given by Saul.

The king would enrich him with great riches and give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel. Then David gives us a great key:

*And David said to the men that stood by him, saying,
What shall be done (worked) to the man that kills this
Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?
For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he
should defy the armies of the living God?
1 Samuel 17.26*

6. David knew he was a covenant man. He knew the living God. Goliath had no such guaranteed protection, provision, pity, preservation, peace, and assurance of pursuit of enemies. Goliath came with natural strength. In defying the armies of Israel, Goliath defied God. David would come after Goliath in the Name of the Lord of Hosts.

7. David armed himself with the weapons of war. Saul armed David with his armor, but that armor did not suit David. David had not proved them and put them off. Instead, he took his staff and chose five smooth stones out of the brook and put those stones in a shepherd's bag. He also took a sling and drew near to Goliath. His weapons didn't look like much to Goliath or probably to anyone around. Goliath cursed David by his gods, but David had the Spirit of the Lord on his side.

*You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield:
But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the
God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
This day will the Lord deliver you into my hand; and I will
Smite you, and take your head from you; and I will give
The carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the
Fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that
All the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. (1 Samuel 17.45, 46)*

8. David came in the name of the Covenant Lord, with weapons of spiritual warfare.

*And all this assembly shall know that the Lord
saves not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and
He will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17.47)*

David was a covenant man, in covenant with the living God. David's victory was secured by that relationship and his understanding of this covenant. Ours is a covenant of grace. That favor, unmerited, comes because of God's choosing. **David was appointed, anointed, under authority, obedient to authority, and armed with the weapons of spiritual warfare.** His five smooth stones indicated God's grace, something God-given, not man-made, and David had proved them. David was not deterred by Goliath's prophecy. David's words came with the power of the Lord of Hosts. He went to battle with a sense of purpose. He knew he would be victorious; and there was no physical sword in the hand of David.

All spiritual warfare and our victory in it hinges on our understanding of God's covenant relationship with His people, the people of faith. For us today, that covenant is the Blood Covenant in Jesus Christ. What enemy can overthrow the living God? It is Jesus, whose we are and whom we serve. The battle is the Lord's, and He gives us the victory.

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
But mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down
Imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against
The knowledge of God, and bringing every thought
Captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10.4, 5*

God established the Covenant with David. We looked at 2 Samuel 7. David wanted to build God a “house,” but God is, after all, God, and so God responded that He would build David a “house” in the sense of “dynasty.”

Remember, there is an interconnection between David’s throne and God’s Throne. David’s throne was considered as coordinate with God’s throne. (1 Chronicles 29.22) Jesus the Christ, the anointed One of Israel is seated at God’s right hand. His present reign fulfills the OT anticipations and so where the King is, so is His throne. Acts 2.30-36. Hebrews 12.22-24 tells us that believers in Christ are now come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem. The significant Jerusalem is no longer the “present” Jerusalem, but the Jerusalem above. Galatians 4.25, 26. It is from this Jerusalem above that life in God’s kingdom begins. Christ’s throne in heaven at God’s right hand is David’s throne in the Jerusalem above. From there He rules the whole world in righteousness.

J. Ligon Duncan, in a teaching/training session on the Covenants of God, spoke about “The Davidic Covenant Fulfilled” in 2013. What follows is from that teaching session.

“The promise was not that David would reign for a long time, but that he would reign forever. That very fact led the prophets of the Old Testament to see that this Davidic promise would only be fulfilled in the Messiah, and that is of course exactly how the New Testament interprets it. This reign is ultimately only fulfilled in the reign of the son of David, Jesus Christ and His eternal messianic rule. This promise finds its ultimate fulfillment only in the reign of Christ. The succession of the Davidic kings under the Old Covenant was a type. It was a shadowy figure. It was a pre-illustration of the unbroken eternal reign of the Lord Jesus, who even now reigns at the right hand in heaven. ...

“The New Testament in passages like Hebrews 1:5, makes it clear that the Davidic reign was prophetic of Christ’s reign. The reality is, by definition, clearer than the shadow. So you interpret the shadow by the reality, not the reality by the shadow. If the Davidic reign was a foreshadowing of the ultimate reality, surely you allow your understanding of the ultimate reality to help you understand what the foreshadowing meant, rather than the other way around.

“Question: Is there a covenant sign in the Davidic covenant?”

“The short answer is no. There is no covenant sign mentioned in the Davidic Covenant as a specific covenant sign. But if there is any symbol of the Davidic covenant, it would be the throne. ... I Chronicles 29, verse 22, “they made Solomon, the son of David, king a second time, and they anointed him as ruler for the Lord, and Zadok as priest. Then, Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord.” ... An identification [exists] between the rule of God in Israel, and the rule of David in his seed. And so the throne in the Davidic Covenant functions to epitomize the message of the covenant with David. The ... prophetic teaching of the covenant of David points us mostly to an understanding of two things. Jesus, office as king, and Jesus preaching of the kingdom. And that throne both points to the office of David and his descendants as the unique divinely appointed king of Israel, and to the rule of God in Israel, because God is even willing to call the throne of David, the throne of Yahweh. So that is quite an extraordinary statement there in I Chronicles. And clearly the Chronicler has a theological agenda behind that. He is showing

you the significance of the Davidic line in the plan of God. He is preparing you for the significance of the split of the nation and the wickedness that occurs from that, and he is relating it to the rejection of that divinely appointed throne of the line of David.”

<https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/classes-and-training/the-davidic-covenant/> J. Ligon Duncan, October 4, 2013

12In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” 13And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!” Revelation 5:12, 13.

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May the Throne of the Covenant LORD be established in your heart.

Mary Craig

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“And to you and your descendants I will give the land of your sojourn--all the land of Canaan--as an eternal possession; and I will be their God.” Genesis 17:8

“And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” Revelation 21:6, 7.

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