



Post Tenebras Lux Covenant Theology...

The Davidic Covenant...

1 Chronicles 29:10-22

^{NIV} **1 Chronicles 29:10**...David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵ We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶ O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸ O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. ¹⁹ And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." ²⁰ Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king. ²¹ The next day they made sacrifices to the LORD and presented burnt offerings to him: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand male lambs, together with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ²² They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day. Then they

acknowledged Solomon son of David as king a second time, anointing him before the LORD to be ruler and Zadok to be priest.

One of the things that happen when people study covenant theology is that they are often influenced by dispensationalism. Now, I am not trying to grind any sort of theological axe here, I am just trying to state what seems to me to be a simple truth. The way that dispensationalism affects the study is that people tend to focus on the difference between the covenants and just as importantly they fail to recognize the continuity between the covenants. There is a tendency to look at each of the biblical covenants as if they are not connected to each other at all.

Perhaps, this graphic will help.

Normally, people think of the various covenants as completely isolated from each other. But in reality they are built one upon the other like stepping-stones. To be sure, there are differences with regard to things like the various signs and even the emphasis of each different promise. But in the main, they form one continuous covenant culminating in the gracious work of Christ on the cross. That was the principle point I was trying to make last week and it is the principle point the Confession makes as well.

Under the Gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper: which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity, and less outward glory, yet, in them, it is held forth in more fullness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the New

Testament. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations.(WCF VII.6)

Of course, there are elements of discontinuity between the various forms of the covenant. Covenant theologians will talk about the Adamic covenant or the Abrahamic covenant like they are completely different things. And sometimes that really confuses the issue but the one point I want you to get this morning is that all the various covenants or dispensations of the covenant together form one covenant, the covenant of grace.

Now this morning, I want to talk about the Davidic covenant. It is somewhat different than the other parts of the covenant of grace because its emphasis is different. But again, it is not so different that it makes up a new and separate covenant. It is one more building block in the covenant of grace. It is one more building block toward the culmination of God's gracious design in Christ.

We see it first in 2 Samuel 7.

NIV 2 Samuel 7:1...After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, **"Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."** ³ **Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."**

God had finally given rest to the tumultuous life of David. He had been king over Judah in the city of Hebron for seven years. He had finally managed to put down the revolt of Ishbosheth and others and had even taken the city of Jerusalem, which up until that time had been an impregnable fortress. At the

point of the narrative in 2 Samuel 7, David had become the king of a united Israel. He finally had rest from his surrounding enemies. He had even brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem with great ceremony and rejoicing.

Now, as a sidebar, I should point out that David was blessed because of his obedience to the Lord. You may remember the study that we did a few years back when we talked about the book of Samuel and how obedience to the covenant brought prosperity. It is a continuation of the very thing we looked at last week in Deuteronomy 27 and 28.

Now, I am not talking about material prosperity exclusively. I am talking about spiritual prosperity before the Lord. It is particularly easy to see in 2 Samuel 6, where David's wife, Saul's daughter, is cursed with infertility because of her stinging, sarcastic rebuke of David.

NIV 2 Samuel 6:12...Now King David was told, "**The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.**" So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. ¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. ¹⁹ Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes. ²⁰ When David returned home to bless

his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "**How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!**" ²¹ David said to Michal, "**It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel-- I will celebrate before the LORD.**" ²² **I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.**" ²³ And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

It seems that Michal despised David because of his shamelessness in worshipping the Lord. She thought he should have maintained himself in a more respectable light. It may be that she was still grieving over her father or that she blamed David somehow for the complete destruction of her father's legacy but the point is that she blasted David for his utter abandon in worshipping God. And God blasted her womb in return. David would be prosperous and the house of Saul would forever die on the vine. There were covenantal implications for David's obedience and for Saul's disobedience.

David's seed would be blessed and Saul's seed would be cursed.

Returning to 2 Samuel 7, that is exactly what we see. God had given David peace and he was fully aware that all that he possessed had been given as a result of God's covenant mercy. David wanted to do something for God not because he wanted to win God's approval but rather because of the intense gratitude he felt toward God.

As he surveyed God's mercy, the thought came to him that it was wrong for him to live in a permanent house and for his covenant keeping God to be dwelling in

a tent. So, he called in the prophet Nathan to reveal the intention he had regarding the building of a house for God.

NIV 2 Samuel 7:1...After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, **"Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."** ³ Nathan replied to the king, **"Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."**

Now, what is interesting is that it seemed like a good idea to Nathan to. He put his immediate stamp or blessing upon David's design to build a permanent house for God but during the night God informed Nathan that he had other plans.

NIV 2 Samuel 7:4...That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, **"Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"**" ⁸ **"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father,**

and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." ¹⁷ Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation. ¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: **"Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? ²⁰ "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD.**

Now, I want you to notice God's words spoken through Nathan the prophet. God asks David whether he is the one who should build the house and He even asks whether He had ever asked for a house? In verse 9, he says:

^{NIV} 2 Samuel 7:5..."Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?

God is not being cruel here but instead He is making the point that He is the one who determines such things. Instead of David building God a house, God says He will build David a dynasty. Notice the things He specifically promises David.

^{NIV} 2 Samuel 7:9...I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.

In verse 11, He says:

NIV 2 Samuel 7:11...I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

He also says:

NIV 2 Samuel 7:11... "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

Finally, in verse 12 He says:

NIV 2 Samuel 7:12...When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

So God promises David that:

- (1) He will make his name great.
- (2) He will give David rest from all his enemies.
- (3) He will make him a house, that is, a dynasty.
- (4) He will allow his seed to build God a house.
- (5) He will establish his throne forever.

Now, I want to make two points here. First, it sounds almost just like the promise made to Abraham. There is the promise of a great name and eternal blessing and of an established land. Secondly, there is the appropriateness of David's

response. There was no poutiness or resentment. Instead, David rejoiced in all that God promised.

NIV 2 Samuel 7:18... Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? ²⁰ "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD. ²¹ For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant. ²² "How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³ And who is like your people Israel-- the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴ You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, have become their God. ²⁵ "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, ²⁶ so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you. ²⁷ "O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. ²⁸ O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹ Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

Now, David took this promise of the Lord seriously. He appointed his son, Solomon, privately to be king (1Chronicles 23:1) after him and he charged him to be obedient to all that God had commanded. But not only did he privately exhort Solomon to obey the Lord, he also admonished him to do so publicly. In 1 Chronicles, there is a wonderful passage where David publicly tells the nation

what God has promised and he warns Solomon and the nation of the consequences of not following after God.

NIV 1 Chronicles 28:5...Of all my sons-- and the LORD has given me many-- he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶ He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. ⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.' ⁸ "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

It is in a sense a public ordination, a public covenant renewal. We know that what follows in chapter 29.

NIV 1 Chronicles 29:1...Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. ² With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God-- gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble-- all of these in large quantities. ³ Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴ three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵ for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?"

It is at that point that the people consecrated themselves before God and vowed to help Solomon live before the Lord in purity and in wisdom. The passage that I read at the beginning of the lesson took place here. And because it is so long I

won't read it again but there is one particular point that I want to emphasize. It occurs in verses 20-22:

NIV 1 Chronicles 29:20...Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king. ²¹ The next day they made sacrifices to the LORD and presented burnt offerings to him: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand male lambs, together with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ²² They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day. Then they acknowledged Solomon son of David as king a second time, anointing him before the LORD to be ruler and Zadok to be priest.

It is the notion of covenant renewal. The people are renewing their vows before the Lord. They offer sacrifice and they eat before the Lord. They are promising to be God's people as He has promised to be their God and the passage uses the exact same kind of language that we saw earlier in Exodus when Moses and the elders ate before the Lord.

NIV Exodus 24:9...Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Lastly, the people make Solomon their king. David had already made Solomon the king privately but now the people in an act of covenant renewal bless the Lord and swear a covenant to Solomon as God's king. To accept his rule is to accept the rule of God. Notice the way the author puts it:

NIV 1 Chronicles 29:22...They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day. Then they acknowledged Solomon son of David as king a

second time, anointing him before the LORD to be ruler and Zadok to be priest.
²³ So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his father David.
He prospered and all Israel obeyed him. ²⁴ All the officers and mighty men, as
well as all of King David's sons, pledged their submission to King Solomon. ²⁵
The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him
royal splendor such as no king over Israel ever had before.

Now, it may be that you are thinking, "Well I see that there were promises made
to David. Indeed, there were wonderful promises made to David. But, I am not
so sure that it was a covenant like the one made with Abraham or Moses."

If you are thinking that you lay it to rest because of the clear wording of 2
Chronicles 21:7.

^{NIV} **2 Chronicles 21:7**...Nevertheless, because of the covenant the LORD had
made with David, the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David. He
had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.

And God could have snuffed out the line of David. Certainly there were times in
the divided kingdom of Israel that the descendants of David needed to be wiped
out but God spared them, sometimes miraculously. Even when the kingdom of
Judah was about to be taken into slavery again by the Babylonians, God had
Jeremiah remind the people that the Davidic kingdom would endure.

^{NIV} **Jeremiah 33:19**...The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁰ **"This is what
the LORD says: 'If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant
with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time, ²¹
then my covenant with David my servant-- and my covenant with the Levites
who are priests ministering before me-- can be broken and David will no
longer have a descendant to reign on his throne. ²² I will make the descendants
of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as
the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.'" ²³ The**

word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁴ **"Have you not noticed that these people are saying, 'The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he chose'? So they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation. ²⁵ This is what the LORD says: 'If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the fixed laws of heaven and earth, ²⁶ then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.'"**

But after four hundred years the Davidic kingdom did come to an end or so it seemed. God's promises had been gracious and they had been kind but after Zedekiah there was no king to reign on the throne of David unless, of course, Christ was the fulfillment of all that was promised to David. And that seems to be the point that Matthew is making in his gospel early on with the wise men and regal gifts and so on.

But really there is no place where Matthew could make his point more clearly than in the giving of the genealogy of Jesus.

^{NIV} **Matthew 1:1**...A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. ¹² After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. ¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

You see the reminder to Matthew's Jewish readers was that Jesus was a descendant of Abraham and thus the fulfillment of all the promises made to Abraham. But he was also the descendant of David but not just any descendant; He was the rightful heir to the throne of David. He was the fulfillment of all that God had promised and it was His throne that would be established forever.

^{NIV} **2 Corinthians 1:20**...For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.