

Sermon Outline

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

THE THRONE OF FOREVER

(2 SAMUEL 7:12-16)

Previous Lessons: (1) The Savior of the World (Jn 4:42); (2) Our Place in the Son (Col 1:15-17); (3) Those of the Divine Image (Gen 1:26-28); (4) Hope for the Nations (12:1-3); (5) Priestly Kingdom (Ex 19:1-6)

I. Forming the Kingdom-Temple of God

II. YHWH Will Raise Up David's Offspring (2 Samuel 7:12)

- A. God begins this promise with the words: "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers..."
- B. What will happen after David has died?
 - 1. The Lord will raise up David's offspring (or "seed") after him.
 - 2. The Lord will establish his kingdom.
- C. The Lord God will do all these things for David.
 - 1. While David was the earthly king of Israel, YHWH is still the divine King.
 - 2. YHWH is the real power behind the throne.
- D. YHWH, the King of all kings, is now addressing his servant-king David through the prophet Nathan.
 - 1. YHWH is coming to his servant David and he is making him a promise.
 - 2. This promise is entirely sovereign and free; it has got nothing to do with how good David is.
- E. This promise to David—the Davidic Covenant—complements the earlier promise that was made to Abraham.
 - 1. Long ago, God promised Abraham that he would raise a nation out of his body (Gen 12:1, 2; 15:18).
 - 2. Now that that nation, Israel, is in existence, God raises a family of kings from that nation.
 - 3. God is making his way through the bloodlines of Israel to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

***Questions for reflection:** (1) What does God promise to do for David after his "days are fulfilled"? (2) How does the Davidic covenant complement God's earlier promise to Abraham?

III. David's Offspring Will Build YHWH's House (2 Samuel 7:13a)

- A. The Lord asks something of David's son.
1. The Lord says, "He [referring to David's son] shall build a house for my name..."
 2. That is a major royal project of David's son.
 3. That is, we can say, the main goal of his rule. It is to build a house for the divine King, the God of Israel.
- B. But what "house" does God have in mind?
1. "House" (Hebrew: *bayit*) can refer to a physical building.
 - a. Judging from how Israel's history develops, this is what the Lord has in mind—at least for the immediate future.
 - b. David's son, Solomon, will build a temple for God.
 2. "House" can also mean "household" or "family" (as in "the *House* of David," or "the *House* of Israel").
 - a. Although "house" in verse 13 refers primarily to a building, it seems that God is already preparing us to think of something much more.
 - b. In verse 11, Nathan says to David, "the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house," and that is followed by God's statement about raising descendants for David.
 - c. Therefore, when God says that David's son will build God a house, it dawns on us that God may not just be asking for a physical temple.
 - i. God may also asking for a family, a royal dynasty.
 - ii. Somehow, the Family of David will be instrumental in building a Family for God.
 - iii. When we come to the New Testament, we see confirmation for this idea.
—In Ephesians 2, Paul talks about the Church being the household of God.
- C. God assigns the royal task of house building to the future son of David.
1. On one level, it's to build a literal house—a national shrine—for YHWH, the God of Israel.
 2. But on an even higher level, the task of the son of David is to build a household, a family for YHWH.

***Questions for reflection:** (1) What does the Lord ask of David's son? (2) What kind of house does God have in mind in 2 Samuel 7:13a? (3) If "house" in Hebrew can also mean "household," what possibilities are opened to us for the future?

IV. YHWH Will Establish David's Throne (2 Samuel 7:13b)

- A. For his part, the Lord will then ensure that the throne of David's offspring stands forever: "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
 - 1. This restates the promise in verse 12.
 - 2. But there is one further development: Not only does the Lord say he will establish the throne of David's son. He also adds that this throne will stand forever.

- B. Right here, we sense that we are on the edge of something profound.
 - 1. The throne is the visible symbol of the king's authority and office.
 - 2. The fact that God says the throne will be forever means that the office of the Davidic king will last forever.
 - 3. God is hinting that the institution of the Davidic King is going to outlive Solomon and his future descendants.
 - 4. God has written into the Davidic covenant an eschatological principle—a principle that points us to the final and ultimate reality of a new creation.
 - 5. God is hinting that one of David's future heirs will be at the head of this new creation.

- C. We can also sense the great determination that God has to bring this reality to pass: "I *will* establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
 - 1. The will of God is fully behind David's son.
 - 2. No power in all creation can sway God from this commitment.
 - 3. From here onward, the institution of the Davidic King is going to be an essential and necessary part of the human story.

***Questions for reflection:** (1) Israel's watchmen sing in joy at "the return of the LORD to Zion." In what sense did the Lord leave Zion/Israel in the first place? (2) How does Ezekiel 10 describe the departure of the Lord from his people? (3) In what context or on what occasion does the proclamation "Your God reigns" come?

V. YHWH Will Be a Father to David's Son (2 Samuel 7:14)

- A. In verse 14, the promise takes on a more tender and familial tone.
 - 1. God uses familial language—the language of the family—to describe his relationship to the son of David.
 - 2. The Lord says, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son" (v 14).
 - 3. This statement is the basis for some of our most important Christian doctrines (e.g. the concept of the messianic Son of God; the New Testament doctrine of adoption, etc.).

4. When YHWH says that he will be a father to the son of David, it means that God is assuming responsibility for David's immediate offspring.
 5. Since the throne of David's kingdom is forever, it's clear that God is assuming responsibility for all of David's future descendants.
- B. That said, David's son also has responsibilities to his divine Father.
1. "When he commits iniquity," the Lord says, "I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men [.]"
 2. God is promising here that he will discipline the king of Israel if he should ever become wayward.
 3. This implies that God has standards for Israel's king.
 4. Where can God's standards for the king be found?
 - a. They are found in the Ten Commandments, God's universal laws for all mankind.
 - b. They are found in Deuteronomy 17:14-20; God's rules for Israel's kings. The king...
 - i. must be an Israelite, a servant of YHWH (v 15).
 - ii. must not acquire many wives or horses for himself like the wicked Canaanite kings (vv 16, 17).
 - iii. has to write for himself a copy of God's Law (v 18).
 - c. Before the king is a ruler, he is first a theologian, a student of the Word of God.
—Unless he is first a student of God's Law, the king would not know how to be a good king.
 5. If the king does not obey him, God will use other humans to punish his own royal son.
 6. This reminds us yet again of who the real power behind the throne is—it is the Lord YHWH himself.

***Questions for reflection:** (1) What kind of relationship does God choose to have with the Israelite king? How does God describe this relationship? (2) Based on Deuteronomy 17:14-20, what are some responsibilities the Lord puts on the king of Israel? (3) "Before the king is a ruler and a policymaker, he first has to be a theologian, a student of the Word of God." Discuss. (4) What would happen if the king does not obey the Lord?

VI. YHWH Will Not Remove His Love from David's House (2 Samuel 7:15)

- A. Even if the king is disciplined for his sins, there is one thing that will never happen: "my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you."
1. Saul, the previous king, was removed from the throne because of his disobedience to God.
 2. But God will not do that to David's children.

3. Even if they do disobey God, God will still love them as his own sons.
- B. God's steadfast love to David's house is an act of his free and sovereign grace.
1. We have to remember that the whole human race is liable to God's condemnation.
 2. God has no obligation to favor anyone.
 3. God can show mercy to whomever he wishes (Rom 9:15).

***Questions for reflection:** (1) Even if the king goes bad, what will God not do?
 (2) On what basis does God show steadfast love to the king?

VII. YHWH Promises an Enduring Rule to David (2 Samuel 7:16)

- A. God restates the whole promise: "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."
1. David's family will be an everlasting dynasty.
 2. David's kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom.
- B. These blessings do not depend on David's future piety, or on the faithfulness of his sons. They depend solely on God's goodness.
- C. All things considered, the Lord is the ultimate King of Israel; he is the real Power behind the throne of David.

***Questions for reflection:** (1) What is God's promise to David? (2) How does the Lord relate to the throne of David?

VIII. The (Davidic) Kingdom of Heaven, the (Heavenly) Kingdom of David

- A. As God's revelation increases, we learn more about God's plans for the House of David. We learn...
1. that God actually desires the kings of the world to submit themselves to the Son of David and take refuge in him (Ps 2).
 2. that the ultimate heir to the throne of David is the Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 1:32-33).
 3. that Jesus the Son of David is God in human flesh (Jn 1:14).
- B. Since he is God and man at the same time, Jesus fuses divine and human kingship together.
- Jesus brings together both the throne of YHWH and the throne of David.
1. Because Jesus is God and man, he is able to pay for all the sins of Israel and the world.

2. On the cross, Jesus—YHWH in human flesh—took on himself the punishments of his people.
 3. Because of the infinite value of his person, and the perfect righteousness of his life, Jesus was able to remove the sins of his people once and for all.
 4. Here is the great and surprising twist in the story:
 - a. God had promised that he would punish David's sons with the rods of men.
 - b. But God took on human flesh and became a son of David.
 - c. On the cross, God took on himself the punishment that he himself had promised in 2 Samuel 7.
- C. What happened after Jesus was raised from the dead?
1. YHWH makes good on his promise to David, rewarding Jesus with universal authority over all things.
 2. That's what we read in Matthew 28: Jesus says "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
 3. We have to read Matthew 28 with 2 Samuel 7 in mind.
 4. When Jesus says that all rule has been given to him, he is saying that the kingdom has finally returned to a Davidic King, who is Jesus himself.
 5. Through Jesus, sinners from all nations can finally become part of God's house.
 6. So Jesus has fulfilled the mission of David's House in a way David himself probably did not expect.
—He has built a house of YHWH on earth—it is the Holy Catholic Church of Christ.
- D. Do we sense the awesome reality of what has taken place in Christ?
1. Our zeal for evangelism and for the Church really depends on us grasping the result of Christ's work.
 2. Now that God has given the throne to Christ, a new order has begun—the Kingdom of God in the Kingdom of Christ.
- E. Is Jesus' rule is only relevant for heaven? Absolutely not.
1. The fact all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus means that his rule applies in all realms.
 2. *How* it applies is where the debates lie.
 3. But *that* it applies should be without question.
- F. Evangelization does have massive implications.
1. It has implications for how we relate to the rest of the world.
 2. In view of this, it makes sense that the evil cosmic powers would throw up various obstacles to prevent the Word of Christ from going into all places of society.

3. Satan will suggest to people that Christ is irrelevant to the practical realities of life.
4. But we must question that lie: *How do we know that Christ is irrelevant?*
5. When you look beyond the excuses that the people raise against Christ, we are faced with one basic assumption: It is the demonic assumption that Christ is irrational and unloving.
6. But we Christians have more than our share of blame.
 - a. At some level, we too believe, with the World, that Christ is irrelevant and unloving.
 - b. This explains why we don't pray as we ought, why we are not quick to obey as we should, and why we sometimes backslide in the Christian life.
 - c. The presence of these doubts in Christ does not mean that we are not God's children.
—God accepts us on Jesus' merits, not on the basis of how much faith we have.
 - d. But now that God is in us, he will move us to greater obedience to him.
 - e. Since God is the Lord of the House of David, greater obedience would also be directed to the Son of David.
 - f. We Christians are theocrats and monarchists at heart!

***Questions for reflection:** (1) As God's revelation increases, what do we learn about God's plans for the House of David? (2) "Since he is God and man at the same time, Jesus fuses divine and human kingship together." Do you understand what this means? (3) What is the surprising twist in the story of redemption? (4) What did God the Father give Jesus after he was raised from the dead? (5) How has Jesus fulfilled the mission of David's House? (6) What implications does evangelization have? (7) "We Christians are theocrats and monarchists at heart!" Discuss how this relates to living in a liberal democracy.

IX. Evangelization as Forming the Divine Davidic Kingdom

When we engage in evangelization at home or abroad, we are sharing in the Kingdom- and Temple-building work of the Son of David. The Temple of God is the Church. The Church is also the Kingdom of the Son of David. It is truly an honor to be sharing in this work. We are part of the most glorious, nation-building project of all time. How are you sharing in the building the Kingdom of God?