

"I took you from the sheepfold." These are the words that God spoke through Nathan the prophet to the man David who was now king of Israel. God went on to say how he had been with him wherever he went. He told David how he had cut off all his enemies and how he would make his name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.

God did not choose David just because he managed the sheepfold well, which it can be assured he did. God could look beyond the sheepfold and see that David was a man who could capture the vision that God had for a people who would ultimately obey their creator, respect the earth and the order that he had created and live justly and in harmony and peace with each other and with God. He could see that David was a man of passion who could love deeply but also one who could sin grievously. He could see that David would also repent of his sin and seek forgiveness and restoration with the one he hurt the most, the God whom he loved and in whom he trusted.

Nathan told David that God had planned a house, or royal lineage, that would not only endure many generations, but would last forever. This would not just be a human dynasty that would ultimately fall prey to the weaknesses and failures that all dynasties fall prey to, but because it would be established by God himself its permanence would be assured and its justice guaranteed forever.

And how did David respond to these words of God that Nathan spoke to him? David's response is not only filled with a deep-felt humility that reflected his inner character but gives us an insight into the awe that David felt as his

part in God's vision was revealed to him. This prayer from 2nd Samuel chapter 7 is reproduced here. Please read it carefully, perhaps more than once and ponder the impact that the revelation of God's vision had on David's heart. It is truly awe-inspiring. Drink deep of these words.

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? 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?"

"What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign Lord. For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

"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. 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? You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O Lord, have become their God.

"And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, 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.

"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. O Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. 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."

In this newsletter we are going to revisit the vision that God shared with Abraham and see how it fits together with the promises made to David. We are going to look at that promised king that would become part of David's lineage and what part this promised heir would play as the centerpiece of God's vision.

As you read through this lesson think a bit how you too have been taken from the sheepfold to share in God's wonderful vision for his creation. Like David God has looked at you and seen the heart that yearns to be a faithful servant and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father in his kingdom to come. It's our lot in life to be part of the sheepfold now with all its cares and concerns, but it is God's joy to share the vision with us now and watch it become an inspirational driving force in our life. May we all be blessed to that end.

The Promised Son: Son of David, Son of God

The very first verse of the New Testament reads:

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham."

Jesus is identified as the son of David and the son of Abraham. Why is Jesus identified in this way and who are these people?

The newsletter for April 2015, the third in the series concerning "The Vision", discussed the man Abraham and the eternal promises that God made to this faithful man. The book of Genesis recounts these promises:

Abraham will become a great nation and his name will be great. Genesis 12

Abraham will be a blessing. Those who bless Abraham will be blessed and those who curse Abraham will be cursed. Genesis 12

Abraham and his children will receive the land that God showed him as an eternal inheritance. Genesis 13

Abraham's seed would be as numerous as the dust of the land, the sand on the seashore, or the stars in the heavens. Genesis 15

Abraham will be the father of many nations. Genesis 17

Abraham and his children will possess the gate of their enemies. Genesis 22

Through Abraham all the families of the earth will be blessed. Genesis 22

These are eternal promises made by the everlasting and almighty God and he will fulfill these promises of blessings to Abraham and to his offspring. Now, in the New Testament, Jesus is identified as Abraham's son.

Jesus is also identified as the son of David. After the time of Abraham, his grandsons and descendants had gone down to Egypt to escape a famine in the land of Canaan. God rescued Israel, the descendants of Abraham, from slavery in Egypt and brought them back to the land that God had promised to Abraham.

After many years of leadership by Joshua and the judges that followed him, the people wanted to have a king. By God's command, Saul was anointed the first king of Israel. He ruled over all of Israel but God rejected him because of his disobedience.

God then sent Samuel to anoint David, son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah as the next king. David was faithful to God and became known as "a man after God's own heart". He conquered the city of Jerusalem and set up the capital of Israel there.

After many years he wanted to build a "house" for God. The tabernacle, the place of worship that had been made according to God's instruction and design during the wilderness wanderings of Israel, was not a permanent structure:

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." 2 Samuel 7:1-3 (NIV)

in his desire to build a house for God that Nathan the prophet tells him: "go ahead, the LORD is with you". However, that night God spoke to Nathan and told him to bring this message to David:

Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth."

Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

David's love for God is so evident

(Continued on page 3)

The Promised Son: Son of David, Son of God (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:7-16 (NKJV)

Just as God made eternal promises

to Abraham concerning the land, being the father of many nations, and all nations being blessed through him, now God makes eternal promises to David:

Israel will be "planted" so that they will have a place of their own and the sons of wickedness will no longer oppress them.

God will make a "house" for David: one of his descendants will rule over David's kingdom forever.

This descendent of David will also be the son of God.

* * * * *

The Promised King

The promises that God made to King David one thousand years before the time of Christ are repeated over and over again in the Old and the New Testament:

A descendant of David will rule in righteousness:

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD,
"That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called:
THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Jeremiah 23:5-8 (NKJV)

A descendant of Jesse, the father of David, will rule with wisdom and justice by the power of God:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the

fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. Isaiah 11 (NIV)

The one who will rule is not just descended from David but is the Son of God:

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD : He said to me, "You are my Son, today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Psalm 2:7-9 (NIV)

The royal son will rule from sea to sea, over the whole earth, forever:

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days the righteous will flourish prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth...May his name endure forever, may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. Psalm 72 (NIV)

The promised child to be born will reign on David's throne over his kingdom forever:

For to us a child is born, to us a

The Promised King (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

Notice that the promised son of David would rule over, not just Israel, but all nations. All nations will be blessed through him. That's an echo from the promise made to Abraham! And these are "forever" promises. They are not conditional. God will make good on his promises. How do we know this?

Well, we know that God cannot lie. We know that he will do what he has said. We also have the testimony of the New Testament that tells us that these promises will be fulfilled in Jesus. Remember the words of the angel when he spoke to Mary:

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to

give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:26-37 (NIV)

Jesus is the promised son of David. He is the promised Son of God. He is the rightful king. The Lord God

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

After more than three years of Jesus' ministry the crowds were enthralled with him. They wanted the long expected Messiah to come and save them from the Roman rulers. They wanted what the prophets of old had promised, that a king was coming, a son of David, who would rule in righteousness and restore the kingdom to Israel. So when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, they came with palm branches and honored him with these words:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:9-10 (NIV)

The Jewish people were expecting the Messiah, the son of David, to become their king. Why were they expecting this? Were they right in expecting this?

Even the disciples believed that the Messiah would be the king over the restored Kingdom of Israel. Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, after his death and resurrection they asked him this question:

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God...

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

the Father has set by his own authority. Acts 1:3-4,6-7 (NIV)

They were not in error to believe this. God has promised that this will happen. The promise still stands.

As Peter preached the gospel concerning Jesus on that Day of Pentecost almost 2,000 years ago, he assured those listening that Jesus is that promised son:

"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Acts 2:29-34 (NIV)

Again, because the promise of God is eternal, David understood that God would not leave the Messiah in the grave. In order to reign as king forever, the Messiah has to live forever.

As the promises made to Abraham are not yet completely fulfilled, the promise of the Messiah ruling on David's throne is not yet completely fulfilled. Abraham still must receive the promise of the eternal inheritance of the land. Jesus, son of David, still must wait to receive the complete fulfillment of the promise of David's throne and kingdom.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Psalm 110:1-2 (NIV)

But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Hebrews 10:12-14 (NIV)

Yes, Jesus is at God's right hand until his enemies are destroyed, but Jesus has promised and the angels promised that he's coming back:

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64 (NIV)

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11(NIV)

Jesus is coming back. The promises made to David and to Abraham will be fulfilled. The purpose of God will be perfected in his creation:

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD. Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV)

* * * * *



Daily Bible Readings for July, August and September
Read the Entire Bible in One Year

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa
1	II Sam 15, 16	II Corinth 13	1	Isaiah 49, 50	John 1	1	II King 14, 15	Psalm 97
2	II Sam 17, 18	Psalm 74	2	Isaiah 51, 52	John 2	2	II King 16, 17	I Thess 1
3	II Sam 19, 20	Galatians 1	3	Isaiah 53, 54	John 3	3	II King 18, 19	i Thess 2
4	II Sam 21, 22	Galatians 2	4	Isaiah 55, 56	John 4	4	II King 20, 21	I Thess 3
5	II Sam 23, 24	Galatians 3	5	Isaiah 57, 58	Psalm 85	5	II King 22, 23	I Thess 4
6	Song Sol 1-3	Galatians 4	6	Isaiah 59, 60	Psalm 86	6	II King 24, 25	I Thess 5
7	Song Sal 4-6	Galatians 5	7	Isaiah 61, 62	John 5	7	Jonah 1-4	Psalm 98
8	Song Sol 7, 8	Galatians 6	8	Isaiah 63, 64	John 6	8	Micah 1-3	Psalm 99
9	Isaiah 1, 2	Psalm 75	9	Isaiah 65, 66	John 7	9	Micah 4, 5	Psalm 100, 101
10	Isaiah 3, 4	Psalm 76	10	I King 1, 2	Psalm 87, 88	10	Micah 6, 7	II Thess 1
11	Isaiah 5, 6	Ephesians 1	11	I King 3, 4	John 8	11	Nahum 1-3	II Thess 2
12	Isaiah 7, 8	Ephesians 2	12	I King 5, 6	John 9	12	I Chron 1, 2	II Thess 3
13	Isaiah 9, 10	Ephesians 3	13	I King 7, 8	Psalm 89	13	I Chron 3, 4	Psalm 102
14	Isaiah 11, 12	Ephesians 4	14	I King 9, 10	John 10	14	I Chron 5, 6	Psalm 103
15	Isaiah 13, 14	Ephesians 5	15	I King 11, 12	John 11	15	I Chron 7, 8	Psalm 104
16	Isaiah 15-17	Ephesians 6	16	I King 13, 14	John 12	16	I Chron 9, 10	I Timothy 1
17	Isaiah 18-20	Psalm 77	17	I King 15, 16	Psalm 90	17	I Chron 11, 12	I Timothy 2
18	Isaiah 21, 22	Psalm 78	18	I King 17, 18	John 13	18	I Chron 13, 14	I Timothy 3
19	Isaiah 23, 24	Psalm 79	19	I King 19, 20	John 14	19	i Chron 15, 16	I Timothy 4
20	Isaiah 25, 26	Philippians 1	20	I King 21, 22	Psalm 91	20	I Chron 17, 18	I Timothy 5
21	Isaiah 27, 28	Philippians 2	21	Joel 1, 2, 3	John 15	21	I Chron 19, 20	I Timothy 6
22	Isaiah 29, 30	Philippians 3	22	Amos 1-3	John 16	22	I Chron 21, 22	Psalm 105
23	Isaiah 31, 32	Philippians 4	23	Amos 4-6	John 17	23	I Chron 23, 24	Psalm 106
24	Isaiah 33, 34	Psalm 80	24	Amos 7-9	Psalm 92	24	I Chron 25, 26	Psalm 107
25	Isaiah 35, 36	Colossians 1	25	Obad, II King 1	John 18	25	I Chron 27, 28	II Timothy 1
26	Isaiah 37, 38	Colossians 2	26	I King 2, 3	John 19	26	I Chron 29 Hos I	II Timothy 2
27	Isaiah 39, 40	Colossians 3	27	II King 4, 5	Psalm 93, 94	27	Hosea 2-4	II Timothy 3
28	Isaiah 41, 42	Colossians 4	28	II King 6, 7	John 20	28	Hosea 5, 6	II Timothy 4
29	Isaiah 43, 44	Psalm 81	29	II King 8, 9	John 21	29	Hosea 7, 8	Psalm 108
30	Isaiah 45, 46	Psalm 82, 83	30	II King 10, 11	Psalm 95	30	Hosea 9, 10	Psalm 109
31	Isaiah 47, 48	Psalm 84	31	II King 12, 13	Psalm 96	31		