22—Christ's View of David—A Lesser King

2 Samuel 7

David's name is mentioned 39 times in the gospels and 59 times in the New Testament. Sometimes people may wonder, why do we need to study the Old Testament when we are a New Testament church? Well, when we realize how often Jesus and His apostles looked backwards to Old Testament characters it ought to become clear we cannot begin to fully comprehend New Testament teaching without an understanding of Old Testament teaching. David is only one character from the Old Testament and, yet, there are dozens of references just to him. How are we supposed to understand those references to David without understanding more about his life, his experiences, and his writings? The New Testament writers themselves applauded the value of studying the Old Testament Scriptures (Romans 15:4).

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come you're your body, and I will establish his kingdom."

2 Samuel 7:12 (NKJV)

Jesus, during His life, often pointed backwards to the prophecies of the Old Testament to help people prepare for what would happen to him and why. Just before Jesus went to Jerusalem He said to "the twelve" disciples, "*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished*" (Luke 18:31). Some of those prophecies would most certainly have included some from the pen of David (see Psalm 2 and 22).

After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus He again took His disciples aside and said, "*These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures*" (Luke 24:44).

We do not have an exhaustive list of the Scriptures Jesus used as He went back to the Old Testament to open His disciples' eyes. However, it is not hard to believe some of them included references to the teachings of David. After all, less than 50 days later on Pentecost, it is Peter who is using two different Old Testament Scriptures written by David to prove to the Jews Jesus "the Christ" is now sitting on a greater throne than where even David sat (see Acts 2:22-36). Now, where did this idea of even a greater king than David originate? Take a look at 2 Samuel 7 to find God's original prophecy about the greater king who would reign on David's throne.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-3. Once the fighting of David's enemies slows down, what does David want to do and why? What does Nathan the prophet presumptuously tell David?

2. What issue does God seem to have with David's intentions and Nathan's permission (2 Samuel 7:4-11)? What lesson might we learn when we presume to do good things for God which He has not commanded (cp. Matthew 7:19-21)?

3. Despite God's delay of David's plans for a permanent temple, what special promises are made to David's descendants which would occur sometime after David's death in 2 Samuel 7:12-17?

4. How does David respond to God's interruption of plans (see 2 Samuel 7:17-29)?

5. Take a look at the New Testament now and consider Jesus Christ. How do the following passages serve as fulfillments of what God had promised to David?

- Matthew 1:1,6, 17, 20; 2:1-2; Luke 1:69; 2:4; John 7:41-42—
- Matthew 21:9-10, 15—
- Matthew 22:41-45—
- John 18:37—
- Acts 2:29-36—

Key Lessons:

- God's silence is not permission to act (2 Samuel 7:7). Let us move when God speaks.
- God was planning to establish a throne for a descendant of David which would never be destroyed (2 Samuel 7:16; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28).
- David sat on a temporal throne and defeated his physical enemies in the surrounding nations (2 Samuel 7:1, 8). The Christ would sit on a spiritual throne and defeat man's greatest enemy of all—death (Acts 2:30-32; Revelation 3:21).

Additional Notes: _____

_____