

Stephens, GregGod, The Covenant and the Contradiction

12. God's Covenant with David

This chapter walks through God's covenant with David, the last of the Old Testament seed covenants that carry forward the promise of a coming Deliverer from Genesis 3. It shows how David's life and kingship foreshadowed Jesus, how the covenant promises unfolded slowly, and how God guarded the Messiah's bloodline against every threat. A closing section ('Go Deeper') retells David and Goliath and David's kindness to Mephibosheth as pictures of God's covenant love.

Key takeaways

- David was anointed king three times (secretly at home, over Judah, then over all Israel), showing the promise unfolding gradually. Samuel used a horn of oil, not a vial — the horn required a sacrificed animal, pointing to Jesus' blood.
- David and Jesus are intertwined: same town (Bethlehem, 'house of bread'), same tribe (Judah, 'to praise'), same region of ministry. Jesus was called 'Son of David.'
- In 2 Samuel 7 God refused David's offer to build Him a temple and instead promised to build David a 'house' — a throne established forever, fulfilled in Jesus (Luke 1:32-33).

- David acted as king AND priest in three ways: offering sacrifices of praise, setting up his own open tabernacle at Zion (Jews, Gentiles, and women all had access), and eating the priests' tabernacle bread. Each broke religious barriers and foreshadowed the New Covenant.
- Extravagant worship and giving (David's and Solomon's) drew down the visible glory of God — the same glory that raised Christ and makes believers new creations.
- The covenant faced real threats: David's sin with Bathsheba, Solomon's idolatry splitting the kingdom, and the curse on Jeconiah's line. God preserved the Messiah's claim through two genealogies — Joseph's royal line (Matthew) and Mary's line through Nathan (Luke), bypassing the curse.
- The heart of the covenant is love (hesed, covenant lovingkindness). We receive its promises by coming to KNOW and BELIEVE God's love for us, as David did.
- Go Deeper: David faced Goliath on covenant grounds ('this uncircumcised Philistine'), made a covenant of friendship with Jonathan, and later showed hesed to Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth — seating him at the king's table. That is a picture of God bringing us from the barren land of sin to His table.

Passages worth keeping

“God loves Kenneth as much as He loves Jesus!”

Copeland's testimony from John 17:23 — becoming convinced of God's personal love broke his depression.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Psalm 51 — David after his sin; what set him apart from Saul was owning the truth and repenting.

How it connects

David is a type and shadow of Jesus at nearly every turn — birthplace, tribe, dual role as king and priest, and covenant love. The chapter's thread is that God watches over His word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12): every human failure and satanic attack against the promised Seed was overcome, and the throne promised to David is fulfilled forever in Christ.

Scripture referenced

- **2 Samuel 7:8-16** -- God's core promise: David's throne established forever
- **Genesis 49:10** -- Jacob's prophecy that kings/Messiah come through Judah
- **Luke 1:32-33** -- Gabriel: Jesus given the throne of His father David, a kingdom without end
- **Jeremiah 22:30** -- The curse on Jeconiah that threatened the royal bloodline

- **1 John 4:16** -- We know and believe the love God has for us — the key to receiving covenant
- **2 Samuel 9:7-10** -- David shows covenant kindness to Mephibosheth — a picture of grace