"Son of David"

Psalm 89:35-37; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-22a

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Introduction:

Last week’s lesson was focused on the promise God spoke through Nathan the prophet to David: “Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever,” (2 Samuel 7:16).

This week’s lesson take us to several points in history to where we see the reiteration of the promise; we see it backed up through prophecy and we see the performance of that promise. Walking this road in history gives the reader a broader view of the plan of God and how it came to pass to bring forth the “Son of David.”

The Promise

Psalm 89:35-37 “Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.”

Psalm 89 was written by a man by the name of Ethan the Ezrahite. The whole sum of this particular psalm focuses on God keeping the covenant He gave to David (as stated in the introduction).
Israel’s history was not a perfect history filled with perfect people. There were times when they faced enemies. And, there were times when their leaders drew themselves away from the will of God. No, Israel’s history was not perfect but the God who promised Israel a great future was.

As stated in the introduction, last week’s lesson: “An Eternal Kingdom” (wordforlifesays.com) covered the original promise God gave to David. This psalmist is celebrating the fact that despite the ups and downs their people have gone through, God has always remained faithful to the covenant that He made with David. In the verse before our lesson text, God says, “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips,” (Ps. 89:34). This focuses on the immutability of God. God does not change! Malachi 3:6 says, “For I am the LORD, I change not . . .”

Here, God would not alter His covenant. He said, “Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.” God could never swear by any greater than He. To solidify His devotion to keep what He had promised to David, He swore by His own “holiness.” It only takes God “once” to speak a promise for it to remain in effect for ever. “So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it,” (Is. 55:11).

“That I will not lie.” We referenced this verse in last week’s lesson and will do so again for its appropriateness. Numbers 23:19 says, “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” God doesn’t lie! He makes good on His promises!

There were many of times and many of reasons where God could have taken back what He said He would do. But, thank God, despite the failings of human nature, He remains loyal to what He swore. In 2 Timothy 2:13 Paul reminds us, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself,” (NASB). Because He swore by His own “holiness” God cannot go against what He said. He will chastise if necessary but He won’t take back the promise (Ps. 89:30-33). He will not suffer His “faithfulness to fail!” (Ps. 89:33b).
“His seed shall endure for ever and his throne as the sun before me.” God’s covenant with David is seen here again and also supported in many places throughout Scripture. Psalm 132:11 says, “The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.” (see also Acts 2:30).

God’s people always have His promises as assurance. Any time there is doubt about what God will do, refer back to the Word of His promise. Here, He reiterates that despite what their present circumstances may look like, “**his throne as the sun before me.**”

A few verses before this it reads, “His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven,” (Ps. 89:29). As long as the heavens endure – so does the promise. As long as the “sun” – so is the promise. This is a reigning promise that last into eternity. It is not until we reach the last two chapters of the Bible where we see the need for the physical burning sun in the sky removed because at that time “the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof,” (Rev. 21:23). He who was promised to sit on the throne forever, the Son, becomes the “light thereof” carrying on the promise. The promise will ever be before God, never to be forgotten.

**The Prophecy**

Isaiah 9:6-7 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

The promise was given and the promise never leaves the lips of those who proclaim the truth of what He is going to do. God continually kept the truth
before His people that He was wholly and completely devoted to bring to pass what His Word declared.

Isaiah is often referred to as the eagle-eye prophet for his ability to foresee the birth of Christ some 700 years before it occurred. Though much of his ministry was filled with rebuke and warnings to God’s people over their wicked ways, he was also able to encourage them through what the Lord allowed him to see in their future.

And, what the Lord allowed him to see was that the promise was still coming!

These verses before us we often hear of around Christmas time, and rightly so, for they forecast the birth of the coming Messiah. In the midst of rebuke the promise for a redeemer was still in effect. The promise to David would not fail because the people fail. They would see times of captivity and hardships, but it would never erase what God has sworn would take place.

Here, Isaiah offers the people a glimpse that God is still working on behalf of His people to redeem them and to keep His promise.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” So appropriate is the usage of this verse around Christmas for it reminds us what was “given.” It may not be that season right now but it won’t take long to think back and view in one’s mind eye the gifts given and received. Here, Isaiah speaks of the gift that God wrapped for the world in the package of His “Son.”

I like the using of the word “us” twice here. We were not the givers. We were not the ones that came up with a plan to save humanity. We didn’t do anything! But God gave to “us.” This brings to mind that oh so familiar verse that we learned as a kid, John 3:16 where it states, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” He gave to “us.”

“And the government shall be upon his shoulder.” Isaiah 22:22 says it like this, “And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.”
When one thinks of bearing something on the shoulders they think of a great weight. Here, authority of the promise that was spoken to David is placed on “his shoulders,” the place to carry the weight thereof. He that has the “government” placed on Him has the authority to open and shut. He has the authority to rule and to reign on the throne. He has the access and the strength to take it all on His own person.

At an earthly coronation the new king or queen carries the weight of the crown as a symbol of the responsibility they now hold in that office. With this King, the whole of His entire rule and what He would do for humanity is placed solely on Him to carry. Walking the road on that horrible day, bearing a physical cross as well as a spiritual cross, was an example of the weight bore on His shoulders. He would carry it all; bare it all, that others might be free, (John 19:16b-17).

“And his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Because of the responsibility of His office and the weight He would carry for mankind, we call Him “Wonderful, Counsellor.” Any king in office should be a reference for his people to turn to in times of need and despair. He should be a source of consolation and wisdom when life throws them for a loop. In regard to this promise, Isaiah also prophesied, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD,” (Is. 11:1-2, emphasis mine).

“The mighty God” is another name by which He is known. When coming to the end of His life Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure. Confusion arose amongst His disciples and Philip spoke saying, “Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us,” (Jn. 14:8). Jesus’s reply was, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father,” (Jn. 14:9b). Jesus is God incarnate. Matthew 1:23 (not in today’s lesson) tells us, “Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us,” (see also Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1, 14).
“The everlasting Father.” In keeping in line with the promise given, when the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary he reassured her by professing the child she would have, “He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end,” (Lk. 1:33). Going back to the promise reiterated by the psalmist, earlier in the same chapter he said, “Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations,” (Ps. 89:4). He is “everlasting!”

“The Prince of Peace.” His reign brings us “peace.” Ephesians 2:14 says, “He is our peace . . .” “Peace” means more than just the absence of war and hostile circumstances. “Peace” ushers in reconciliation. In Ephesians 2:14 our “peace” tears down the walls that divide humanity. More importantly, He reconciled us to God. 2 Corinthians 5:19 says, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

“Peace” comes by Jesus Christ. Acts 10:36 says, “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:).” “He is Lord of all” by which peace comes, therefore He is “The Prince of Peace.”

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.” Here is the reiteration that His reign will never end. Actually, quite the opposite takes place. All other kings will eventually be displaced from their throne of rule, but this King will not only remain in full authority, He will “increase!” Revelation 7:9 says, “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” They will be there with Him forever!

“The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” God is passionate about His plan. His design for all of this will come to pass when, where and how He wants it. He is in this promise for the long-haul and will see it to the end; to the time of its completion. He “will perform this” means that He has determined to make sure that every part is carried out and nothing of His great promise will be lacking (as our next section shows).
Matthew 1:18-22a “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet.”

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise . . . that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet.” What was spoken to David; what was proclaim and celebrated by the psalmist; and what was prophesied hundreds of years in advance now came to pass. Everything that God planned to fulfill His promise to the world and to David was wrapped up in the birth of Christ. With the Christmas season not too far behind us and the familiarity of the story I am going to highlight here a few particulars that deal directly with today’s lesson. (For more information for Christmas lessons please refer to: Zacharias’s Prophecy; Mary’s Song of Praise; Jesus’ Birth Foretold; and Jesus’ Birth – all of which can be found on our site at www.WORDFORLIFESAYS.com).

“She was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” The pregnancy of Mary was not a normal event by any means. As a matter of fact, her pregnancy was foreshadowed, though she didn’t know it at the time, by the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before her time. In Isaiah 7:14 it was told, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” This explains how she was “found with child” . . . “before they came together.”

“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.” In dealing with this
unexpected turn of events, Joseph (who though engaged was still considered her husband in every right except for that which leads to family) sought to take the high road and not to publicly disgrace Mary (for which she could have been put to death). Like any good Jew of the day, Joseph undoubtedly waited for the Messiah also but little did he know that he was going to be a first-hand participant in helping God’s plan come to pass. Little did he know at that time, Mary, his espoused wife, held the Savior of the world, the promised eternal heir to David’s throne, in her womb.

“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife.” Filling him in and comforting him in his participation in God’s plan, the angel told Joseph to “fear not.” Everything that was being done was under the direct sovereignty of God. He was in complete control of what has and what will transpire. Joseph’s only need was to trust God in the midst of it all.

Here, we should also note how the angel addresses Joseph: “thou son of David.” This brings us in a full circle back to the beginning of the promise to David. Now, we see the performance of that promise coming to pass with these faithful servants allowing themselves to be used by God.

“He shall save his people from their sins.” The goal from the beginning has always had this general purpose propelling it along. People needed a Savior. People needed to be saved from their sins. Jesus Christ was the only one who could fulfill the promise given. He supplied the means for salvation once and for all when He died on Calvary’s cross for, “without shedding of blood is no remission,” (Heb. 9:22). This was God’s foreordained plan coming to pass (see also 1 Peter 1:19-20).

**Conclusion**

God’s plan was and is always true and will come to pass just as He said it would. He spoke the promise that would usher in redemption hundreds of years before it occurred. What God spoke to David would travel down through centuries, covering Israel’s history, and would be manifested through the birth of Christ. Be blessed.