



God's Gracious Promise to David

2 Samuel 7



LESSON GOAL

Students will rejoice in and trust God's gracious promises.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- David wanted to build a great house for God.
- God blessed David's life and his family.
- Jesus is part of David's family and will reign forever as God promised.
- David thanked God for His blessings.

KEY VERSE

"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16).

APPLICATION

- Thank God for His grace to undeserving people.
- Trust God to keep His promises for His glory.
- Look forward to Christ reigning on the Davidic throne forever.

NEXT WEEK

God Forgives David
Read 2 Samuel 11–12.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

One of the most important passages in the Bible is God's covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7. Here, God graciously made promises to David concerning both his life and the life of his descendants. God's promise to David that his descendants would reign over Israel forever becomes a major thread that runs throughout redemptive history. First and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles record how David's descendants reigned over Israel until the time of the Exile. The psalms and prophetic books repeatedly tell of the work and reign of the coming descendant of David, the Messiah. The New Testament begins with the announcement that Jesus, the Son of David, will reign over Israel forever (Luke 1:31–33). Acts records the preaching of the resurrection and coming return of Jesus Christ. Revelation 20 foretells Christ's rule upon the earth, in fulfillment of God's covenant with David. God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 has effected everything that has happened and will happen in human history. David's humility and faithful response to God's promise can be a model for believers as they look forward to God's fulfilling His covenant with David for the praise of His glory.

David's Plan (2 Sam. 7:1–3)

After years of waiting, running, and fighting, David finally had become the king of Israel. God's goodness toward David did not stop with his being made king. The Lord gave David victory over Jerusalem, which was under Jebusite control (2 Sam. 5:6–8). David established the city as his capital, developed the city, and built for himself a palace of cedar (5:9–11). The Lord directed David into battle against the Philistines and gave Israel victory against her enemies (5:17–25). David defeated not only the Philistines but also the surrounding nations (2 Sam. 8). With great joy, David brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem, where he had set up a tabernacle for it (2 Sam. 6). (The tabernacle God had designed had been destroyed in 1 Samuel 4.) God had poured out His grace on Israel and King David. "David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel" (2 Sam. 5:12).

When David reflected on all the Lord had done for him, from the palace in which he dwelt to his rest from his enemies, David desired to build a permanent temple for the Lord (2 Sam. 7:1–2). It didn't seem fitting to David that he should live in a "house of cedar" while the "ark of God dwells inside tent curtains" (7:2). David asked the Lord's prophet Nathan (mentioned here for the first time) for permission, and Nathan quickly affirmed that David should proceed with his plan (7:3).

God's Plan (2 Sam. 7:4–17)

God's Word came to His prophet Nathan that night. The Lord's plan for David was much different and much greater than David could have imagined. First, God revealed that his plan was not for David to build a temple (2 Sam. 7:4–7). The Lord

had made no such request of David. Through Nathan, the Lord rhetorically asked, "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?" (7:5). The Lord reminded David that He had never dwelt in a "house" since Israel left Egypt. He had been content for His presence to reside in a tent (7:6). Neither had He asked any leader of Israel, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?" (7:7). God emphasized that He alone would choose who would build His temple and when it would be built. The decision and initiative did not belong to David.

Next, the Lord revealed His plan for David's lifetime (2 Sam. 7:8–11). David could trust in the Lord's ability to accomplish His plan because of how faithful the Lord had already been. The Lord reminded David of how He had taken him from shepherding sheep to shepherding all Israel (7:8). He had been with David wherever he had gone and had given him victory over all his enemies (7:9). The Lord's past goodness to David would be the assurance that He would accomplish His plan for David. God's plan for David was that He would make him "a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth" (7:9). This is the first promise that someone would have a great name since God promised Abraham a great name in Genesis 12:2. God also promised David that Israel would dwell in safety in their own land (7:10). The final aspect of God's plan for David's lifetime was rest from all his enemies (7:11).

As great as God's plan for David was, His plan for David's descendants was even greater (2 Sam. 7:11b–16). God promised David that he would have a dynasty ("house"; 7:11b). Verses 12–14 explain God's plan for the Davidic dynasty. After David died, God would establish the kingdom of one of David's descendants. God promised that this descendant would build a temple ("house") for Him and that the dynasty of this descendant would be unending ("I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"; 7:13). David's descendant would have a special relationship with God, like a son to a father (7:14). This special relationship included both discipline ("If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men"; 7:14) and steadfast love ("My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul"; 7:15). God would not forsake David's descendant as he had Saul; the rule of Israel would rest forever with David's descendants. The eternal nature of God's promise to David cannot be missed: "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever" (7:16). God had an eternal plan for David's descendants.

Solomon was the initial fulfillment of God's plan for David's descendants. Solomon, "the seed" from David, was established by God as David's heir. God revealed to David that Solomon would build His temple and that He and Solomon would have a father-son relationship (1 Chron. 22:10). God established the "throne of [Solomon's] kingdom over Israel forever" (1 Chron. 22:10), meaning that Solomon's descendants would be kings over Israel. Even though Solomon was idolatrous and disobedient, God did not remove the Davidic dynasty from Solomon (2 Chron. 13:4–5). God continued to act as a father to the Davidic kings, many of whom suffered God's punishment for their wickedness. Eventually, God temporarily removed David's descendants from the throne of Israel by sending Israel into exile. But, no matter how wicked the kings became, God did not end the Davidic line (2 Chron. 21:7).

The ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to David is Jesus. Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:1–16 reveals God's faithfulness in keeping His promise to David. God had preserved the dynasty of David through Solomon, even though the Davidic kings had ceased reigning over Israel. Through his legal father, Joseph, Jesus had the right to the Davidic throne. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that Jesus "will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will

give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32–33). Jesus is greater than any of David's descendants. He truly is the Son of God, and His throne will be established forever. Jesus already has been exalted to the right hand of the Father and is waiting until His enemies will be brought under His control on earth.

David's Prayer (2 Sam. 7:18–29)

When Nathan told the Lord's plan and promise to David, David went into the tent with the ark of the covenant and sat before the Lord (2 Sam. 7:17–18). His prayer expressed an appropriate awe at God's announcement. He first addressed the Lord concerning the promise he had just heard (7:18–21). David knew that there was nothing in himself or his house that deserved God's promise (7:18), yet God had revealed His plan for David's "house for a great while to come" (7:19). David understood that he was nothing but the Lord's servant (7:20). The Lord's motive for promising these great things was God's "word's sake" and God's heart (7:21). The Lord had chosen David not because of who he was but because of what God Himself had decided.

David's wonder at God's choosing his family led him to reflect on God's uniqueness (2 Sam. 7:22–24). God alone is great (7:22); there is no god like Him and none besides Him (7:22). God demonstrated that greatness and uniqueness in redeeming Israel. David had a right understanding that God does all He does "for Himself...to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land" (7:23). Just as God had glorified Himself in adopting and redeeming Israel, He would glorify Himself in keeping His promises to David.

After David reflected on God's faithfulness to Israel, he prayed that God would keep His word concerning his house (2 Sam. 7:25–29). David's motivation was that God's "name be magnified forever" (7:26). He prayed for God to build his house only because God had promised, "I will build your house" (7:27). David wanted God to glorify Himself. God's true words motivated David to ask God to keep His promise (7:28–29).

Conclusion

David's prayer to God rightly focuses the believer's attention on the awesomeness of God's grace and not on David. David was completely unworthy, yet God poured out His grace on him. God promised David blessings both during and after his life. God kept the promises to David's descendants through Solomon, through the Davidic kings, and ultimately through Christ. Although David did not know how God would keep His promises, he could pray with confidence that God would keep His word for the glory of His name. Saints who have seen God's faithfulness to David as it has developed throughout the Old and New Testaments can rejoice that God graciously gives and keeps His promises. They can also pray that God will keep His word and exalt his Son Jesus on the throne of David.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What happened after David and his men rescued their wives from the Amalekites?
An Amalekite messenger from Saul's camp gave David bad news.

What was the bad news that the Amalekite brought to David?
Saul and Jonathan had died.

What did David do when he heard the bad news?
David tore his clothes, mourned, wept, and fasted.

How did David lament the death of Saul and Jonathan?
He wrote a song called "Bow," which he had taught to the children of Israel.

What happened to David after Saul died?
David became king of Israel as God had promised.



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Covenant

Although the concept of a covenant has appeared a number of times in previous lessons, some students may not be familiar with the term. Review God's covenant with creation after the flood (Gen. 8:21–22), the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1–3), and the Mosaic Covenant (Exod. 19:3–9). A covenant is a very special promise from God. Hold up a stick and a stand. The stick represents a covenant, and the stand represents God. First, hold the stick and explain that some covenants require people to keep them standing. For example, the Mosaic covenant required obedience. Place the stick in the stand and explain that some covenants are held up by God alone (the Abrahamic and Davidic, for instance). In today's lesson we will learn about a covenant God promised to keep no matter what.



Generation

To help younger students understand the concept of a generation, ask a few of them to give the names of their grandparents and parents. Draw a family chart on the board, and explain how God had promised David that even his children's children's children would rule over Israel.



Dynasty

Materials: red and blue pieces of yarn

Directions: A dynasty is a house, family line, or reign over a kingdom. This concept can be illustrated by giving each student either a red or blue piece of yarn. Choose one student to be the leader for each color. Each student must then, in turn, join his



yarn to the line of the appropriate color. Use this to explain to the student that a dynasty is a line of descendants. The more people, the longer the line gets. God promised David that he would be the first in a long line of kings who would come from His descendants. Ultimately, even Jesus would come through David's line.

Flip-Flop Blessing

Have you ever wanted to give someone a gift because of how much you loved them? Has that person unexpectedly given you something in return? When this happens, it is hard to know what to do. Instead of blessing someone, you were blessed! In today's lesson, David wants to give a blessing to God. He wants to give God honor by building a temple for Him. But instead, David is blessed by God.



Tabernacle versus Temple, Part One

In today's lesson David wants to build a special building for God. The ark of the covenant was brought back to Jerusalem but was in a temporary tabernacle. David realized that God had blessed him greatly, and he wanted to build beautiful temple for Him. What are the differences between this tabernacle and a temple? To help illustrate the difference between a tent and a temple, have the students build a strong temple with blocks before you teach the lesson. Also set up a tabernacle-like structure. Illustrate the difference between the two as you teach. Help the students to imagine the magnificence of the temple that David wanted to build for God.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

When David considered all that God had done for him, he wanted to do something in return for God. He wanted to build a better place for the ark of the covenant. It did not seem right to David that he lived in a fine cedar palace while the ark of God was in a tent. David asked the prophet of the Lord, named Nathan, for permission, and Nathan said to go ahead with his plan. God, however, had a different plan. God's Word came that night to the prophet Nathan. God said that it was not His plan for David to build a temple. God had never asked David to build a temple, and He did not want him to do it.

Through Nathan, God reminded David that He had never dwelt in a "house" since Israel left Egypt, and He was happy with the tent tabernacle. God was very clear that He would choose who would build Him a temple and when it would be built. Although it would not be David who built the temple, God had a wonderful plan for David. God reminded him that he could trust the Lord to lead him through his life because He had been faithful to make him the king of Israel. God told David that His plan for him was to make him "a great name, like the

names of the great men who are on the earth" (2 Sam. 7:11). God had also made that promise to Abraham. God promised David that the Israelites would be safe in their own land, and that they would have peace with their enemies for the rest of David's life.

That was quite a promise for David, but God made an even greater promise to David's descendants. God promised David that he would have a dynasty. Having a dynasty meant that for a very long time, David's descendants would rule Israel. The kingdom would stay under the rule of David's children and grandchildren. In fact, God promised that the dynasty would never end. The king who would rule forever would be Jesus Christ. Jesus was a descendant of David. God also said that after David died, one of his descendants would build a temple for God. This promise was fulfilled with David's son, Solomon.

When Nathan told the Lord's plan and promise to David, David went into the tent with the ark of the covenant and sat before the Lord. David was amazed at all that God had promised because he knew that he did not deserve such a blessing. He knew that the Lord had chosen him not because of who he was, but because of what God Himself had decided.

As David thought about God's promises, he thought of several things He had learned about God. He learned that God alone is great, that there is no god like Him and none beside Him. David wanted God to be praised by everyone. He prayed that God would keep His promises so that the people would always praise Him.



Lesson Questions

What kind of house did David live in?

David lived in a house of cedar.

What kind of house was the ark of the Lord in?

The ark of the Lord was in a tent (with curtains).

What did King David tell Nathan the prophet he wanted to do? Why?

David told Nathan that he wanted to build a house for the ark of God. When David looked at the nice house he lived in, he thought that the ark of God should be in a nice house, too, not in just a tent.

What did the Lord tell Nathan about David's idea to build a house for the ark of God?

The Lord told Nathan to tell David that he was not to build a house for the ark of God.

What are the three things that the Lord promised David?

The Lord promised David a house, a kingdom, and a throne.

How long would David's house, kingdom, and throne last?

They would last forever.

According to Luke 1:30–33, who would receive "the throne of His father David?"

Jesus would receive the throne of His father David.

According to Luke 1:33, how long will Jesus reign, and how long will His kingdom last?

Luke 1:33 says that Jesus will reign forever. His kingdom will never end.



Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



God's Gift to Us

The lesson teaches not only about David's desire to build a house for God and God's promise to David, but also about how that gift to David was also a gift to us. Discuss the ramifications of David's family being blessed with the coming of Christ and how Christ's work and reign is a gift to each of us. To illustrate this point, bring in a wrapped gift. The gift can contain various visual aids to help illustrate the following gifts: David's gift to God, God's gift to David, God's gift to David's family, and God's gift to us.



Tabernacle versus Temple Continued

As you teach, use the tabernacle and temple from the opening activity to illustrate the difference between the two. David loved God and wanted to build a beautiful building for God. What might that building have looked like? What was God's response to David's desire? What did God do in return for David?

Praise and Worship

God Is So Good

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

King of Kings

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children



David Is Blessed by God

David had been greatly blessed, and now he had a plan:
(Hold arms open wide; point to temple.)

To show the Lord his thanks, he'd build a temple large and grand.
(Place hand over heart; raise hands upward.)

To his surprise, the Lord said, "No. This plan is not to be."
(Shake head no; wag finger.)

"Instead, I'll build a house for you, a royal family."
(Point outward; open arms in sweeping motion.)

From David's line would come a king whose reign would never end.
(Holds hands up to indicate crown on head.)

That promised king is Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.
(Point upward.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



God's Promises to David

Materials: copies of "The Davidic Covenant" craft pages, scissors, crayons, glue

Directions: Have the students cut out and color each of the symbols of God's promises to David. Have them glue the symbols into the correct circle, indicating whether the promise is for David's life or fulfilled in his descendants.



Pray about God's Promises

Materials: construction paper, black marker, scissors, copies of the "Praying Hands" craft page, scissors, glue

Directions: (Make enough praying hands for the students in your class, or trace the students' hands during craft time.) Fold a landscape sheet of construction paper in half so that the seam is on the left side. Trace your left hand with a pencil so that the left side of your hand is on the seam. Draw over with a black marker, then turn the sheet over and trace your right hand. Cut out the hand leaving the seam up the side. Fold the hands on the seam to make praying hands. Have the students glue the text pieces to the hand and help them fill in the blank with the name of someone they would like to pray for. Encourage each student to use this as a reminder to pray for God's promises during the week.



Building a Temple for God

Materials: craft sticks, glue, markers, glitter, various craft supplies

Directions: Explain to the students what type of building David had in mind for God. Explain the majesty and décor that David desired for God's house. Give the students various supplies to create a temple for God. They can build either a two-dimensional temple or, if time and resources allow, a three-dimensional one.

Coloring Sheets

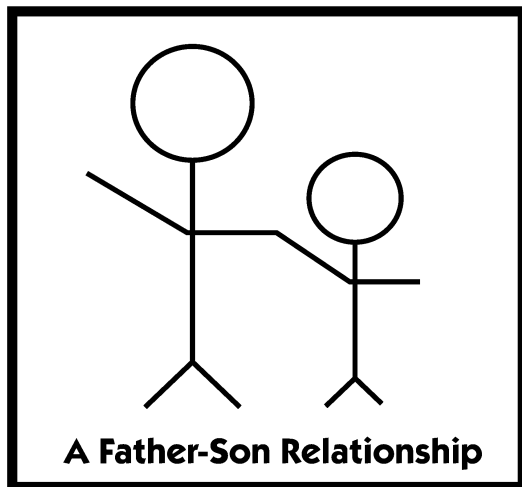
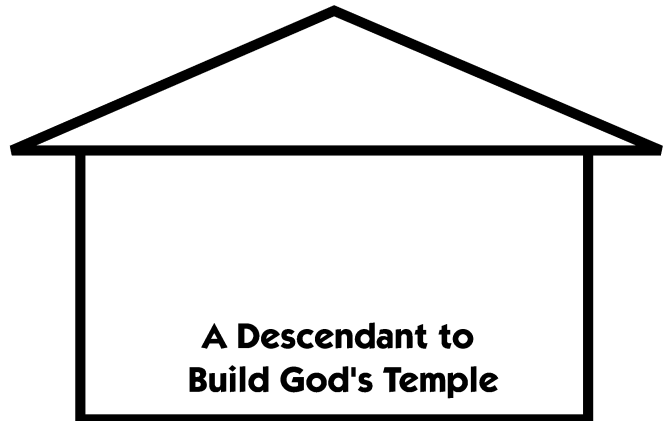
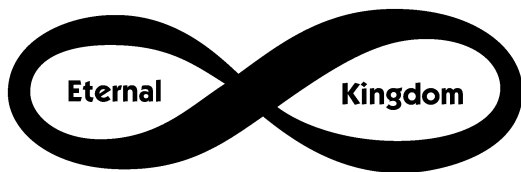
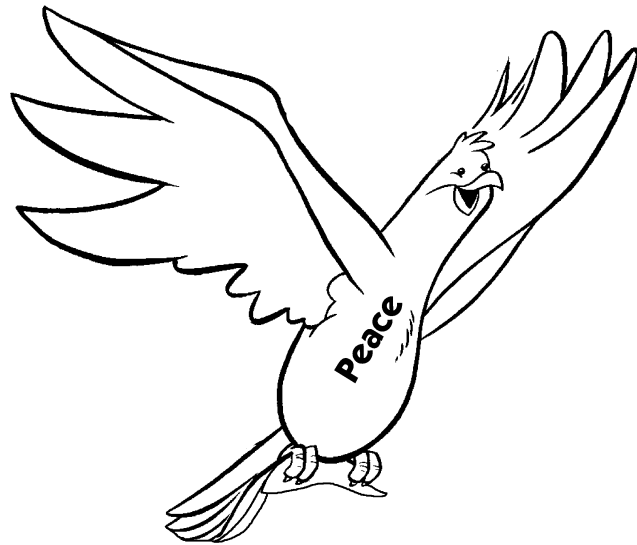
Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the LORD God will give Him the throne of His father David" (Luke 1:32).

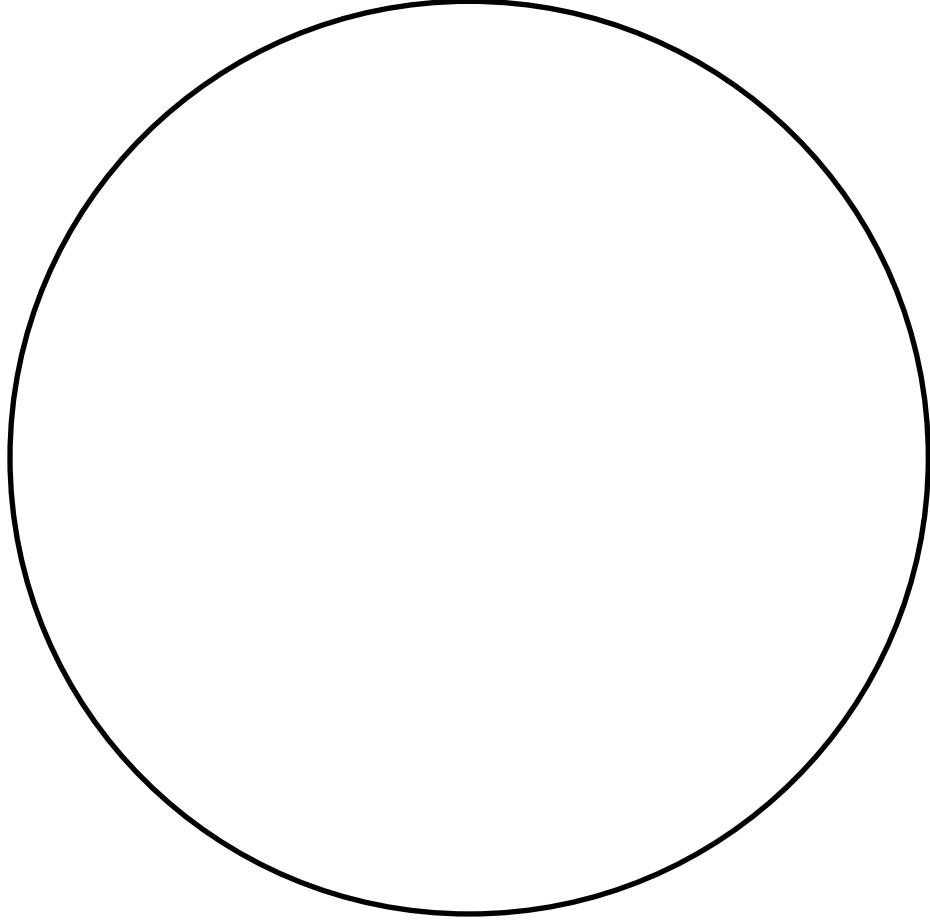
The Davidic Covenant



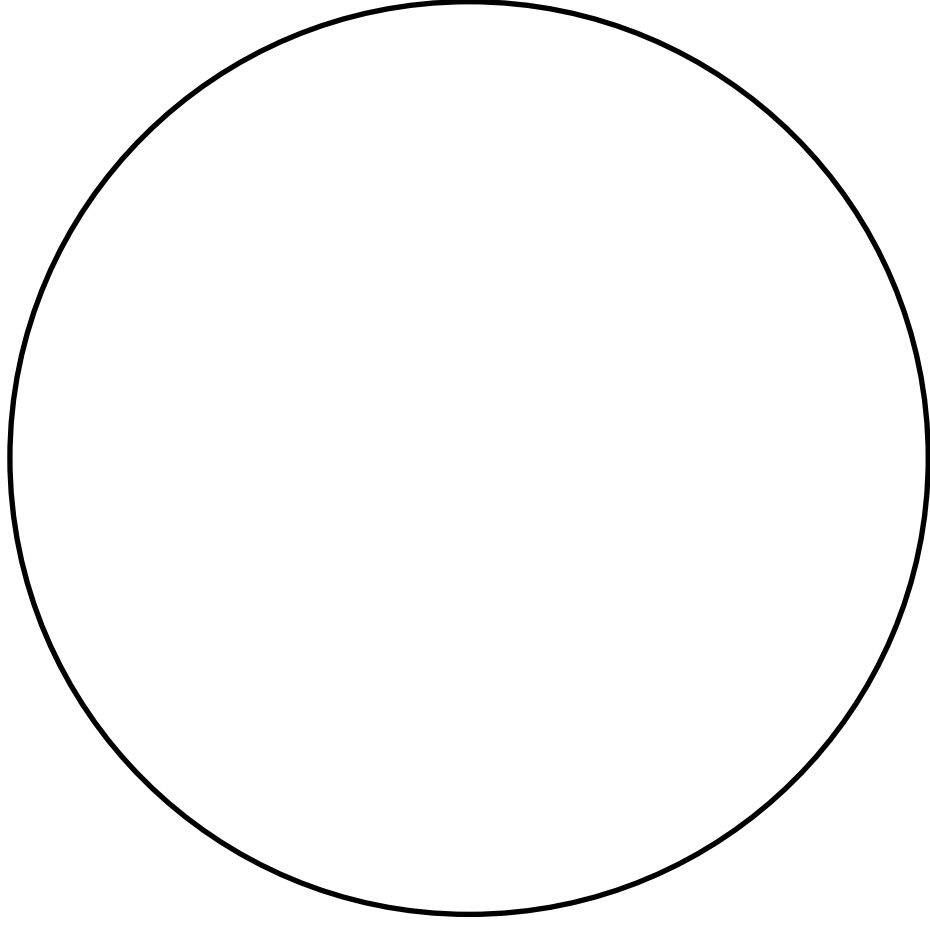
The Davidic Covenant

In 2 Samuel 7:4–17, God made promises to David for his life and his descendants. Glue the symbol for each promise into the correct circle, indicating whether the promise is for David's life or fulfilled in his descendants.

David's Life



David's Descendants



Praying Hands

We can pray
about God's promises
to David.

We can pray
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to David.

1. Pray that God keeps His Word for the glory of His name.
2. Rejoice and praise God for the promises already fulfilled.
3. Pray that God will keep His promises and exalt Jesus Christ to the eternal throne.

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"Thus says the LORD: 'Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?...The LORD tells you that He will make you a house'" (2 Sam. 7:6, 11b).



**“Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said...‘For Your word’s sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things’”
(2 Samuel 7:18, 21).**

