



Honest to God

David: Profiles of an Authentic Life

Session 6B – The Authentic King

Introduction

The two Old Testament passages we'll study this week—2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2—are perfect examples of what Jesus spoke of when He said, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me” (John 5:39 ESV). These two Scriptures clearly bear witness about Jesus through the life of David. It's not a stretch of the imagination to picture Jesus on the road to Emmaus using 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2 to illustrate to His disciples how all of Scripture points to Him (see Luke 24:13–27).

The immediate context of 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2 is God's covenant with David, also known as the Davidic Covenant. Both chapters cover the enthronement of the king of Israel and his rule over God's people in God's place through God's promise to David. However, at their ultimate level, 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2 anticipate a King greater than David. This future King—unlike previous kings—would remain faithful to the covenant, live to worship, lead God's people, sacrifice Himself to save the lost, slay the giants of Satan, Sin, and Death, and establish justice amongst the nations. Jesus—King of kings—fulfills all the promises left unfulfilled in David.

For this week, we'll first study 2 Samuel 7 and the Davidic Covenant. Then, we'll examine Psalm 2 to gain greater insight at how the Scriptures anticipate a King greater than David. Finally, we'll look to the New Testament to see how Jesus fulfills all that the Law and the Prophets expected from the Messiah.

Day One – God's Covenant with David

Read 2 Samuel 7:8–16.

In 2 Samuel 7:8–16, we read of the Davidic Covenant, where God makes an eternal promise to David and his sons. In this covenant, God gives all authority to David and his household to rule over Israel and all the earth (see also 2 Samuel 23:1–7; Psalm 89; Psalm 132). The purpose of this covenant is for God's righteous rule and reign to be clearly seen in Israel's King. Ultimately, this covenant with David continues God's plan of redemption.

1. **Reread 2 Samuel 7:8, 14.** In verse 8, God says that He made David His “prince” (ESV); in verse 14, God states that He will be a father to the king, and the king will be a son to Him. What do these verses say about . . .
 - a. David's relationship with God?

- b. David's relationship with Israel?
 - c. Israel's relationship with God?
- 2. It's important to know that biblical prophecies often contain a dual meaning: 1) an "immediate meaning" and 2) an "ultimate meaning." For example, God's covenant with David in 2 Samuel 8–16 *immediately* points to David and his sons. *Ultimately*, however, the Davidic Covenant points to Jesus, the Greater Davidic King. How might the *immediate* context of David's story in 2 Samuel 7:8 *ultimately* point to Christ's story?
- 3. Biblical prophecies also have a dual fulfillment: 1) a "partial" fulfillment and 2) a "complete" fulfillment. For example, 2 Samuel promises that David and his sons will provide rest and rule over the land, but the rest and rule the Davidic kings provided to Israel was only *partial*. Only King Jesus *completely* fulfills this promise of rest and rule.
 - a. **Reread 2 Samuel 7:8–16.** How are the promises God makes in this covenant only *partially* fulfilled in David and his line?
 - b. What promises in this covenant does only Jesus *completely* fulfill?
- 4. In what ways does the Davidic Covenant tell God's story of redemption?

Summary: God's covenant with David is not merely political; it is deeply relational. As God's king, David enters into a father-son relationship with the Lord (2 Samuel 7:14). Through His son the king, God will establish His kingdom forever.

Memory Verse: Review Previous Memory Verses

Day Two – God Installs David As King

Read Psalm 2.

In 2013, the movie *Frozen* took the world by storm. Children loved it and most parents did too. Early in the movie, Anna, the movie's heroine, wakes up with anticipation, exclaiming, "It's coronation day," the day her sister, Elsa, would be installed as queen of Arendelle. While snow queens and talking snowmen live only in fiction, coronations of kings and queens are firmly

rooted in reality (e.g., 1 Samuel 9:16; 2 Samuel 5:3; 2 Kings 11:12–14). Both 2 Samuel 7:8–16 and Psalm 2 allude to the coronation of not only David as king but to all of his descendants who would rule from the throne of Jerusalem.

1. **Reread Psalm 2:1–3.**

- a. What astonishes David in these first three verses?
- b. While the particular events in verses 1–3 are not stated, what events might David be referring to that could have taken place in your reading from 1 Samuel?

2. **Reread Psalm 2:4–6.**

- a. How does God respond to the nations raging and plotting against His anointed?
- b. In verse 6, God declares, “As for me, I have set my King upon Zion, my holy hill” (ESV). What does it mean for God’s king to be installed or set upon Zion? Why is this significant?

3. **Reread Psalm 2:7–9.** Both Psalm 2:7–9 and 2 Samuel 7:14 refer to the same event: the coronation of David. What do God’s words to David that “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You” (NKJV) reveal about the type of relationship God has with Israel’s king?

4. **Reread Psalm 2:8–9.** In this passage, God gives David a coronation gift.

- a. What is the coronation gift that God gives to the newly installed king?
- a. How much authority is given to David in these verses?
- b. *Ultimately*, how might God’s coronation gift apply to King Jesus?

5. **Reread Psalm 2:9.** What does God say David will rule the nations with?

6. **Reread Psalm 2:10–12.** In these verses, God summons the kings of the other nations who raged and plotted against Him.
- a. What does God say is the result of other nations not submitting to His Anointed King (kissing the Son)?
 - b. The *immediate* meaning of these verses applies to King David and his descendants. How might these verses *ultimately* apply to Jesus?

Summary: Like coronations of other rulers, God blesses David with a coronation gift: all authority has been given to the king to rule the nations with a rod of iron. With God's promise to David also comes His warning to the other nations: serve the Lord with fear or perish.

The ultimate meaning of Psalm 2 is not primarily the rule and reign of King David. It's about David's Descendant—the Davidic King who would keep perfect covenant with God, live for God with pure worship, sacrifice Himself for the sake of His people, and lead God's people with a shepherd's staff and rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Memory Verse: Review Previous Memory Verses

Day Three – God Coronates Jesus As King

Every king, every queen, every ruler has a coronation day. King David had his. King Jesus—descended from David—did too. Today, you'll examine several New Testament passages that emphasize David's coronation as king and tie that day to the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Read Romans 1:1–6.

In Paul's introduction to the church in Rome, he includes essential information to Jesus' coronation as the great Davidic King.

In light of Romans 1:1–6, reread 2 Samuel 7:14; Psalm 2:7; 89:26–27. After reading these verses, it's easier to understand that Paul in Romans 1:3–4 is using language from the Davidic Covenant when he writes the following about Jesus: "concerning his Son, who was descended from David" (verse 3) and "declared to be the Son of God" (verse 4 ESV).

It seems that Romans 1:3–4 is referring to the day on which God "declared" and enthroned and installed Jesus as the Messianic King. According to Romans 1:4, on what specific day did God fully and completely enthrone, install, and coronate Jesus as King?

Read Acts 4:23–28 in light of Psalm 2:1–3.

Previously, we discussed how biblical prophecies often contain a double meaning: 1) an “immediate meaning” and 2) an “ultimate meaning.” The “immediate meaning” of Psalm 2:1–3 is that nations raged and plotted against God and His king, most *immediately* against David. Based on how Peter and John quote Psalm 2:1–3 in Acts 4:25–26, what is the *ultimate* meaning of Psalm 2:1–3? (Think of a defining moment in Christianity.)

Read Acts 13:26–35.

1. In verses 27–29, what day in Jesus’ life is in view?
2. In verse 30, what day in Jesus’ life is in view?
3. In Acts 13:33, the apostle Paul quotes Psalm 2:7.
 - a. What event occurs in Psalm 2:7?
 - b. How does Paul apply the event from Psalm 2:7 to Jesus’ life in Acts 13:33?

Read Hebrews 1.

1. In what ways does Hebrews 1 look back at God’s covenant with David?
2. In light of Psalm 2:7–9, in what ways does Hebrews focus on Jesus’ rule over the nations?

Summary: Romans 1:1–6; Acts 13:26–35; and Hebrews 1 point to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection as the complete and ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. They especially focus on the day God anointed David to be king and tie in that event with Jesus’ resurrection. We’ll see the significance of this on Day Four.

Memory Verse: Review Previous Memory Verses

Day Four – The Mission of the King

Jesus is the second Adam, the greater Moses, and the authentic Davidic King. Where His forerunners fell short and incomplete in the race of faith, Jesus finished and fulfilled. Unlike Israel's kings before Him, Jesus did not come to save Israel through military might; instead, He came to save all the nations through humility and suffering. The King would die so all might live. It's at the Resurrection that we find the King alive and victorious over His enemies. On Resurrection Day, the stage is set for King Jesus to fulfill 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2 *completely*.

Read Matthew 28:16–20.

Matthew 28 begins with the disciples discovering the empty tomb and ends with the resurrected Christ commissioning His disciples. Though only five verses long, Matthew 28:16–20 overflows with Davidic promises fulfilled in Christ.

1. What is significant about the resurrected Christ meeting with His disciples on “the mountain”? What does this event fulfill? For help, see Psalm 2:6.
2. On the mountain with His disciples, Jesus first says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18 ESV). How is the truth behind Jesus' words here a fulfillment of Old Testament hope? (For help, see 2 Samuel 7:12, 16; Psalm 2:8.)

This week's study has been building to this moment on this mountain top on this day that Jesus rose from the dead. It's on Resurrection Day (Romans 1:4; Acts 13:33–34; Hebrews 1:5) that God ultimately and finally declares, installs, and enthrones Jesus as the Messianic King. Jesus was born the Messiah, anointed the Messiah, performed the works of the Messiah, and suffered and died the Messiah. Nevertheless, it's on Resurrection Day that God declared something final, definitive, and official: the coronation and inauguration of Jesus as Messiah.¹ This emphasis on the Resurrection informs disciples to place the Resurrection at the heart of their preaching.

In Psalm 2:7–9, God sets the Davidic King on Mount Zion and gives him all authority to rule the nations with a rod of iron. In Matthew 28, Jesus—Son of David, Son of God—stands on the mountain top with all authority given to Him. The stage is set for Jesus to fulfill Psalm 2:7–9 *completely* and crush the raging and plotting nations with a rod of iron.

1. **Reread Matthew 28:16–20.** Rather than breaking the nations with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9), what does Jesus commission His disciples to do to the raging and plotting nations?

¹ Walt Russell, “The Battle for Meaning.” CSAP 527: *Hermeneutics and Bible Study Methods*. Video. 64:32. <http://open.biola.edu/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&query=walt+russell>

2. **Read Revelation 19:11–16.** When will Jesus *completely* fulfill Psalm 2:7–9 and rule the nations with a rod of iron?

Summary

The time between Jesus' coronation as Messiah at the resurrection and His return as Messiah marks a time when the Seed of Abraham, the Son of David lovingly disciplines the nations with a shepherd's staff rather than a ruler's rod. As followers of the King, Jesus has entrusted His disciples to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:19–20). Christians today live in a time of God's grace, mercy, and love. Now is a time to extend the Good News to the nations that God's King died for all, rose from the dead, and that He invites all the nations to find refuge in Him before He returns with a rod of wrath (Psalm 2:12).

Memory Verse: Review Previous Memory Verses

Day Five – Small Group Questions

To foster greater fellowship in Christ, complete these questions prior to your small group time.

1. As you have studied the life of David, what do you think Scripture wants Christians to learn ultimately from David's life?
2. In Matthew 28:16–20, Jesus encourages His disciples in their mission by assuring them that He will be with them even until the end of the age.
 - a. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus through His Spirit is with you as you seek to make disciples?
 - b. What worries do you have about making disciples that this promise helps resolve?
3. What are some of the many ways Christians can live in the light of the words of King Jesus in Matthew 28:19–20?
4. This week's study has shown how Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's great Davidic hope.

