

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

2 Samuel 7

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 5 of 14



Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

The American Church:

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

The American Church:

- Churches tend to be deeply segregated along generational, racial, socioeconomic, educational and other lines.
- For example, at the start of the 21st Century **only 5.5%** of Christian congregations were racially mixed.¹
- This is not the model the Bible presents to us.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

About This Series:

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

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- **Our identity in Christ** provides the inner motivation that compels us to unite rather than divide.
- In so doing, we still validate our individuality.
- Rather than negating differences, our identity in Christ transcends them, giving us a focal point that all of us share.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

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3. To accept that our identity in Christ is something shared, and is a basis for unity with diverse others in the church.

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3. To accept that **our identity in Christ** is something shared, and is a basis for unity with diverse others in the church.
4. To appreciate **biblical diversity as a spiritual strength** that expresses itself in the people and ministries of our church.

Previously in this series

Previously in this series

A Shared Origin: The Story of Creation

Genesis 1 – 2

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Part 1 of 14



Previously in this series

A Shared Tragedy: Sin and Its Effects

Genesis 3 – 11

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 2 of 14



Previously in this series

A Shared Promise: The Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

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Previously in this series

A Shared Standard: The Law of Love

Leviticus 19, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ



Part 4 of 14

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

- After Moses and Joshua, God raised up a series of assorted **judges** to rescue his people and rule them.
- It took several hundred years before Israel had its first king.
- That king was **Saul**, who was a popular choice, but whose heart was not loyal to God.

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

- Therefore, God did not allow Saul's descendants to follow him in ruling over the nation.
- Instead he chose David to follow after Saul.
- David was just a boy, a shepherd over the family flocks, when God sent Samuel to anoint David as the future king.

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

- As David grew and proved to be effective in battle, his choice as the next king began to make more sense.
- It still took some time after the death of Saul for the nation to agree on David's position.

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

- **David** became a major Old Testament character.
- His name appears well **over 1000 times** in Scripture, second only to the name of **Jesus**.
- Let's read **2 Samuel 7:1-17**, the passage in which God gives David some unique promises.

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

God's Promises to David²:

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God's Promises to David²:

1. A Dynasty (7:11, 16)

- God uses the word “house” to mean dynasty, as the British royal family is the House of Windsor.

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God's Promises to David²:

2. An Offspring to Rule (7:12)

- While this is implied in the dynasty promise, God makes it explicit here.
- The kingdom of Israel would be ruled by David's son, in this case **Solomon**.

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God's Promises to David²:

3. A Temple (7:13)

- David wanted to build a house for the Lord.
- Nathan's reflex was to say that was a fine idea, but then God spoke to Nathan.
- God declared Solomon to be the one to build it.

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God's Promises to David²:

4. An Eternal Kingdom (7:13 & 16)

- David died and Solomon died.
- Moreover, due to Solomon's unfaithfulness, things did not go well for the kingdom of Israel.
- First it was divided and later it collapsed.

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God's Promises to David²:

5. A Son of God (7:14-15)

- We could make the mistake of passing this over as an overstated title for a king, as in “King -----, the Son of God.”
- Solomon and his descendants certainly endured the discipline described.
- As the kingdom later collapsed, the door was opened for a greater fulfillment of the promise.

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David's prayer of Thanks

- Let's read his prayer in **1 Samuel 7:18-29**.

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David's prayer of Thanks

- All that God said to David began to sink in.
- He realized just how big the promise was.
- What David heard from God was far bigger than he was.

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David's prayer of Thanks

- **7:19** The expression “instruction for mankind” is difficult.
- It is something like “Torah [Torat] for the Adam.”
- The Expanded Bible explains it with “So it is with humanity” or “This is a decree/instruction/charter for the people/humanity”

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David's prayer of Thanks

- Israel was God's special people in all the earth.
- From David's house was to come God's special king.
- This is now bigger than David and bigger than Israel.
- It is instruction for the whole human race.

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More on the Covenant with David

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More on the Covenant with David

- See **Jeremiah 33:14-17, 23-26**.
- In the days of Jeremiah, the kingdom of Judah was being conquered and many were taken into exile.
- Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

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More on the Covenant with David

- See **Jeremiah 33:14-17, 23-26**.
- God reinforced his promises in the context of their suffering.
- Their story was not over yet (**and neither is yours.**)

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More on the Covenant with David

- When the New Testament begins, it is significant that the first verse of the first book says,
- **Matthew 1:1** (ESV)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

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More on the Covenant with David

- A fascinating story also appears when Jesus made his way into the Gentile district of Tyre and Sidon.
- See **Matthew 15:21-28**.
- The woman is a Canaanite, outside the religious and ethnic margins, but calls Jesus “the Son of David,” the Messiah.

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More on the Covenant with David

- See **Matthew 15:21-28**.
- At first glance, the disciples and even Jesus all treat this woman really badly – reinforcing her low status.
- She does not complain, but takes the opportunity to more humbly express her abnormally steadfast faith.

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More on the Covenant with David

- See **Matthew 15:21-28**.
- We can learn a lesson from this woman when we feel that God is treating us badly.
- **Submit humbly. Remain steadfast. Keep asking.**
- **What if God is only trying to draw out your faith?**

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More on the Covenant with David

- At the end of the Bible, when Christ returns he has a title.
- **Revelation 19:16** (ESV)

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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More on the Covenant with David

- And yet he still identifies with David to the end.
- **Revelation 5:5** (ESV)

And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

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More on the Covenant with David

- And yet he still identifies with David to the end.
- **Revelation 22:16** (ESV)

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

A Shared King

Conclusions

A Shared King Conclusions

- God made a covenant with David, that one of his descendants would reign upon his throne forever.
- This was not fulfilled in Israel's immediate history.
- That descendant eventually appeared when Christ was born.

A Shared King Conclusions

- Jesus Christ is more than the king over that one nation.
- He is King of kings and Lord of lords.
- All rulers, regardless of nation or political party will ultimately have to submit themselves to his rule.

A Shared King Conclusions

- Here on earth some people have more power, wealth or influence, while others are clearly marginalized.
- All of us, like the Canaanite woman must acknowledge that we are subjects of the King of Kings.

A Shared King Conclusions

- Our identity in Christ is wrapped up in our belonging to him.
- **Who we are** is very important, but **whose we are – who we belong to** – is more important still.²

A Shared King Conclusions

- In **Philippians 1:21** (ESV) Paul was able go as far as to say, “For to me to live is Christ ...”
- I pray we can all say the same thing.

A Shared King Conclusions

- Let's pray for God the supernatural insight needed to:
 1. See ourselves as citizens of Christ's kingdom and subjects of the King of kings.
 2. Submit ourselves willingly to his rule, his lordship over us, in all of our desires and decisions.
 3. Remain steadfast in the face of seemingly unfulfilled promises, because God may be growing our faith.
 4. See our loyalty to Christ as our highest form of allegiance.

A Shared King Conclusions

- Finally, may the Lord make us as a church
 1. Even more unified
 2. Even more diverse
 3. So fully identified with Christ that God's nature, love and wisdom will be evident to us and to the outside world.

Next Week

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

Psalms 2, 16, 22, 110 & 118

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Reference List

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2. Kaiser, Walter C. 1978, 2008. *The promise-plan of God: A biblical theology of the Old and New Testaments*. Mobi edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Kindle locations 2754-2848.