

Jesus and David

Core 52 – Week 7

So, this last Sunday I was attending the Daytona 500 with my father and my nephew. We flew out of Orlando, so we saw lots of families with young children who were going to Disney World. When you go to Disney or other big amusement parks you can pay extra for something called a fast pass, which allows you to bypass the long serpentine line and go straight to the front.

This year we are looking at 52 essential verses of Scripture. These 52 verses like your fast pass to understanding the the Bible. Right now, in our journey through Core 52 we are at King David.

As Americans, we don't have a lot of experience with kings and royal families. We're all about freedom and making our choices and doing what we want. We don't have royal families whose dynasties have sat on the throne for generations. For us, it's either 4 more years, or get that bum outta there. After a couple of generations of Kennedys or Bushes, we're done. The closest we get is that some of us follow the exploits of the British Royal Family like it's some sort of dramatic soap opera.

British Royal Family Quiz – Possible answers: Harry, Elizabeth II, Megan, Andrew, William, Cathrine (Kate)

1. An American Actress who married a prince in 2018 and now has the title Duchess of Sussex – Megan Markle
2. Was recently forced to suspend his public duties because of allegations of connections to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein – Prince Andrew
3. She is 38 and married a prince in 2011 and now has the title of Duchess of Cambridge– Catherine (Kate) Middleton
4. He is sixth in line of succession to the throne and bears the title Prince of Wales – Prince Harry
5. He was 2nd in line of succession when he was born in 1960, but today is eighth – Prince Andrew
6. Their children are Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis – Prince William and Catherine (Kate)
7. He is the Duke of Cambridge and 2nd in the line of Succession to the Throne – Prince William
8. She is 93 and has reigned as queen since 1952 – Elizabeth II
9. They recently announced their decision to step back from the royal family – Prince Harry and Meghan.
10. Both served in the Blues and Royals of the British army – Harry and William

Whether you enjoy reading the latest about the royal family, or you couldn't care less, the bottom line is this: it doesn't make any real difference in your life.

However, if you lived in the ancient near east world of the Bible who sat on the throne made all the difference in the world. Your prospects, not only as a nation, but as an individual could rise or fall based simply on who the king or queen was. A good king could mean 20, 30, 40 years of prosperity. But a bad king could mean that an entire generation of people knew only hardship and misery.

Last week, Dave Embree shared with you how **David was the king of God's own choosing. Saul was the king of the people's choosing.** The people had chosen Saul, because he looked like a king. 1 Samuel 9

says he was the best looking young man in all of Israel, and he was head and shoulders taller than everyone else. However, when God sent Samuel to anoint David as the next King, God told the prophet, *“Man considers the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”* When it came to David’s heart, God chose David because he was a man after God’s own heart. That means he pursued after the heart of God with passion and energy. 1 Kings 15:5 sums up David’s reign with these words:

For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD's commands all the days of his life--except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

That was a big exception, but that’s another sermon for another day. But David was a man after God’s own heart. As a result, God blessed David and his reign. David defeated Israel’s enemies. David expanded Israel’s borders and for the first time brought peace within those borders. David took a fledgling group of divided tribes and united them into a single nation. He brought prosperity to Israel’s economy and made her a respected superpower in that part of the world. David ushered in the Israel’s golden age.

David became the standard by which all other kings of Israel were judged. About 20 times between 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles the descendants of David who sat on the throne are compared their father David. You read statements like this in 2 Kings 18:3 about King Hezekiah, *“He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.”* Or in 2 Kings 16:2 it says this about King Ahaz *“Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God.”*

David then becomes this running thread throughout the rest of the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments. This is for a very good reason, because David wasn’t just Israel’s greatest king, but like we saw with Moses, he was a type, or a prophetic foreshadowing of Jesus.

In 2 Samuel 7, after David was firmly established as king and built his palace, He wanted to build a temple or a house for God. God responded by telling David, *“No, you’re not the one to build a house for me. Instead, I will build your house.”* I will make sure your offspring stays on the throne and your descendant will be the one to build my house.

David took this to mean his son, Solomon, and Solomon would build a temple for God. But ultimately God was looking much further down David’s family line, and he was talking about a much bigger kind of house than a building for worship.

God made a covenant with David, much like He did with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We find this covenant in 2 Samuel 7, and heart of this covenant comes in verse 12:

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

We can’t blame David for thinking of his own sons, grandsons and great grandsons. However, Bible prophecy often works on two levels at once. There is an immediate reference and an ultimate reference. It’s like when you visit a famous place or go to some big event and you take a picture. Now there’s two things you want in the picture. You and your friends or family, and whatever cool thing it is you’re there to see. So, is the picture of you, or is it of the Daytona International Speedway, or the Grand Canyon, or the Lincoln Memorial, or the ocean or the concert you’re attending? Yes. It’s both. A prophecy can be

like a picture. The subject in the foreground is Solomon, but the much bigger thing in the background here is Jesus. God simply cannot be talking about Solomon or the earthly throne in Jerusalem here.

Later on in this covenant, in verse 16, God tells David this:

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

A forever throne requires a forever king, and Solomon and David's grandsons just don't cut it. After David, 18 of his descendants sat on the throne, each in turn. However, after Solomon, the kingdom was divided in two, leaving only the tribe of Judah and the tiny tribe of Benjamin under control of David's royal line.

Then, around 586 BC, Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, the temple, and forced her people into exile, just as God said would happen through Moses if Israel every turned from God's ways. Not only was David's line forced from the throne, there was no throne anymore. No descendant of David has sat on a throne in Israel ever since.

Now, 18 descendants is a long time, but It's a long way from forever. The picture in the background is something different? Something bigger? Something better? Remember a forever throne requires a forever king.

The prophet Isaiah writes in Isaiah 11:10, *"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious."* Jesse was David's father, and he's comparing David's line to one of those plants that shoots out runners underground. So, even though you can't see the plant above ground, it's still there, and then, one day. It pops up over here. So even though the royal, family line has disappeared from view, it will pop up again, and when it does, he will draw from all nations to a glorious kingdom.

The prophets that God sent after the exile (Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah) began speaking about God restoring and rebuilding David's kingdom, but the kingdom they talked about was a bigger kingdom, a better kingdom.

"I will restore David's fallen shelter- I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins- and will rebuild it as it used to be." – Amos 9:11

"The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.'" – Jeremiah 23:5

"They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever." Ezekiel 37:25

When we get to the New Testament, it opens with the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew opens his biography of Jesus with a genealogy that shows Jesus is a rightful heir to the throne of David. I really encourage you to check out this week's devotional from the Core 52 book, because Mark Moore has some great insights about Matthew's genealogy.

When the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Messiah in Luke's Gospel, he tells her this, *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David."* And of course, Jesus is born where? Bethlehem, the city of David.

Jesus begins his ministry announcing that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And then repeatedly, throughout the rest of the New Testament it is pointed out how Jesus fulfills God's promise to David.

This verse in 2 Samuel 7 is so important because it helps tie everything God was doing in the Old Testament to everything He did through Jesus in the New Testament. Across the centuries and across the millennia God was always working a bigger plan.

All in all, according to one count, Jesus fulfills seven specific promises God made to David here in 2 Samuel 7.ⁱ One Old Testament scholar says that these verses in 2 Samuel 7 are "the center and focus" of this entire section of the Bible. Another says it is "the dramatic and theological center of the entire Samuel corpus," and it is, in fact, "the most crucial theological statement in the Old Testament."ⁱⁱ It is also the longest statement from God we have since the days of Moses.

And all of it points to Jesus.

Here are just some of the similarities between Jesus and David:

1. Both were born in Bethlehem
2. David was a shepherd. Jesus is the good Shepherd
3. David was 30 when he began his reign. Jesus was 30 when he began his ministry.
4. Both were betrayed by someone close to them.
5. Both betrayers hung themselves. (Ahithophel 2 Sam. 17)
6. Both had kings who tried to have them killed
7. Both defeated their enemies
8. Both amazed their elders in their youth
9. Both not accepted by their brothers
10. Both were appointed king by God.
11. Both brought peace

Just as Jesus is the new and better Moses, he is also the new and better David

Now the question we must answer this morning is this: what does any of this have to do with us? So, David was a good and great king. So, David was a type that prophetically foreshadowed Jesus. So, Jesus fulfills all the promises God made to David. So what? What does that mean for me and what should I do about it? Jesus being the new and better David should move us in three directions.

I. Look Up

First, it should move us to look up. I what I mean by that is that we must recognize that Jesus is the King, and he sits on the throne, and not just any throne. He sits on the throne that is above all other thrones. I'm not sure about a lot of things that Kanye West does, but he is absolutely right about one thing— Jesus is King. So, we need to look up and see that Jesus is the name above all names. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He sits on the throne of heaven.

It doesn't matter who sits on what throne on earth. It doesn't matter who sits in the white house or what flag flies over which borders, because the kingdom of heaven will never arrive aboard Air Force

One. When we look up and recognize who Jesus is we cannot help but echo the words of Paul in Philippians 2:9-11:

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

“Crown Him with many Crowns”

II. Look In

After we look up, then next we need to look in. We need to look deep within our heart of hearts and ask this most personal question— Who is my king? Who sits on the throne of my heart?

Just like the nation of Israel we have a choice between the king of our choosing or the king of God’s choosing.

As red-blooded Americans we might insist that no one tells us what to do. I’m my own man. I’m my own woman. I want to truly be free to truly be me. I call my own shots. I march to the beat of my own drum. Nobody sits on the throne.

Even if that were the case, you’ve placed yourself on the throne. You have made yourself king or queen instead of Jesus. Let me tell you something. You’re not good enough to be king. You don’t know enough, can’t see enough, can’t do enough to be king. As soon as you place yourself on the throne, you will mess it up.

But here’s the truth. Everyone has someone or something on the throne of their hearts. There is something that calls the shots. There is something that has ultimate influence in your life. Who or what is on your throne?

I know the easy, church answer on Sunday morning is- Jesus. We go to church. We have Jesus on our tee shirts. We post Jesus memes online. Jesus is our king. But is he really? When push comes to shove in your life and something’s gotta give, what is it that goes? Is Jesus really the last one standing?

Maybe the king of your heart is money. You’ll push Jesus to second place if it means a few extra dollars. Maybe it’s pleasure. You’ll bring Jesus into the throne room of your heart on Sunday morning, but on Friday night, you’ve got him locked in a downstairs closet somewhere. Maybe it’s what others think of you. You’ll say or do whatever it takes for the gram, for the likes. Maybe it’s your boyfriend or girlfriend, or some other relationship in your life that is more important than your relationship with Jesus. How do you know? If you do what they want instead of what Jesus wants, Jesus is not your king.

This morning I want to challenge you to look in and honestly answer the question. Who is your king? Who or what is on the throne of your heart?

“King of My Heart”

III. Look Out

When I say, “Look out” I don’t mean in a “Look out!!!” sort of way, but in a “Look out there” sort of way. Jesus shouldn’t just be your king. Jesus is king of everything. His kingdom is global. His kingdom is universal. His kingdom is eternal which means we gotta quit thinking so small and think BIG.

Are you kingdom minded? Do you see yourself as a part of a plan that bigger than your life? Do you see yourself involved in something that is bigger than your time and this place? Too often our vision is limited to just us. What do I want? How does this affect me? And even our vision of Jesus can be limited to my faith, my church, my community.

God has global heart, and God is doing something that’s much bigger than you, much bigger than Son-Rise, or Marshfield, and much bigger than the United States. Do we see that? Are we a part of that? Do we ever pray for that? Or, is everything about our faith just focused on our own little world?

When we look up and see Jesus on the throne of heaven, and when we look in to insure that Jesus is on the throne of our hearts, then we should look out to be a part of what God is doing. God invites us to team up with Him and do something so much bigger than our lives.

Our lives can make a global difference, not because we’re so great or so powerful, but because we serve the King of kings who is greater than could ever be imagined. He is powerful beyond measure, and he sits on the throne.

That’s My King - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE>

ⁱ The divine declarations proclaimed here through the prophet Nathan are foundational for seven major New Testament teachings about Jesus: that he is (1) the son of David (cf. Matt 1:1; Acts 13:22–23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8; Rev 22:16, etc.); (2) one who would rise from the dead (cf. Acts 2:30; 13:23); (3) the builder of the house for God (cf. John 2:19–22; Heb 3:3–4, etc.); (4) the possessor of a throne (cf. Heb 1:8; Rev 3:21, etc.); (5) the possessor of an eternal kingdom (cf. 1 Cor 15:24–25; Eph 5:5; Heb 1:8; 2 Pet 1:11, etc.); (6) the son of God (cf. Mark 1:1; John 20:31; Acts 9:20; Heb 4:14; Rev 2:18, etc.); and (7) the product of an immaculate conception, since he had God as his father (cf. Luke 1:32–35).

ⁱⁱ Bergen, Robert D. 1, 2 Samuel. Vol. 7. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. Print. The New American Commentary. can Commentary.