



**The
Virgin Birth
the
Prophet Nathan
and the
Promised Seed of David.**

(2019)

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The Virgin Birth

The Prophet Nathan

The Promised Seed of David.

Topics.

- God's promise to David through the prophet Nathan (2 Sam. 7:1-29).
 - Nathan tells David the LORD will build him a house (1 Chron. 17:4-17).
 - David retells God's promise to Solomon (1 Chron. 22:9-13).
 - David retells God's promise to Solomon (1 Chron. 28:5-10).
 - God's promise through Nathan to David in the New Testament.
 - The house God is Building for David today.
 - The global family of God.
 - The Commonwealth of Israel.
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INTRODUCTION

This study concerning God's promise to David not only shines a brilliant spotlight on the royal majesty, wonder and glory of prophetic biblical language and God's eternal foreknowledge, His eternal wisdom and the magnificence of Scripture, especially when it enters into the New Testament, but also shows that there are shining glimmers of the Virgin Birth in the Old Testament.

GOD'S PROMISE TO KING DAVID THROUGH THE PROPHET NATHAN (2 SAM. 7:1-29).

- **2 Samuel 7:1-7:** Now when the king (David) lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

During the Old Testament era the term house was common language and can refer to a temple or a kingdom, today we would most likely use the word dynasty. The word house is the perfect word to symbolize the Kingdom of God because the word house carries the idea of a family and loving and protective parents caring for their children. Added to this the true global and worldwide House of God (the Kingdom of Christ) is made up of brothers and sisters who are united in love because of their common faith and love toward the Lord Jesus Christ. King David looked around and saw that he dwelt in palaces while God's Ark of God (a symbol of God's holiness, mercy and the place of His presence) dwelt in tents so David intended to make a house for God to dwell in. Nathan seems to think this is a good idea and therefore tells David to do all that his heart desires. The

LORD came to Nathan the very night David had told Nathan that he desired to build a house for the LORD. Though the LORD does not need a house to dwell in He does appreciate that David at least had it in his heart to think God should be dwelling in a better house than a tent and a better house than what David himself dwelt in. Especially since no other prophet or king had ever given it a thought to build the LORD a house.

NOTICE: the LORD tells Nathan from the time He delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt through the ages of the Judges up until the time of David He has always dwelt in tents and has never dwelt in any house nor has He ever asked anyone to build Him a house (v7) so this desire of David's to build a better house for the LORD came from David's own heartfelt respect and love for the LORD.

I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling: (v6), these words symbolise that God's Spirit is not bound to any one place and that Christianity is fluid meaning it is moving and is not constrained to one special place. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular building or even a special day. The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life, which means that the New Testament church is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE LORD WILL MAKE DAVID'S NAME GREAT

- **2 Samuel 7:8-9:** Now, therefore, thus you (Nathan) shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your (Davids) days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, who shall come from your body (bowels in the KJV) and I will establish his kingdom.

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The LORD tells Nathan to tell David that the LORD promises He will:

- Make David a prince over the God's people Israel.
- Make David's name great among the mighty ones of the earth.
- Appoint a permanent place of peace for God's people Israel to dwell.
- Establish them in a place where violence will be no more.
- Build a house for David (v6)

SHINNING GLIMMERS OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The LORD told Nathan to tell David that God will make him a prince over His people and make of him a great name (v8-9). Certainly, David became a great king amongst his people, but these prophetic words immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the majestic and royal words the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary saying:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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 he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:26-33).

It is interesting to consider that though David most likely believed God's promise that his name would be made great would be accomplished through his kingship and through his son Solomon and a series of mighty kings to follow. David will not know how majestically and eternally great the LORD has made his name until he sees Jesus the promised Seed from his own bloodline face to face at the resurrection when the Lord returns. The LORD then tells Nathan to tell David that:

- The LORD will build David a house (v11).

It is not David who will build a house for God, but rather God will build a house for David. The LORD tells David that after his death God will set up David's seed from his own bowels meaning from his own body (i.e., a descendant). The LORD is telling David that he will establish a Kingdom for David's seed. Here is the glory and wonder of these words of the LORD. Jesus is a direct descendant of David through his mother Mary because she was a descendant of David through his son Solomon added to this many Bible scholars believe that Joseph the supposed father of Jesus was a descendant of David through his son Nathan.

SHINNING GLIMMERS OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- **2 Samuel 7:13-14:** He (the Seed of David) shall build a HOUSE for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men.

God says King David's seed will build a house for God's Name and God will establish the Kingdom and throne of King David's seed forever. It is certain David (as the following studies will show) had his son Solomon in mind when God made this glorious and eternal promise to him, but it is not Solomon who is the central focus that God had in mind when He made this majestic and eternal promise to David. We know this because Solomon's Kingdom and his throne were not forever. Added to this the LORD tells David God will be the father of his Seed and he will be God's Son. This immediately takes the mind of every New Testament Christian to the following glorious words God spoke from heaven at Jesus water baptism and the Mount of transfiguration.

At Jesus baptism:

- A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (Matt 3:17).

At the mountain of transfiguration:

- A bright cloud overshadowed Peter, James, and John and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matt 17:5) (Mark 9:7) (Luke 9:35) (2 Peter 1:17).

These heavenly declarations of God clearly show that though David might have had Solomon in mind God in His eternal wisdom and foreknowledge had the Lord Jesus Christ in His mind and not Solomon. Here we see the glorious majesty and wonder of prophetic biblical language, because the seed of David is not named in the prophecy the words of God allow for it to apply to Solomon giving it a the local and immediate fulfillment (clearly with certain limitations) and for the prophetic words to rest for a little while upon the golden era of David and Solomon kingdoms and then take up wings and transcend through time and history until God's prophetic words spoken by Nathan descend on the true Seed of David that God had in His eternal mind thousands of years ago when he was telling Nathan what to say to David. Here is the glory and beauty of Scripture David desires to build a house for the LORD, but the LORD tells David that after his death the LORD will build a house for David.

The LORD told Nathan the prophet to tell David that he will:

- Give David rest from all his enemies.

And after David has died the LORD will:

- Make David a house.
- Raise up David's seed after him who shall come from his body.
- Establish David's kingdom forever.

The seed who comes from David's bloodline:

- Will build a house for the LORDS name.
- God will establish the throne of his Kingdom forever.
- God will be to him a father and he shall be to God a son.

Certainly, God gave David and Solomon rest during their reign and planted the people of Israel in their own land. The years of David and Solomon are commonly known as the Golden Years of Israel, but they did not last forever. Here is the wonder and splendor of Bible prophecy, it almost always has an immediate comfort and fulfillment for the people the prophecy is spoken to, but the language is such that it leaves the prophecy open to take up wings and transcend time and history until it arrives upon its true and perfect fulfillment.

THE LORD WILL MAKE DAVID A HOUSE

The house the LORD is building for David at this present time is spiritual it is being established in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ worldwide. It is a global house made up of Jews and Gentiles who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who trust in God's grace to be counted righteous and worthy of eternal life. This house is also called the Kingdom of God, a new creation and a new nation in Christ. It is called a new creation and new Nation because it is made up of Jews and Gentiles worshipping together, Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world.

The kingdom parable of the net clearly shows that Christ will return in glory to his present spiritual Kingdom and separate out of this Kingdom the corrupt and self-serving servants from his good and faithful servants and then the sons and daughters of God which all creation waits with eager longing for will be revealed (Rom 8:19) and they will be transformed to be like him, because they will see him as he is (1 John 3:2).

NOTE: when we enter the second stage of this glorious prophecy and travel through the New Testament, we will see far more of the eternal and majestic glory of the house the LORD is building for David through the Lord Jesus Christ the promised Seed of David.

I WILL DISCIPLINE HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN

The words, "When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men" (2 Sam 7:14) when applied to Christ have caused some confusion over the years, since Christ never sinned, but consider the following:

- When the words, "When he commits iniquity" are applied to Christ they most likely carry the following idea, "When he carries the iniquity of men upon himself."

- I will discipline him with the rod of men: can refer to Christ's obedience to his heavenly Father when he was being tested by his temptations in the wilderness and his ability to remain merciful and compassionate as he walked amongst sinners and those who believed in pagan gods.
- With the stripes of the sons of men: would clearly refer to the persecution and mocking men inflicted upon him and the brutal, bloody and cruel death he suffered on the cross. Clearly the Lord proved his obedience to his heavenly Father by surrendering his life to his enemies to suffer a torturous death on the cross of Calvary.

Nevertheless, Nathan's words "When he commits iniquity" can also be applied to:

- David's son Solomon and to David's seed who committed many gross sins and transgressions and who God did chasten with many afflictions after they fell into gross sin and idolatry.
- To David's spiritual seed growing in Christ today since even faithful believers have infirmities, but though they maybe spiritually disciplined to bring them to repentance they will not be cast off.

It is interesting to notice that in the same account of Nathan's word to David recorded in (1 Chron. 17:10-15) the words, "When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men" (2 Sam 7:14) are completely omitted. This expression simply means that God will correct his children, but not to destroy them, but to chastise them for their good.

NOTE: this does not mean every discipline has to be with a rod, rather it is discipline suited to humanities weakness. God used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as His servant to chastise the people of Israel for their good in the same way parents use all kinds of discipline to correct their children for their own good.

The idea is that whatever type of discipline is being used it will cause a certain amount of suffering for the one being disciplined, but it is always to be carried out with all possible tenderness and compassion. It is almost certain that if some children today were given a choice of a smack with a rod given in love (in contrast to anger) or have their I-Pad or mobile phone taken away for a few days many would chose the smack, so today removing their mobile or banning their I-Pad is most likely considered by many to be the harsher punishment. Biblical discipline refers to moderate corrections given in love which serve some good purposes.

GOD WILL ESTABLISH DAVID'S THRONE FOREVER

- **2 Samuel 7:15-16:** but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

God again repeats that:

- God's steadfast love will not depart from him. Though this can apply to David the prophetic focus is the Seed that comes from David's bloodline, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- David's house and his kingdom will be made sure forever before God.
- David's throne will be established forever.

Here is the key to this glorious prophetic promise that the LORD has given to Nathan to give to David. The promise is that David's house and his throne will be established forever, this is an amazing promise because Christ (God's Son) is in God's mind while Solomon (David's son) is in David's mind.

THE WONDER AND BEAUTY OF PROPHECY

Here is the wonder and beauty of many of God's prophecies contained within the language of the one prophecy there is often the following two aspects:

1. A partial local fulfillment that applies to the people at the time of the prophecy.
2. A final future, complete and total fulfillment of the prophecy.

God's promised David there would not fail a man to sit on his throne, David may have seen Solomon as the beginning of a series of kings to sit on his throne until the final king Messiah came to take the kingdom forever, but he died and has not seen the succeeding history of his kingdom, but when the Angel of the LORD and the trump of God awakes David from his sleep, he will instantly awake to see the promised Seed sitting on his throne ruling over the eternal Kingdom.

THE FOLLOWING VERSES OF PETER'S GREAT SPEECH REVEALS THAT DAVID KNEW GOD WOULD RAISE UP THE CHRIST TO SIT ON HIS THRONE FOREVER

- Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption (Acts 2:29-31).

God promised David:

- That from the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his Throne.

God promised Solomon:

- If he remained faithful to God's statutes and laws God would set up his Kingdom forever.

David may have thought this promise would be for Solomon his son and perhaps it would have been if Solomon had remained faithful to God, but it is clear this promise to David did not fall on Solomon so it points forward to a future King from David's seed that the fulfillment of this prophetic promise is to fall upon.

THE LORD CAME TO NATHAN IN A VISION

- **2 Samuel 7:17:** In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Here we see that the LORD came to Nathan in a vision and that Nathan spoke all the LORD had shown him in the vision to David.

NOTE: when a prophet passes on a message like this from the LORD to give to another it can be spoken of in the following two ways:

1. The LORD gave the prophet a message to give to David.
2. The LORD spoke to David and said.

Both of these expressions are biblically correct because the message is the same. Nathan the prophet speaking the LORD'S word to David is considered the same as the LORD speaking directly to David. This is because the prophet is acting as the voice of the LORD Himself.

DAVID PRAYS BEFORE THE LORD

- **2 Samuel 7:18-21:** Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! ²⁰And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! ²¹Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it.

Here we see the humbleness and absolute heartfelt gratitude of King David. David is overwhelmed and completely humbled that God should choose to put such glory upon him. David's words:

- You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come (v19).

Show that David understood that the promise that God would build a house for him was a promise that would extend far beyond David's own lifespan. In this prayer we see that the promise that God would build David a house originated in God's own heart not David's. Contained within the language of this prophetic promise is God's plan of eternal salvation for mankind that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world began this is the amazing glory of Bible prophecy.

DAVID PRAYER CONTINUED

- **2 Samuel 7:22-23:** Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?

This prayer shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that even though people believe in multitudes of different gods for David there is only one God that exists and He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the God of Israel.

ISRAEL HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S SPECIAL AND UNIQUE PEOPLE

God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.

- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the World.

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

DAVID PRAYER CONTINUED

- 2 Sam 7:24-26: And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God. ²⁵And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. ²⁶And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

The words, "God established for Himself Israel to be His people forever, does not mean that the people of Israel are the only people of God for the following two reasons:

1. God is building a new race in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles alike.
2. It is not those born of the flesh, meaning descendants of Abraham who are the true Israel, but those who are of the promise and who have the faith of Abraham (Rom. 9:7-8) (Rom. 4:13-16).

David prays:

- God would confirm forever the promise to build David a house.
- The house of David will be established before God forever.
- God's name will be magnified forever.

NOTICE: so far, the primary focus of this chapter is upon:

- God building a house for David, not David building a house for God.
- The house of David that is to be built is to be established forever.

Though the house to be established can refer to Solomon's temple the prophetic and true house to be built forever refers to the new nation God is building in Christ which is also called the Kingdom of Christ, the body of Christ and the church.

DAVID PRAYER CONTINUED

- **2 Samuel 7:27-29:** For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. ²⁸And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. ²⁹Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

Once again, we see that the focus is upon God building David a house, not David building a house for God. David's words, "You have promised this good thing to your servant" (v28) referring to the LORD'S promise to build David a house that will continue forever shines as spotlight on the truth that even though this prophetic promise can refer to the house David's son Solomon built the promise transcends the bricks and mortar of Solomon's temple and takes up spiritual and prophetic wings to travel through time until it reaches the spiritual temple God is building in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.

SUMMARY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH, NATHAN AND THE PROMISED SEED OF DAVID.

David shares his desire to build a house for the LORD with Nathan the prophet, but that very night God tells Nathan to tell David that God will build a house for David. God promises David that He will establish a house (i.e., Kingdom) from one of David's seeds (descendants) and God Himself will be the Father of that that descendant, meaning the Father of David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ and he will be God's Son (we now know that the mother was the Virgin Mary). There is no mention of Solomon in the promise, God does not name the seed He simply says the promise is to David's seed and after David's death. Here is the splendour of Bible prophecies, though it can apply to Solomon and the temple he built the true focus is upon the house God is building for David in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.

NOTE: though David Scripture does record David saying, "God said that Solomon would build the house" (1 Chron. 22:9) (1 Chron. 28:6) it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that God actually named the son, it is only written that God said, "Of David's seed" leaving the prophetic promise open to transcend beyond David's son Solomon to rest upon the promised prophetic Son (i.e., Christ) God had in His mind when He made this promise to David. David also says that God gave him exact details of the house (the temple) to be built, but this is not recorded in the Bible either, God may have told David Solomon would build the Temple when He was giving David the instructions for its design, but neither of these two events are recorded anywhere in the Bible.

THE BEAUTY, WONDER AND SPLENDOR OF PROPHETIC LANGUAGE IN THE BIBLE

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Because the name of the promised son is not recorded in God's conversation to Nathan it leaves the prophecy open to transcend to a future King when Solomon failed to keep God's statutes, obviously the initial or local fulfillment was through Solomon, but the son God ultimately had in mind was His very own Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The LORD said that He will place David's seed (descendant) in God's House and that God will be his Father and he will be God's Son and his throne will be established forever. Since God had told David a king will sit on his throne forever (1 Kings 2:4). (1 Kings 8:25).

It is certain that David being a king and prophet understood that Solomon was not the final king to reign on his throne, but would be the beginning of a series of kings until the final king of glory came since David knew the prophecy was for a great time to come and would extend beyond his death. When David was near his death, he commanded Solomon to keep the ways of the Lord so that the LORD may establish the word that he spoke concerning David, saying:

- If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel (1 Kings 2:4).

When the House of the LORD was completed and the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Most Holy Place Solomon prayed:

- O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me (1 Kings 8:25).

When Solomon had finished building the house the LORD said to him: -

- I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel (1 Kings 9:5).

It is interesting: to notice, later when Nathan brings another word to David for a separate future event the seed is clearly named as Josiah.

- The man of God cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name (1 Kings 13:2).

This child is clearly named Josiah, showing that God deliberately did not name Solomon, but said to David, "Of thy seed," knowing by His foreknowledge Solomon would fail, but the promise to David would not because God in His wisdom did not name the son of this promise, but simply said, "Your seed," allowing the promise to transcend beyond Solomon to God's future King to come at the right time.

NOTE: many sons were born to David, but not one of them was told that God will be their Father. The New Testament reveals that David knew God would raise up Christ to sit on his throne (howbeit not with the clarity and light that we have today) and that David saw that the promised Son was a long way off (2 Sam 7:27-29).

NATHAN TELLS DAVID THE LORD WILL BUILD DAVID A HOUSE (1 CHRON. 17:4-17)

In this chapter verse four through to verse ten are exactly the same as the previous section (2 Sam 7:5-13), but this chapter gives us a little more detail concerning God's glorious promise to David's and David's attitude toward God's eternal promise. The LORD tells Nathan:

- **1 Chronicles 17:4-13:** "to go and tell his servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in. ⁵For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. ⁶In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁷Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel. ⁸and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ⁹And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, ¹⁰from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. ¹¹When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, your seed which shall be of your sons and I will establish his kingdom ¹²He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

Up to here the words of Nathan are exactly the same as recorded in the previous section (2 Sam 7:5-13), but the following verses now give us a little more detail concerning this eternal and glorious promise God made to David and David's attitude toward it.

NOTICE: The Shining Glimmer of the Virgin Birth in the Old Testament.

The LORD tells David:

- I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son (v13).

GOD WILL CONFIRM THE SEED OF DAVID IN HIS HOUSE

- **1 Chronicles 17:14-17:** but I will confirm him (settle him in KJV) him (David's Seed) in my house and in my kingdom forever and his throne shall be established forever." ¹⁵In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to

David. ¹⁶Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁷And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O LORD God!

God tells David that He will not only confirm his seed meaning one of his sons in God's house and in God's Kingdom forever, but would also establish his throne forever according to all the words Nathan spoke. It was not Solomon who God confirmed this eternal promise through and established the Kingdom and throne forever, but through David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ. It was by the death and resurrection of God's most beloved Son that God confirmed His eternal promise to David that He would build David a house and establish his throne forever.

NOTICE: though David was a mighty warrior and king he was a humble man before God. David is totally overwhelmed with amazement and awe that God would honour him with such a glorious and eternal promise.

Though David understood that this promise was eternal and believed God would make him a great name through his seed he could never have imagined that it would come about as it did (i.e., though the death and resurrection of Christ), but it was not important for him to know every detail of God's eternal promise for it to comfort him and for it to come to pass. Likewise every brother or sister in Christ believes God's promise that Jesus will return in majestic glory, but no-one fully understands every detail of this promise or how Christ will return in such glory and what his eternal Kingdom will look like, but having a clear understanding of these things is not important to being saved or to the promise coming to pass since it is having faith in God's promise and trusting that God will bring it to pass that the Lord honours.

- The following studies will show that David believed the promise would come through his son Solomon and continue through the succeeding kings of Israel.

DAVID RETELLS GOD'S PROMISE TO SOLOMON (1 CHRON. 22:9-13)

Prior to these verses David prepares abundantly to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem before he dies. He tells his son Solomon that the house that is to be built for the LORD must be magnificent so that it attracts fame and glory throughout the world. David told Solomon that though he desired to build the house God had told him he couldn't because he was a man of war and shed much blood. Now in the following verses David is telling his son Solomon what God had previously said to him through the prophet Nathan (2 Sam. 7:1-29) (1 Chron. 17:4-13).

David tells Solomon that God through the prophet Nathan had said to him:

- **1 Chronicles 22:9-13:** Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever. ¹¹"Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. ¹²Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

David, when retelling the story of what God through Nathan had told him, said to Solomon that God told him the message from Nathan was for his son named Solomon, but it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that God said the promise was for David's son Solomon. God said David's seed (meaning one of his sons), He did not name who the seed would be. God

in the original promise that Nathan spoke to David did not say David's son Solomon will build a house for God, but that David's seed will build a house for David. Solomon became the local or partial fulfillment of this prophecy, but it was not Solomon that God had in mind when He was speaking to David through Nathan.

FOLLOWING ARE THREE REASONS DAVID MOST LIKELY BELIEVED SOLOMON WAS THE PROMISED SON:

1. It is likely that David loved Solomon because he was born of Bathsheba and it was in David's heart and mind for Solomon to be King.
2. The focus of Israel at this time was perpetuity of kingship and their kingdom through the inheritance of their sons.
3. Even though the Bible does not record God saying that the promised seed would be Solomon, God may have told David Solomon would build the house of God when He gave him the instructions for the Temple and its furniture since that is not recorded in Scripture either.

NOTICE: the shining glimmer of a Virgin Birth in the Old Testament through God's words, "He shall be my son, and I will be his father" (v10). Many sons were born to David's wives and his concubines, but none of them were told God would be their Father. Even though the promised seed ultimately refers to the Lord Jesus Christ this does not mean that it was not in the will of God for David to believe that Solomon was the promised seed. Obviously, God would have known how David would have interpreted what Nathan the prophet had said to him and clearly it was what God purposed for David's Kingdom at that time.

SOLOMON PRAYER AT THE COMPLETION OF GOD'S HOUSE

12

When Solomon had completed building the House of the LORD he prayed; "I have built an exalted house for the LORD to dwell in forever." Then blessed the LORD, for fulfilling what He promised to David when he said, "Since the day that He brought Israel out of Egypt, He chose no city in which to build a house for His name, but chose David to be King over Israel, because it was in David's Heart to build a house for the name of the LORD, but it would be Solomon his son who would build the house and not David.

Then Solomon thanked the LORD for fulfilling His promise to David by raising him up to sit on the throne of Israel in the place of his father David and for allowing him to build the house for the name of the LORD as He had promised his father David (1 Kings 8:12-20). Solomon then prays that the LORD will keep his promise to David that he will not lack a man to sit before the LORD on the throne of Israel if David's sons walk before the LORD as David did (1 Kings 8:25).

The LORD answered Solomon's prayer; saying:

- I have consecrated this house by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

Then the LORD told Solomon if he follows the LORD keeping His Commandments, He will establish Solomon's royal throne over Israel forever as He promised his father David saying:

- You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel, but if Solomon or his children turn from the LORD and serve other gods then He will cast out of his sight the house and the people of Israel" (1 Kings 9:3-7).

BUT! This does not mean that Solomon and the temple he built was the ultimate fulfillment that the LORD had in mind when he told David God would raise up from his own body a seed who would reign on his throne

forever. The principal here could be likened to the principal that applied to Israel when they desired a king, it was not at that time God's perfect plan for Israel to have kings, but He accepted their desire and gave them kings.

HERE IS THE GLORY, THE BEAUTY AND THE WONDER OF PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE

The Bible in God's original promise to David through the prophet Nathan deliberately does not record God naming Solomon as David's seed so that the prophecy can rest upon Solomon for a time and then take up wings and transcend time and history until it settles on the true seed of David (the Lord Jesus Christ) who God had in His eternal mind when speaking through the prophet Nathan to David

NOTE: almost all biblical prophecies have an immediate and local fulfillment to comfort or warn the people the prophet is speaking to, but the language is such it allows the prophecy to take up wings and transcend through time and history to rest upon Christ or another similar event to take place on a much grander scale at a much later time in the future. This is the glory and the wonder of Bible prophecy.

DAVID RETELLS GOD'S PROMISE TO SOLOMON (1 CHRON. 28:5-10)

David in the following verses is re-telling his son Solomon what God had previously said to him through the prophet Nathan (2 Sam. 7:1-29) (1 Chronicles 17:4-13).

- **1 Chronicles 28:5-6:** And of all my (David's) sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶He said to me, 'It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

13

Here David is re-telling the promise that came to him through the prophet Nathan so it is the same as what we have already covered, but in the following verses we are given greater insight into how much David understood of this majestic and glorious eternal promise concerning the throne and the kingdom of his promised seed being established forever.

REMEMBER: though David says God had chosen Solomon to build God's house it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that God Himself actually said He had chosen Solomon to build the house of God. David assembled all the princes of Israel, the captains, the stewards, the officers and the mighty and valiant men to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 28:1) and told them that the LORD had said:

- **1 Chronicles 28:7-10:** I will establish Solomon's kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.' ⁸Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever. ⁹"And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him he will cast you off forever. ¹⁰Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."

David tells Solomon that his kingdom will continue forever if he continues to keep God's commandments and serve God with a whole heart and with a willing mind, but if he forsakes the LORD God will cast him off and bring his kingdom to an end. These verses show that David believed God's promise immediately applied to his Son Solomon and that the way in which the promise would be fulfilled forever would be by Solomon obeying the commandments of the LORD and then the promised Kingdom and promised throne would continue through Solomon's offspring and their offspring after them providing they also obeyed the commandments of the LORD.

Solomon did not keep God's commandments, nor did he follow God with his whole heart, but turned to other gods. This clearly shows that the future fulfillment of Nathan's message from God to David could not have been about Solomon since God in his original promise to David through Nathan said that He would establish David's seed and his kingdom and his throne forever which shows that though David had Solomon in mind God in His eternal mind had the Lord Jesus Christ in focus the true and eternal seed of David. Thousands of years after God had made this majestic royal and glorious promise to David, we read in the New Testament that God sent His angel Gabriel to a godly woman named Mary who said to her:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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 he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:26-33).

GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH NATHAN TO DAVID IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

This is where Nathan's prophecy to David becomes absolute beauty and the majesty and wonder of prophesy and God's wisdom all come together. The heart of the ardent Bible student is thrilled and overjoyed when the link between the Old and New Testament is seen and the majestic and royal plan God purposed in his eternal mind before the ages began is fully understood.

- Jesus when looking at the house of Solomon (now called Herod's Temple) said to his disciples:
- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body (John 2:19-21).

14

Paul said to those who belong to Christ:

- Do you not know that you are God's temple (i.e., God's house) (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

Those in Christ are the house of God the LORD had in mind, when He promised David through Nathan that he would, "Build a house for David."

REMEMBER: the LORD did not say that David would build a house for God, but that God would build a house for David and it was not God, but David who said, "Solomon was the King God promised him." After Solomon had completed building the house God told him if he and Israel keep all Gods commandments then there would be a man on the throne of David's Kingdom forever as the LORD promised his father David, but both Solomon and Israel turned to serve other gods so God used Babylon as His servant to destroy the House of God Solomon had built.

Later Herod completely rebuilt the temple of Solomon. Then in the New Testament Christ the true promised seed of David appears and the bricks and mortar temple is destroyed by the Romans in 70AD.

THE TRUE HOUSE GOD PROMISED TO BUILD DAVID

God at this present time is building the house He promised to build for David through David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ, this is the true eternal house God promised He would build for David.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? (Isaiah 66:1)

Stephen stated:

- The Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? (Acts 7:48-49).

These verses clearly show that neither David nor Solomon could build a house for God and that it is God who is building a house for David. Added to this when Jesus was in the temple at Jerusalem the Jews asked him for a sign and Jesus said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple and will you raise it up in three days?” But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body (John 2:18-21). When Jesus said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up,” he was not speaking of the temple that Solomon built, but the temple of his own body which they did destroy and God did raise up in three days.

The eternal house God promised to build for David through his seed is at this present time a spiritual Kingdom being established in the hearts and minds of every faithful brother and sister in Christ worldwide. This is the true house God promised through the prophet Nathan that He would build for David. The author of Hebrews states:

- Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope (Heb. 3:6).

Paul wrote:

- You are the temple of God if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are (2 Cor. 6:16).

When Jesus gave up his life, the veil of the Temple was ripped in two from the top to the bottom, testifying that it was not only the end of the Old Covenant, but also the end of the Old Testament temple (house) of God. Christ's Kingdom is the true eternal house that God promised to build for David and Jesus Christ is the promised Son of David to rule on David's throne forever.

GOD GAVE DAVID THE PLAN FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

David told Solomon:

- All the plan of God's house and its furniture God made clear to him in writing from the hand of the LORD and that all the work was to be done according to the plan (1 Chronicles 28:19).

But it is not recorded in the Bible when God actually gave these plans to David. It may well have been that God told David Solomon would build the house of God at the time He was giving David the pattern for it, but it is not recorded in the Bible. Here we witness the amazing and wonderful eternal wisdom of God, by not recording in the Scriptures God Himself saying Solomon would be the eternal promised seed of David the prophecy remains open and allows it to take up wings and continue through time when Solomon fails. In a sense you could say, God by His eternal foreknowledge made provision in His eternal plan and His promise to David for Solomon's failure.

It is interesting to notice: when the Jewish religious leaders were trying to prove Jesus guilty of crimes so that they could have the Romans put him to death certain false witnesses accused Jesus of saying that he said:

- I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days (Matt 26:61) (Mark 14:58).

But this is not a true statement Jesus actually said:

- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:19).

Jesus never said he would destroy the temple, but he did say he would raise it up (the literal Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD).

SUMMARY OF THE HOUSE GOD IS BUILDING FOR DAVID

The house God is building David is being established by faith in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ. It is called a new creation, one nation in Christ, the church, the Kingdom of God and the body of Christ. This is the house or temple God had in His eternal mind when He told David through the prophet Nathan that he would build a house for David, forever and from David's seed would come a king who would reign on David's throne forever. Paul said to the men of Israel and all who fear God, "It is written that after God removed King Saul He raised up David to be Israel's king, of whom God testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." Then Paul tells us that from David's seed God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus as He promised (Acts 13:21-23), clearly showing that it has always been Jesus who is the central focus of God's eternal promise to David. Christ the true promised seed of David is building the Gospel temple, a house for God's name; the spiritual temple of true believers, to be a habitation of God through the Spirit. The establishing of his house, his throne and his kingdom forever, can be applied to no other than to Christ and his Kingdom since David's house and kingdom long since came to an end.

THE HOUSE GOD IS BUILDING FOR DAVID TODAY

The house God is building for David in this present New Testament era is the global and worldwide church of God. Sadly, amongst much of the secular global world today there is a mindset that the church is a Sunday meeting in a religious building, but the church should never be limited to the established religious institutions, denominations or church buildings. They may form a part of the house of God, but they are not the only part. There are many individual Christians in all countries of the world who meet in coffee bars, social outings and mostly their own homes to give thanks to Christ and share their discoveries of God's word and their spiritual experiences with Him. Many of these people are helping others and simply manifesting the reality of their faith to the people that come into their lives. God is not limited to any one pattern or organisation; He is far too creative for that. Jesus house is global and is manifested in a vast variety of ways across the face of the earth. In many third world countries church is held outside under a tree (for shade) with its members sitting on the dusty ground often with dogs, chooks and other animals roaming around. It is also important to be aware that the word church does not embrace everyone simply because they confess to be Christians. When the Bible uses the term church it primarily refers to those who belong to Christ and those who do the will of his Father. The will of God in this context is:

- Loving Thy Neighbour as Thyself (Matt 22:37-39) (Mark 12:28-31)

In the New Testament this is called the:

- Royal Law (James 2:8).

It means, "Do Good to others." Those who deliberately harm or use people, especially those who belong to Christ for their own selfish gain and greed, sexually, financially, emotionally, verbally and mentally and spiritually are referred to by Christ himself as workers of iniquity (Matt 7:21-23). The Bible teaches that some will be cast out of God's house which means not everyone who confesses to know Christ is part of his house there are those in his present Kingdom who he calls wicked servants. They use his name and his Gospel for their own selfish gain and line their own greedy pockets

with the wealth and riches of this world by making merchandise of those who do belong to Christ. Nevertheless Jesus knows those who are his and those who are not and will not only reject anyone who uses his message of grace, mercy, compassion and love for their own selfish gain, but when he returns will deny them entry into his eternal house (Matt 8:12) (Matt 22:13) (Matt 25:30).

- Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:14) (John 10:26-27).

Building God's house is not about financing opulent mega million dollar buildings, but rather it is about people gathering together to share their faith in any place they are able, nevertheless a building maybe required for practical purposes (i.e., the size of the congregation etc.), but if it is built by cleverly twisting and distorting Scriptures to manipulate the congregation to give from guilt or built upon vast amounts of borrowed money so that the oversight and the congregation are put under extreme financial oppression then the building is not in the will of God.

The book of Proverbs states:

- The borrower is the slave of the lender (Prov. 22:7).

Building God's house (temple) is about becoming more Christ like, and living in the will of God. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular building or even a special day. The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life; which means that the New Testament House of God is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ

THE GLOBAL FAMILY OF GOD

Since the Bible was written in an entirely different culture to ours and the body of Christ is a global family filled with people from different nations, countries, cultures, backgrounds, knowledge, levels of education, hurts and troubled pasts there is always going to be certain amount of Scripture we will all understand differently. Paul in the book of Romans tells us to avoid those who cause divisions contrary to the doctrine that he taught the brothers and sisters in Rome. In the context of the entire letter that Paul wrote to the Roman brothers and sisters the doctrines he had in mind when he said, "Avoid those who cause divisions" are the following three:

1. Doctrines that are contrary to the teaching that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ contrasted to works of the law, self-effort and keeping religious customs and traditions etc.
2. Doctrines that are contrary to the truth that Jews and Gentiles who accept Christ become one nation in Christ, contrasted to them being two separate nations.
3. Doctrines which are contrary to godly behaviour and lead people away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the three major topics Paul has focused on in his letter to the brothers and sisters in Rome and the doctrines he has in his mind when he says be careful of those who cause divisions and create obstacles. Naturally within the global house of God there are many varied understandings of many Scripture, but not all teachings are important to know to be saved to eternal life nor does one have to have perfect understanding of every teaching from Genesis to Revelation to know Christ and be in union with him, but they must understand the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life to be saved. No-one has to

be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to be in the family of Christ and saved to eternal life, but should any teacher proclaim a message of works and self-effort to be saved or teach that Jews and Gentiles are two separate groups/nations in Christ, or teach doctrines that lead people away from godly behaviour and from Christ Paul says they should be avoided (Rom 16:17-19).

NOTE: though the visible global church in many regions has not presented a good reflection of Christ to the secular world, it should always be remembered that there are literally hundreds of thousands of humble Christian brothers and sisters in Christ endeavouring to live their lives in a manner that honours God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and who help the poor and the less fortunate as they are able, but sadly this type of news does not attract the attention of global T.V. news media since there is no profit to be made in good news. The body is the reflection of Christ on earth and therefore should be walking in the same Spirit of love, kindness, compassion and grace etc. that Christ walked in while on earth.

AN OVERALL DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

The global church of God on earth is not buildings, but people who are devoted and faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the world-wide collective group of all (Jews and Gentiles) who belong to the Lord. The church in this present age is an invisible spiritual Kingdom existing now in the heart and mind of all who belong to Christ in every nation of the world. It is outwardly manifested by those who live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and collectively by the faithful global church. This present invisible Kingdom existing at this time in the hearts and minds of the faithful who love Christ will be literally manifested on earth to all the world when Christ returns (Luke 13:28-29). The church (the Kingdom of God) worldwide is not a perfect organisation as it is made up of sinners saved by grace struggling to overcome the natural limitations of the flesh (self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, jealousies, anger, envy, covetousness and such like things).

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THE WONDERFUL GLORY OF CHRISTIAN SALVATION

Here is the wonderful glory of Christian salvation: "Sinners are saved by grace and not by their own self-effort." Over the years I have heard many (almost in horror) say, "That means everyone who believes in Christ can sin as much as they wish and use grace as an excuse." But this thinking is simply not true for the following two reasons:

1. No one who loves another deliberately does things to hurt or offend the one they love, likewise no faithful Christian who loves the Lord who laid his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death for them and experiences this love in their heart and mind deliberately lives a corrupt and wicked lifestyle because they know it will offend the one they deeply love and because they from the heart do not want to bring a bad testimony to his name.
2. God sees the true intentions, motivations, hurts and struggles within our mind and our heart that underlie all our actions and behaviour in everything we do so whoever consciously and deliberately uses his grace as an excuse to sin or for their own gain and, advantage will be judged accordingly.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns all those, who belong to him will be made perfect in righteousness only then will the church (the body of Christ and Kingdom of God) be without error and weakness. Those who know God's love and grace through the Lord Jesus Christ go to church (in whatever form that might be) not to get saved but because they are saved and therefore enjoy being with others who have the same devotion, love and faith.

For further information see the title:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

Jews and Gentiles become One New Nation in Christ.

The Apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the COMMONWEALTH of ISRAEL' and STRANGERS to the COVENANTS of PROMISE, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both ONE and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself ONE NEW MAN (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in ONE BODY through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in ONE SPIRIT to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are NO LONGER strangers and aliens, but you are FELLOW CITIZENS with the SAINTS (the Jews) and members of the HOUSEHOLD of God, ²⁰built on the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the WHOLE STRUCTURE being JOINED TOGETHER (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a DWELLING PLACE for GOD by the Spirit.

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Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WHAT THIS MEANS TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to YOU. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns everyone will see him and those who pierced him, and tells us, Jesus the faithful witness and the ruler of kings on earth loves us, freed us from our sins by his blood and ransomed a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and made us a kingdom and priests to his God and Father (Rev 1:5-10).

And in chapter six we are told that:

- Christ was slain to ransom a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and has made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

Bible House of Grace