

Part 8 – God’s Steadfast Covenant

In part 7 we learned more about how our Heavenly Father’s *unconditional* promises to David *and* also how He *kept* them. The Lord (YHWH) promised that His faithfulness (to the truth, His promises) and His mercy (kindness) would *always* be with David (and his descendants who obeyed Him). And, through the Lord’s mighty name (honor, authority and character) David (and his descendants who obeyed Him) horn (power) *would* be exalted. Thus, we also learned God promised to extend David’s power (and his descendants who obeyed Him) far and wide. And we saw that this indeed came to pass as David and Solomon acquired more territory than Israel ever had before - *and* ever would *until* Jesus Christ returns. For when Jesus Christ returns, He’ll not only take over *all* the earth; His total power on earth will be *consolidated* with His total power He *already* has in heaven. And the Psalmist also pointed out that David would call out to God and even call Him his Father, his God and the Rock of his salvation. And this is something David did a lot, as our studies in the Psalms has already revealed. Yet, this was also *prophetical* of Jesus Christ, and it *did* come to pass through His life. And lastly, we also saw the Psalmist point out that God promised to make David his ‘chief’ servant, who would be higher than all the kings of the earth. Indeed, David was given a great name higher than all other kings on earth (2 Sam 7:9) and Solomon’s name was ever greater due to the wisdom God gave him. And again, this also came to pass, through Jesus Christ, who was indeed God’s ‘firstborn’ (i.e. chief) and His name IS higher than all principalities and powers in heaven; and when He returns, His name *will also be* higher than *all* the kings of the earth too. And this Psalmist (Ethan) is reminding God of these (unconditional) promises *because of* the decline in his country (Israel) that he witnessed in his later years, as we’ll see later in this great Psalm. But he’s not yet done ‘reminding’ God of His great promises...

Psalm 89

28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

So, the subject is still David and the *unconditional* promises God gave him. And now we see God *reiterate* that He’ll keep His mercy with David. The word ‘**mercy**’ here is the *same* Hebrew word rendered as ‘mercy’ back in verse 2, 14 and 24. So, it too means **kindness** (#2617). And then the word ‘**keep**’ is also a very important Hebrew word to understand. It’s **shamar** (#8104), a primitive root that means **to hedge about** (as with thorns), i.e. **guard**; generally, **to protect, attend to**, etc. and it’s been rendered many ways, amongst which are ‘take heed’, ‘observe’, ‘be circumspect’, ‘preserve’. And it’s used many times in the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, by Moses, to warn Israel to be diligent about ‘keeping’ (#8104) God’s Word so they could be blessed by Him. But Moses also warned Israel (a lot) in those books to ‘keep’ (#8104) their heart, mind and soul so they would not be enticed to worship (where after) false gods and idols, which is what brings God’s wrath upon us *instead of* blessings. So, it’s a critical word to understand and would be worth your time to do a word study on it. You can also check out this four-part study on

Keep God's Word [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/465>] for more information on this vital Hebrew word. So, when God says that His mercy (kindness) will He 'keep' (guard, protect, attend to, and put a hedge around) for David (and his descendants) 'forevermore' (which could also be rendered as *always* #5769), *He means it*. Therefore, He *did* continue to keep (guard and protect, as a hedge) His mercy (kindness) for David (and his descendants) forever (always). This is shown in the history of Israel itself. Though they often disobeyed Him (after David died, beginning in Solmon's latter years), He was very merciful to them, *especially* when they repented. And He also was faithful to bring forth the Messiah (who was indeed a descendant of David) who died for the sins of Israel *and* the whole world (whomsoever would accept Him).

But then, in this 28th verse (of Ps 89) David goes on to *say*: and *my covenant shall stand fast with him*. The word '**covenant**' here means *a compact* (because made by passing between pieces of flesh, #1285). It's also been rendered as: -confederacy, [con-] feder [-ate], covenant, league. And it comes from a prime root that means to create, to cut down (a wood), select and feed (as formative processes) (#1254). And then the words '**stand fast**' come from the prime root of the word that has been rendered 'faithfulness' in verses 1, 2, 5, 8 and 24. It is #539 and means *to build up* or *support, to foster as a parent or nurse*; and, figuratively, it means *to render* (or *be*) *firm* or *faithful*, *to trust or believe*, *to be permanent or quiet*; morally *to be true or certain*. So, God's 'covenant' (His unconditional promises) indeed 'stood fast' with David *because* God did allow his descendants to continue to govern over the *southern* kingdom of Israel, after the ten northern tribes split apart from it. And 1 Kings 11:11-13 specifically tells us that God didn't allow **all** of the kingdom to depart from Solomon's son, Rehoboam, *specifically so* He could 'keep' His covenant with David. He thus allowed one tribe (aside from Judah), which was Benjamin, to remain under Rehoboam's control, as well as Jerusalem, where the Temple of God was. And it stayed this way until they were carried away by the Babylonians. But even then, God allowed Zedekiah's daughters (who were *descendants* of David) to be taken to Spain and Ireland (where other descendants of Judah had migrated long before) to marry kings of the tribe of Judah, *specifically to keep this promise to David as well*. The riddle given in Ezekiel 17 actually explains this [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Ezekiel/301].

And further to this, when Jesus Christ came (who was of the lineage of king David), He indeed made God's 'covenant' with David to 'stand fast', for Jesus instituted a 'new' Covenant with Israel *and* all people who accept (believed and obeyed) Him. As the Lord prophesied in Jer 31:33, this New Covenant Jesus Christ (a descendant of David) made with His people (and even the Gentiles who accepted Him) was based upon those who would put His Laws (Word) in their 'inward parts' (heart and mind) so that they learned *how* (and *wanted to*) obey His Laws so that He *could* be their God and they *could* be His people. So again, just as God had sworn to David (2 Sam 7), His mercy did not depart from him (or his descendants who obeyed Him) and his kingdom, house and throne *was* established *forever*, through Jesus Christ...

Psalms 89

29 His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

Again, the Psalmist is explaining God's unconditional promise to David. The word 'seed' here does mean *seed* but, figuratively, it means *fruit, plant, sowing-time* and posterity (#2233). And the word 'endure' here is *not in the original manuscripts* (#9999). But the words 'for ever' are and they mean (peremptory) *terminus*, i.e. (by implication) *duration*, in the sense of *advance or perpetuity* (#5703). And it comes from a prime root that means *to advance*, i.e. *pass on or continue* (#5710). And the word 'heaven' means *the sky* (as *aloft*; the dual perhaps alluding to *the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as to the higher ether where the celestial bodies revolve*) (#8064). The Moffett Bible renders this verse as: "***I make his dynasty eternal, his throne unending as the heavens***". And this is not the only place God likens His promise to David's dynasty, throne and house being *eternal*. He does so *twice* in the book of Jeremiah...

35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Jer 31:35-37

25 Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Jer 33:25-26

So, even though Israel was taken captive – first the northern kingdom of Israel (to the Assyrians) and then later the southern kingdom of Judah (to the Babylonian) – this did not at all replenish (void or annul) God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob/Israel NOR to David. And He likened His promises to these men to His 'ordinances' of the sun, moon and the stars above to explain how unbreakable His promises are. That means that, no matter how much Israel sinned, He would still (ultimately) make His promises to these men come to pass. That's why (in Jer 33:26) God said that He would '*cause their captivity to return and have mercy upon them*'. Therefore, even when Israel (and then Judah) went into captivity, they still retained their national identity and were eventually freed from their captivity. And while we call them the 'lost tribes of Israel'

they really aren't. They simply migrated to Europe, and even over to the Americas, and are now what we call the 'Christian nations' [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/986>]. And even though many of Europe's nations have ceased having kings, there are still some (such as Great Britain) that do. And they, therefore, fulfil God's promises to David that one of his descendants would always rule over Israel. And, as Gen 49:10 says (when prophesying of Judah's future), *the sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **until Shiloh come**; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be*. Therefore, there will *always* be a king ruling over some of Israel until Jesus Christ returns, and gathers them back to Him, so He can rule over them *forevermore*. So essentially, while God's promise to David is still intact – and being fulfilled by the modern-day kings of the Christian nations – it is Jesus Christ (the Messiah) who will *eternally* fulfill God's *unconditional* promises to David. Of a truth, the throne of David will last forever via Jesus Christ! (Rev 22:1-5)

Psalms 89

30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

These verses are still referring to David's descendants, who God promised would rule over Israel forever. And, of course, **all** of these things *happened*, as the Kings and Chronicles well document. And sadly, it didn't even take one generation for this to happen; for, as it is written in 1 Kings 11:4, *when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father*. And that began a long, and very slippery, road downhill for Israel! With few exceptions (such as Hezekiah and Josiah), David's descendants (as well as the kings of Israel too) *did* forsake (abandon #5800) God's '**Law**', which means a **precept** or **statute** (#8451); it's used *collectively* for **all** part of God's Laws (i.e. the Commandments, Statutes, Judgments and Ordinances). And they didn't 'walk' (follow/implement, from the heart) in His judgments (verdicts rendered in the court #4941). Rather, they broke (dissolved and profaned #2490) His statutes (laws of national administration) and did not 'keep' (*attend to, guard and protect, as a hedge #8104*) God's Commandments (the Ten Commandments, which pertain to *individual* conduct #4687).

And because of all this – the fact that they kept disobeying God (for the most part) from generation to generation (with little repentance) – God had to *visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes* (Ps 89:32). The word '**visit**' here means **to visit** (with friendly or hostile intent); by analogy, to oversee, muster, charge, care for, miss and deposit (#6485). The word 'visit' is often used in God's Word for God's **judgment** and **punishment**. And the word '**transgression**' means **a revolt** (national, moral or religious) (#6588); i.e. it means **rebellion** against God. And the word '**rod**' means **a scion**, i.e. (literally) **a stick** (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.) (#7626). And the word '**iniquity**' means **perversity**, i.e. (moral)

evil (#5771), so it's referring to *a corrupted spirit* (heart and mind). And then the word '*stripes*' means (in the context of this verse) *a blow* (figuratively, *infliction*) (#5061). So, our Heavenly Father warned that, **if** Israel would *not* wholeheartedly obey Him (all of His Laws) but instead spiritually whored after false gods (other laws) and idols (lusts and covetousness, Col 3:5), which caused them to then *rebelled against Him*, He would punish them. Chapters 17-18 of 2 Kings gives a *really* good summary of God's testimonies as to *why* He allowed them to be taken away captive, out of the Promise Land; for Israel broke God's Laws *for many years*. And not just because they were ignorant of them; they were *rebell*ing against the Lord (YHVH). Again, there *were* a few exceptions, at least in the southern kingdom of Judah (Hezekiah, Josiah and a few others) but, for the most part, David's descendants in the southern kingdom of Judah (as well as the northern tribes of Israel) did *exactly* what God warned them *not* to do. Thus, He had to chastise them, as any good father does (Deut 8:5; Heb 12). As Prov 13:24 says, *he that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes* [many times]. And of course, God also warned David of this, in 2 Sam 7:14, when He said (referring to David's son, Solomon) ... *If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men*. But, as the *Companion Bible* also points out, God **also** warned Solomon himself of this...

1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,
2 That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.
3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.
4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:
5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.
6 But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:
7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:
 1 Kings 9:2-7

And, God made good on His Word, as it is written...

9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should **not** go after other gods: **but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.**

11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, **I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.**

12 **Notwithstanding** in thy days I will not do it **for David thy father's sake**: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

13 **Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.**

1 Kings 11:9-13

So, God allowed the northern ten tribes of Israel to rebel against Solomon's son, Rehoboam, after Solomon died and he took the throne. 1 Kings 12 records the folly of Rehoboam in dealing with Israel; it's no wonder they rebelled against him. And, as verse 15 records, God caused Rehoboam *not* to listen to the wise councilors (that counseled his father, Solomon) because it was God's will that the northern tribe's rebel against him; for He had promised Solomon *that* would happen on account of his sins. But, notice that God *did not break* His oath to David. He did leave one tribe (little Benjamin) who remained loyal to Rehoboam; that was, of course, along with the tribe of Judah (David's tribe). So, we see that, in these verses (30-32) the Psalmist (Ethan) refers to the very words of warning given to Solomon (not just to David) in 1 Kings 9:6-7 and in 1 Kings 11:11-13. And this is likely because Ethan probably outlived Solomon and saw the break up of the kingdom. He, therefore, left this Psalm for instruction (i.e. *Mas'-chil* Psalm) for all future generations to learn from. The lesson being that *it's not wise to disobey God; especially not on purpose!* For, as Rom 6:23 so wisely reminds us, the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, while the *national* covenant God made with Israel was *conditional* (Ex 19-20), the covenants He made with Abraham, Issac, Jacob/Israel and David were *unconditional*. That means **no matter what their descendants did, or did not do**, these promises would come to pass. That's why most of the promises to these men will be fulfilled by the 'true David', which is of course, Jesus Christ, our Savior and King...

12 That ye be not slothful, but **followers of them** who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, **he sware by himself**,

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.**

16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

*17 Wherein **God**, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

*18 That **by two immutable things**, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

*20 Whither the forerunner **is for us entered**, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

Heb 6:12-20

We'll pick this up in part 9...

AMEN.