

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: *Covenant: God's Way of Relationship*



Teaching Sermon Notes: "The Sure Mercies of David in the Covenant of the Kingdom"
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Wouldn't we like a key that would open up to us the secret of enduring life even through adversity? Do we know ourselves to be a believer but also just know that we are in a place of exile in our relationship with God? Scripture speaks of the key of David, a key that opens and no one shuts; and shuts, and no one opens. This key has its foundation in something called "the sure mercies of David."

During his lifetime, David served as armor bearer and musician to Saul before he himself became king. Forced to flee from Saul's court, he spent some 12 to 15 years in exile, pursued by Saul and really going through it. Finally, in God's timing, David came into his reign, first over the southern tribe of Judah at Hebron and finally over a united Israel.

During David's reign, he changed the capital from Hebron to Jerusalem and brought the Ark to Jerusalem from Kiriath-jearim. He established the priesthood and the worship of God there in Jerusalem, making it not only Israel's political center but also its spiritual center. He overwhelmed his enemies until he extended the kingdom to include all the land promised to Abraham. He was a warrior-king. God was with David and gave him victory.

David thought it wrong that he should live in an expensive home while the Ark of God dwelt in a tent. He wanted to build God a house. But God walked among His people in a tent, a symbol of humanity. Jesus, the Word of God, became flesh and "tented" or "tabernacled" among us. God just wants room in our tent, our frail, finite, transient, insignificant tent with all its limitations and imperfection. Then in 2 Samuel 7 God does something remarkable.

God establishes a covenant with David in which He identifies with His people. He reinforces the Immanuel principle, being with David. He connects "house" as both dynasty and dwelling-place, promising a perpetual dynasty of David. He makes two pivotal promises, one concerning the line of David and the other concerning appointing a place for God's people and the locality of Jerusalem. He then establishes a father-son relationship: "I will be your God and you will be My son." This relationship culminates in Christ, the son of David, the son of God. (Psalm 2, Romans 1.3, 4, Hebrews 1.5) And then God does something wonderful.

God establishes the sure mercies of David. After David's death, God will set up his seed, his descendants, after him, establishing his throne and kingdom forever.

I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you: your throne shall be established forever. 2 Samuel 7.14-16

David and his descendants are assured of mercy. He will not die but live. Under Abraham the uncircumcised male was cut off. Under Moses the disobedient would not enter God's rest. Under David the sinful king would be beaten with the rod and chastised but continue.

For example, David is to have a child, yet to be born, who shall succeed him and establish his kingdom. A son (Solomon) shall build the temple instead of David. The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever. The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon) even though his sins justify chastisement.

With this in mind, we turn to Isaiah 55.1-3:

Ho, every one that thirsts, come to the waters, and he that has no money: come, buy, and eat; yes come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live: and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

This is a call to life. The Davidic covenant of kings and kingdoms is being offered to everyone that thirsts. Isaiah had used the word "Ho" in connection with judgment; but here the language of judgment turns into blessing. Are you paying money for water? Are you in a desperate situation, unsatisfied, laboring yet always hungering? Do you feel dead even while you stand on your feet? Is your mouth so parched that even the little water you drink doesn't begin to quench your thirst? Are you in exile, far from the King and His kingdom? Do you want to delight yourself in abundance, in the Lord Himself?

Here is an offer of covenant blessing given directly to the people and not just to the Davidic line within Israel. Listen up! Draw near to God! God is doing something remarkable in offering to everyone who thirsts the richest of fare, a time of great joy and peace. God is offering in an eternal covenant a secure salvation as an everlasting testimony to the greatness of His name. (Is 55.3, 13; 61.8) Your soul shall live. The soul that sins will surely die (Ezekiel 18.20), but here, with the promises of this covenant, your soul shall live.

Look, under the Mosaic Covenant there was a category called "sins of a high hand" for which there was no atonement. No atonement! The Word of God speaks of three broad categories relative to sin:

1. those done unintentionally
2. those done intentionally but out of weakness of soul
3. those done intentionally (high hand)

The sins done out of weakness are done out of intention but the heart is not fully given over to rebellion. Sins of a high hand are done intentionally with full recognition that they are clearly wrong yet the person continues to commit these sins, turning their back upon God without remorse or guilt. Sins in the first two categories may be atoned for, but not category 3. Sins of overt rebellion have no atonement, like apostasy, Acts 21:21 and 2 Thess. 2:3. One may repent of the sin of rebellion, but must understand that repentance is the gift of God, Acts 5:31, 2 Timothy 2:25. Persistent rebellion runs the risk that God may no longer grant repentance.

Ignorance is no excuse, but it is still distinguished from outright rebellion. Immaturity and careless sin might fall into this category. Failure to know God's Word will inevitably lead to sin,

even if unintentional. (Craig, Mary. *The Testimony of Jesus: What He Taught on the Atonement*. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. 2013)

David sinned with Bathsheba after the Davidic Covenant was sovereignly administered by God. God kept His promises. David was "a bloody man." He planned to build God a house, but it would fall to Solomon to build the temple. David lived long enough to see Solomon anointed as king. As David died, he gave final instructions to Solomon.

What is God saying? He is saying for us to end our separation from His Presence. He is saying to leave the place where we are and come to the place where God is. Come to the waters and live. Seek the Lord and we will find ourselves chosen, loved, brought near, consecrated, secure, and satisfied. Share in the blessings of God's gracious covenant.

God is faithful. David was a witness to the covenant as God began to fulfill His plan through him. Jesus is witness that nothing can cut either Him or His people off from God's covenant promises. "The resurrection is both a seal and fulfillment of the promises and also a pledge of the indissoluble character of the everlasting covenant of grace." (Walker, Thomas, *Acts of the Apostles*, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, page 326)

Jesus, through His life and words as He proclaims the truth to the nations, this One whom God appoints, is a witness both against sinners (Malachi 3.5) and on behalf of the truth (John 18.37). Jesus Christ satisfied in Himself all the obligations of covenant. He was circumcised, kept the Law, bore in Himself the chastening judgments deserved by David's seed through covenant violations, and assured that the Davidic covenant would come to fulfillment. Where the King is, so is His Throne. (Acts 2.30-36)

Read Isaiah 53 and listen to the call of Isaiah 55. The gospel of grace in the OT, stresses the urgency of a window of opportunity. Don't delay in responding to God's call. Seek and call upon the Lord of Hosts. This is the time of deliverance. It is for me and for you. Believe the Word, change your thinking, pray expectantly while God is about to act on your behalf. Don't judge the Lord by the standards of your experience. Don't resign yourself to exile or to wandering in the wilderness or to pessimism or weakness or bondage or disobedience. Repent and believe, and then act in faith.

The wicked and those who are living in disobedience need to abandon their life style choices and their plans. Return to the Lord and He will show mercy and forgive. God is offering an unconditional covenant promise, the sure mercies of David, a promise just like the reliable covenant promises He made to David. Look. God made David a witness to nations, a ruler and commander of nations. God raised Jesus from the dead. Nothing can stop the sure Word of the Living God. God's Word is effectual. It can't be set aside by anything or anyone.

We are called to let Christ take captivity captive and turn the tables on the enemy of our soul. God desires that we let our soul live and not die and proclaim the excellencies of Christ and God's covenant of grace. Instead of capitulating to our circumstances, we step out by faith into the sure mercies of David. (Isaiah 55.4-11; cf Psalm 89)

On that Cross, Jesus declared forgiveness on the ground of ignorance. There was no atonement under the Law for sins of a high hand, intentional and willful sin. (Leviticus 4; Numbers 15:30; Ezekiel 18:1-18; Revelation 5:1-14; Acts 3:17, 1 Timothy 1:13.) Many were kept in the dark and did what they did through ignorance. God safeguarded them in this way that their sins could be forgiven. Had they rejected Jesus the Messiah and the Son of God with full knowledge of His deity and a full consciousness of their act, there would have been no atonement for their guilt and

no salvation. "In the infinite wisdom of God, the Lord's death was brought about by the nation whose Messiah He was, but whom they did not know." (George Smeaton)

The Davidic covenant was confirmed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 13.34) The resurrection of Christ shows that God can keep His promise of unfailing covenant kindness to David. No matter what the circumstances, the covenant promises to David will be fulfilled. Even the death of Jesus was overcome by God's sure word of promise. God is not bound. The promises of an eternal kingdom, an eternal king, peace and righteousness, abundant prosperity, justice, and equity, are secure, sacred, sure, and steadfast.

Let us fall on our knees before Him who sits on the Throne and praise our Covenant Lord for His promise of provision, the sure mercies of David.

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May the sure mercies of David and God's call to Life be established in your heart.

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

"And to you and your descendants I will give the land of your sojourn--all the land of Canaan--as an eternal possession; and I will be their God." Genesis 17:8

"And He told me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." Revelation 21:6, 7.

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