

PREMILLENNIALISM: GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID, Part Two

As we noticed in our previous article, the apostle Paul cited Psalms 2 and applied it to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 13:32-33). Since Psalms 2 contains God's promise to exalt his Anointed One (the Christ), despite his being rejected by both Jew and Gentile, there can be no doubt Paul declared this promise to have been fulfilled in the events of the cross.

Passages detailing God's promise to raise up the Christ to reign on the throne of his fleshly progenitor, David, are numerous. All of them, however, are as clearly fulfilled in the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ as was Psalms 2. Following is a sampling.

II Samuel 7:13-16 had a more immediate application to Solomon as heir to David's throne in Israel, especially the latter part of verse 14. But in reading these verses, one also senses a view both greater in duration and much larger than Solomon's forty-year reign or, for that matter, the four and a half centuries the house of David reigned in Jerusalem. Is this impression justified? Clearly, yes, as confirmed by the New Testament's reference to this passage. Notice Hebrews 1:5, "You are My Son," said God, "Today I have begotten You." This refers not only to II Samuel 7:12-16 but also Psalms 2:7. Who is the one referred to at Hebrews 1:5? God's own Son by whom he made the worlds and through whom our sins were purged (Hebrews 1:1-4). Again, we see that God's promise to exalt one to reign on David's throne had as its ultimate view the resurrection of God's own Son and his spiritual reign over sin and death. (Cf., Acts 13:32-33.)

Isaiah 9:6-7 promised a Son upon whose shoulder would be placed a government of peace administered from the throne of David. This promise is repeated at Isaiah 22:22 in terms of the "key" of the house of David being placed on the Messiah's shoulder. His power was described as his being able to open so that no one would be able to shut, and vice versa. Jesus himself cited this passage and applied it, not to a future time in our day, but to the time then present. To the Christians of the ancient city of Philadelphia, Jesus described himself as, "...He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (Revelation 3:7). Clearly, God's promise to exalt Jesus to the throne of David had already been fulfilled when Jesus sent that letter to the church in Philadelphia via The Revelation more than nineteen centuries ago. (Cont.)

-Jerry F. Bassett