

His throne will be established forever

Numbers 17:1 – 22:1

Keyverse 17:14

„I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”

The greatest and central idea of the Bible is the kingdom of priests. And in the heart of this Bible is a united kingdom of priests. In this text, this is the united kingdom of David, the united kingdom of priests of David. There were many kingdoms in the world. However, all these kingdoms of the world have been blown away by the wind over time. Of course, the kingdom of David has also disappeared, but God's kingdom is eternal.

In the chronicles, the author described the history of David in most detail. This is because David is a man after the heart of God and also a shadow of Jesus and of great importance for the redemption story of God (Acts 13:22). Let us learn through today's text the model for the kingdom of priests, which God firmly establishes, and carry this kingdom in our hearts.

Part I: What you bless, O Lord, is blessed for ever (17,1 - 20,8)

1. Promise (17,1-27)

Chapter 17 contains the message of promise, which is the core of the Chronicles. This message, which flows through the whole Bible, opens as the message of promise the world of Jesus Christ, the descendant of Abraham and David.

Let us look at 17:7-15. "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I

have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men on earth. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.'"

The core of the promise is in one word: "His throne will be established forever". This refers to the throne of the eternal united kingdom of priests through Jesus Christ.

Here we ask a question what could have become of David's life if he had not made a covenant with God and God had not called him? God stresses here: "I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel." If God had not called him, he would have had to keep collecting the sheep dung. Because of the covenant of God, he became the leading figure in the salvific history of God and his king. So the story of Jesus Christ, the son of David, could unfold.

If I had not been called by God, I would have been dead long ago and thrown into hell. When I was in the army, I didn't want to get married and die early. I thought to myself that my children would be as miserable as I was if I got married. So I lived bound by the fateful thought. I thought to myself: "Better to live alone and die early! To die soon I took part in the Vietnam War and became a war veteran. But God called me, a tramp, and elevated me to a royal priest. Despite my old age, I am still allowed to carry my mission as a royal priest.

Let us look at verses 17:16: "Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: "Who am I, Lord God, and what is my

family, that you have brought me this far?"

When David had received the words of the promise, he sat down before God. He would have tears in his eyes out of gratitude. Now God came into his life and ruled him. I am also saved by the blood of Jesus and called by God. On the night of June 13, 2017 I sat down on the ground in Prague UBF in the Czech Republic and confessed like David. "Lord, who am I? Why did you lead me this far? God gave me salvation through the blood of Jesus and even blessed me to serve with His word in the countries of the Reformation as in Germany and the Czech Republic. That is why I had to kneel down before God and confess. "Lord, who am I...?"

Here David proclaims to enjoy all the blessings of God that God will give him for eternity. As David believed, these blessings will continue forever through Jesus Christ, the Son of David. The gospel is spread to the ends of the earth, and through unceasing spiritual revival movements the story of repentance and restoration continued. M. Dr. Peter Chang of Bonn UBF challenges the spiritual revival ministry by faithfully studying and teaching the Word of God. I pray that the next generation will be educated on this basis to become the heroes of faith who can challenge the completion of the Reformation.

2. The War (18:1 – 20:8)

David, who placed the ark of the covenant of God at the center of his kingdom, made a covenant with God. This made war inevitable to build a united kingdom of priests. Then how did David build the united kingdom of priests?

Let us look at 18:1-17. David first struck the old enemies, the Philistines, in the southwest of Israel (1) and then Moab in the east (2). Then he attacked Zobah and Syria in the north (3-8). When the king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army, he made peace with him and brought many gifts (9-11). Then David defeated the Edomites in the southeast (12-13). The author says in one word, "The Lord gave Da-

vid victory everywhere he went." (18,13). The victory in war comes from the living God (1 Sam 14:6, Proverbs 21:31). The following verses deal with the officials who make up the Kingdom of David (14-17). Joab was put over the army and Jehoshaphat was the chancellor. Zadok and Abimelech were priests, Shavshah was secretary. Benaiah was set over the Kerethites and Pelethites. The sons of David were chief officials at the king's side. After many long wars David defeated the Ammonites, Syria and the Philistines (19:1 – 20:8). In this way David conquered all Israel and prepared a united kingdom of priests. Yes. Although God has already confided the Promised Land, one must go into battle and gain victory to build a united kingdom of priests. We call our one-to-one Bible study "one-to-one Bible study struggle" because through the hard spiritual struggle we must drive out the power of Satan in a man and establish God's kingdom in his heart. In this way, the Discipleship Ministry and World Mission begin with an intense one-to-one Bible study struggle. God may bless Bonn UBF to form 10,000 ZBS teams and set up 100,000 Bible teachers and 5 million prayer workers and change Germany into a shepherd nation and Europe into a missionary sending continent.

Part II: I have sinned greatly (21:1 - 22:1)

Chapter 21 deals with how David achieved peace in his kingdom. David focused on restoring the law of God and the temple. This is David's spiritual revival work. Looking back on the history of Israel, its history is like an endless betrayal and constant rebellion, although since the Exodus, God had given them his word and a clear identity as royal priests. After entering the promised land of Canaan, they served the Lord only as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Jos 24:31). Then they did as they saw fit (Judges 21:25). In those days the Lord's Word was rare (1 Sam 3:1) and the Israelites despised God's Word (1 Sam 2:30). The Ark of the Covenant was even used as a talisman (1 Sam 4). It was taken away by the enemies. The Israelites despised the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant and it was far from them. When David became

king, he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. And he set up the priests who served the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle, and restored the service according to the law of God. He loved God and his word. He focused specifically on spiritual revival to fully restore the worship service.

Next, David's census (21:1-6) is described, followed by God's judgment (21:7-14). Finally, we see David's repentance (21:15-22:1). God blessed his prayer of repentance and let him build the temple of God.

1. The Census (21:1-14)

Let's look at 21:1-6. Satan stood against David and tempted him to count Israel. Joab did not like David's command. There were 1,570,000 men carrying the sword. Scientists estimate the total population at 5 million. The number during the Exodus was 600,000, the total number of people was 2 million. This means that the number of Israelites had doubled. God blessed the Israelites and made them as numerous as the stars in the heaven, as he had promised. Why did he want to do the census anyway? David sought his own glory through the census instead of God's glory. But he realized what sin he had committed and why he should be punished by God. David's greatness was that he immediately recognized his sin and repented. The man who repents is truly a man of faith and a courageous man.

Let's look at verses 7-14. „This command was also evil in the sight of God; so he punished Israel. Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."... So the Lord sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead."

God punished David even though he repented and asked for forgiveness. Like David's confession, my foolish sin will have terrible consequences. But God not only punished, but also opened the way to life for David and all Israel. Yes. God judges what they do, but God is also the God of grace who gives them love and mercy (Ps 99:8).

2. Here is to be the house of the Lord God (21:15 – 22:1)

Let's look at 21:15-22:1. The conversation between God and David in this text is perhaps the most heart moving conversation ever. David fell on his knees before the Lord and confessed with tears before God. "Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? O Lord my God, let your hand fall upon me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people." God gave David, who repented, a direction to build an altar. David paid 600 shekels of gold, built an altar and sacrificed to the LORD. And God heard his prayer. David confessed (22:1), " The house of the Lord God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel." The threshing floor of Araunah! This place is historic because this was Mount Moriah, on which Abraham sacrificed his son Isaac as a burnt offering (Genesis 22), and it will be the place where Solomon will build the temple (2 Chr 3:1). The temple of God is built where the sinner David, who repented, and the living God of the universe meet.

Here I learn David's humble and sincere attitude to prayer. David honestly confessed that he was a sinner. He asked God to punish him and give forgiveness to his people. I was a fat fish when I sinned. My friend told me that besides breathing I was full of lies. But God redeemed me, a sinner, by the precious blood of Jesus and made me a holy temple. In particular, Dr. Samuel Lee, who loved God from the heart, brought me up with prayer and spiritual training. When I first prayed with fasting, I received the answer as my prayer. "The answer to all problems is in the Word of God alone." Since then, God faithfully gave me His Word and blessed me so that I could confidently explore God's Word and serve the work of God both as a worker of the Gospel and as a steward of God's mysteries. We live in an age where God's Word is held down and despised (1 Sam 2:30; Mal 1:13). People

are full of lustful desires and pride. They have lost their sense of good and evil. They refuse to learn and at the same time teach others like the Pharisees. But we wish and pray that we may have a blessed time learning the conversation between David and God every day and experiencing God's grace and devotion. When we - even if it is short - lose our hearts to perverted Internet sites, the Holy Spirit in us is grieved. But if we confess our sin and repent of it, we can get the Holy Spirit back as God's gift. In particular, I overcome worldly desires and the temptations of Satan every day and every moment and decide to pray with tears for the people entrusted to me.

Through this text we have learned that David exercised the righteous rule of Jesus and was a man after the heart of God. He was a man after the heart of God because he obeyed God's Word absolutely and how our Lord Jesus gave his life for the people of God and lived a serving life as a good shepherd. 1Ch 17:14: "I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever." God promises that David's kingdom will be eternal. To this David answers in 17,27: "Now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Lord, have blessed it, and it will be blessed forever." David explained that he is eternally blessed by God. Let us enjoy God's blessing, the eternal life that we have received through Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection, and the blessing as a kingdom of priests.

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