**The Davidic Covenant**

1. Definition: God’s unconditional amplification of the *seed* promise in the Abrahamic Covenant in which David was promised that his lineage would never be broken as the royal line in a literal, *political* kingdom.

2. Key Passage: 2 Sam. 7:12-16 (cf. Ps. 89)

3. Provisions:

a. House: perpetual lineage (physical descendants never wiped out)

b. Kingdom: would never pass away permanently (Benware, 59; cf. Ps. 89:4, 36)

c. Throne: permanent right to rule in a *literal* kingdom

1) Ordinary language for “kingdom” is used.

2) Prophets interpreted the kingdom literally (cf. Isaiah at OTS, 2:461b-d).

3) The nation of Israel has interpreted it literally throughout history.

4) The kingdom overthrown in 586 BC is the same nature as the kingdom to be restored (both literal), so since this date Israel has not had a king on the throne.

5) The Davidic covenant is associated with Israel only (Ps. 89; Luke 1:32-33).

6) David applied God’s promise to a literal and eternal throne for Israel (2 Sam. 7:24-29), which God never corrected as applying only spiritually to the church.

7) Portions were fulfilled literally: e.g., partial fulfillment by Solomon (1 Kings 4:21).

8) NT Usage: “Of the 59 references to David in the New Testament, there is not one connecting the Davidic throne with the present session of Christ” (John F. Walvoord, *Israel in Prophecy*, 96).

9) John, Jesus, the 12, and the 70 all offered Israel a literal kingdom (Matt. 3:11).

4. Unconditional Nature

a. Eternal (2 Sam. 7:13, 16; 23:5; Isa. 55:3; Ezek. 37:25)

b. Amplification of the Abrahamic Covenant, which is unconditional

c. Reaffirmed even after repeated acts of disobedience by the nation (e.g., Christ came and offered this kingdom after generations of apostasy)

5. Time of Fulfillment: This ultimately follows Israel’s preservation as a nation, restoration to her land, return of her King, and establishment of the earthly kingdom.

Amillennialists claim that the Davidic Covenant is being fulfilled now in the spiritual (not political) kingdom of the Church, which has replaced Israel and thus been given the fulfillment of promises made to her. The fact that Christ presently sits at the right hand of God is viewed as a fulfillment of Christ sitting on the throne of David.

Dispensationalists have typically argued against such an interpretation, noting that the throne of God and the throne of David are not one and the same. However, the extent that the Davidic Covenant is being fulfilled in the present age has been debated among dispensationalists since the mid-1980s when Darrell Bock, Craig Blaising, and Robert Saucy postulated a progressive fulfillment of this covenant. They suggested the term “Progressive Dispensationalists” for their view and the term has stuck, despite the displeasure of older dispensationalists. Part of the support for this view is the New Testament teaching that the Church is a spiritual temple (Eph. 2:19-22) in partial fulfillment of the literal temple God promised David would be built (2 Sam. 7:13).