

Covenant Theology: from a Reformed Baptist Perspective

Lesson 9: The Davidic Covenant

Background to the Davidic Covenant

-God rescued the people of Israel from the hand of the Egyptians. He brought them to the mount where He made a covenant with the nation. This covenant gave to the people a law that had attached to it both blessings and curses. Blessings for law keeping _____ and curses for lawless _____. This covenant was to be the “agreement” that guaranteed their continued possession of the land and also was to keep the people close to their God.

-God led the people to the border of the Promised Land. Spies were sent into the land and told to come back and give a report to Moses and the people (Numbers 13). The spies return and while acknowledging that the land was exceedingly good, 10 of the 12 spies began to spread fear and distrust amongst the people and so turned the people against the Lord (Numbers 13:25-14:10). Because of their sin the 10 doubting spies were killed, and the entire generation of adults (20 years old and up) were sentenced to die in the wilderness (Numbers 14:20-38). God punished the nation by making them wander in the desert for 40 extra years. _____ and _____ are also killed during the wilderness wanderings for their sin (Numbers 20:2-13).

-God raised up Joshua to bring the people into the land and under his leadership the land was conquered, and the nation of Israel begin to settle it. However, after Joshua died, the people quickly turned from the Lord and broke the covenant (Judges 2:11-12). The Lord then punished the people for their covenantal _____ (Judges 2:13-15). However, the people repent and are delivered. The book of Judges records for us this repeated cycle of lawlessness, punishment, repentance, mercy.

-This pattern of covenant lawlessness _____ as the book of Judges continues. At the close of the book of Judges we find the account of Judges 19, which is meant to parallel the account of Sodom and Gomorrah (compare Genesis 19:1-5 & Judges 19:16-23). The blatant covenantal unfaithfulness continues until we finally read of the people wanting to throw off the yoke of God altogether (1 Samuel 8:1-9).

---BONUS MATERIAL-A brief look at the doctrine of God’s sovereignty and 1 Samuel 8:1-9

LBC 5.1, 2, 4

- 1. God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.*
- 2. Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without his providence; yet by the same providence he ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.*

-God not only knew the people would rebel against His authority, but their rebellion was accomplishing that which He _____ (that which He willed). -Deuteronomy 17:14

-The decision of the people to want a human king to rule over them instead of God was part of the outworking of God’s providence to accomplish that which He decreed. The coming of a human king, while flowing from a _____ from the people, was ordained by God. Yet, this decision came about by the sinful “free choice” of the people.

4. *The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God, so far manifest themselves in his providence, that his determinate counsel extendeth itself even to the first fall, and all other sinful actions both of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, which also he most wisely and powerfully boundeth, and otherwise ordereth and governeth, in a manifold dispensation to his most holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness of their acts proceedeth only from the creatures, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.*

-This sinful decision on the part of the people was part of God's plan to bring a human king to rule over His people-thus providing for us another picture of _____.

-God so _____ events that the people were able to see the other nations around them and how they operated. God also ordained that Samuel's sons would not be like their father, thus, creating in the people a desire for different leadership. God ordained it all so that the free decision of the people, albeit a sinful decision, would accomplish His plan. Yet, this sinful decision proceeded only from the hearts of sinful man and not from God.

"It was a sin for the people to seek a king, yet it was of the Lord that they sought one...God accomplishes His holy counsels by the free actions of sinful men...from the human side it was because the sons of Samuel were corrupt in judging, and in consequence the people had asked him for a king...In nowise was the divine holiness compromised: the divine decree was accomplished, yet the people freely acted, and the guilt of their action was justly visited upon them."-Pink

Objection-If God wanted them to have a king why didn't He not give them a king in a way that wouldn't involve the people's sin? 2 Possible answers could be

Answer 1: God desired to show the people the _____ of their sin

Answer 2: God desired to show His _____ and _____ in bringing good out of evil

Conclusion-While the sovereignty of God is a great mystery and our fallible minds will never be able to fully grasp all of the infallible ways of God, we can from this passage see that man freely makes sinful decisions, but these decisions accomplish the eternal _____ of God.

Background to the Davidic Covenant continued

-Saul is the first king of Israel but because of his sin the Lord anointed a different man to be king. David was _____ king of Israel by the prophet Samuel.

-David was a mighty man in battle, for the Lord gave him success over his enemies. David desired to build a house for the Lord in Jerusalem. David reveals his desire to the prophet Nathan and Nathan gives him the green light. However, that same night (2 Samuel 7:4) God reveals to Nathan a _____ that He is making with David.

-The Davidic covenant is the _____ of the major OT covenants.