

# The Crown

THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything #7 - Pastor Stephen Combs - March 15, 2026 - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We're continuing our series called THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything. We're on a 12-week journey through the meta-narrative of Scripture. From creation to consummation, the Bible tells one great story of a good and holy God rescuing His broken world through Jesus. So far, we've seen:

So far, we've seen God's Rescue Plan in motion: from **Creation's** beauty to the **Catastrophe** of sin; from the **Covenant** with Abraham to the **Commandments** at Sinai. Last week, we saw the **Conquest** of the land. But a land needs a leader. A people need a King. Today, we arrive at The **Crown**.

The **CROWN**, where God promised David that a King would come through his line who would sit on the throne of an eternal kingdom. God promised a true king in an everlasting kingdom.

**Need:** That good news kind of falls on deaf ears for us though. We are exhausted by the constant failure of those in charge. We've seen 'once-in-a-generation' leaders flame out in scandal. We've seen bosses we trusted leave us high and dry. We've voted for 'change' only to get more of the same. Deep down, we are all nursing a 'leadership wound.' We instinctively long for a King who is both perfectly powerful and perfectly good, but our experience tells us that kind of King doesn't exist. We've settled for 'the lesser of two evils' for so long we've forgotten what a Great King actually looks like.

**Trans:** What if the 'perfect kingdom' isn't a political pipe dream, but a historical promise? 3,000 years ago, God pulled back the curtain for a shepherd-turned-king named David and showed him a throne that would never crumble. Today, we aren't just looking at ancient history; we are looking at our own citizenship.

**BODY:** In 2 Samuel 7, the word of the Lord came to David through the prophet Nathan, that God would establish a throne through David's lineage that would reign over an everlasting kingdom. We can place our trust in the eternal King that God promised to raise up from David's line. Why can we place our trust in the eternal King (Jesus) from David's line? This passage gives us three reasons we can trust in King Jesus.

**Read text:** 2 Samuel 7:8–16 (ESV) 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'

## THREE REASONS WE CAN TRUST IN KING JESUS:

### 1. Because in Him we experience unmerited favor.

**EXP:** (8–11) Notice the word, "I." God is speaking of His sovereign role in the fulfillment of His eternal plan and He is taking complete control of it. He hasn't spoken in such length since He spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai. This indicates a progression in the covenant which he made to Abraham, clarified to Moses and now further clarified to David. We now see the Davidic Covenant which promised a King. The beauty of the head of this line of kings is not perfection, but rather a God who shows broken people unmerited favor.

**"My servant" (8)** (עֶבֶד, *ēbed*) - slave, servant. God calls David this, "You are mine. My servant."

**"I took you from the pasture ... prince" (8)** (לָקַח, *lāqah*) - to take, fetch, lay hold of, seize. David was not looking for the throne, he was tending to some sheep. This isn't a contract David negotiated; it's a unilateral rescue. God moves David from the "pasture" to the "prince's" court. The Davidic Covenant isn't built on David's resume; it's built on God's resolve.

**"I have been with you" (9)** (הָיָא, *hāyâ*) - to abide, remain, continue (with word of place or time)

## The Crown

THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything #7 - Pastor Stephen Combs - March 15, 2026 - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

“Cut off ... enemies” (9) (כָּרַת, *kārat*) - to cut, cut off, cut down, cut off a body part, cut out, eliminate, kill, cut a covenant. God removed David’s enemies. He was the one behind every victory.

“I will” (9-14; 9x) (sequential perfect) - God is stacking His promises. God is establishing what scholars call the Davidic Covenant with David. The repeated “I will” verbs emphasize that every aspect of the covenant depends on God’s initiative.

- “Make for you a great name” (9) (עָשָׂה, *āsá*) - to do, fashion, accomplish, make
- “Appoint a place” (10) (שָׂם, *súm*) - to put, place, set, appoint, make
- “Give you rest” (11) (נָחָה, *núah*) - to rest, settle down and remain
- “Make you a house” (11) (בָּיַת, *bayit*) - God doesn’t want David to build him a house, instead God wants to build a kingdom through David, a ‘household’ of kings leading to Christ.

**ARG:** We are called into the Kingdom of God as a gift not because of our work:

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God tells David in verse 11, “I will make you a house.” This is the Gospel: We try to do things for God to earn our spot, but God says, “Stop trying to build me a house. I have already built a ‘house’ for you in my Son.” As Romans 8 says, we aren’t just subjects in a kingdom; we are heirs in a household. You don’t “apply” for this kingdom; you are adopted into it:

Romans 8:15-17 (ESV) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ

**ILL:** Remember when the prophet Samuel went to Jesse’s house to find a king. Jesse lines up his sons: the tall, muscular, “kingly” ones. David is so insignificant his own father didn’t even put him on the invite list. He’s out in the dirt with the sheep. When God says “I took you from the pasture,” He’s reminding David: “I chose the one the world overlooked.” Unmerited favor means God doesn’t go “talent scouting.” He doesn’t need your strength; He wants your surrender.

Later, God proves that His favor rests on David when David fought a giant named Goliath who stood over 9’ and whose armor alone weighed over 125 lbs. Likely between 15-18, this scrawny boy defeated the most phenomenal warrior that Israel had ever seen with a stone. God shows favor to the faithful, not the powerful.

**APP:** Most of us live our lives on a treadmill of performance. We think we have to be the best employee, the perfect parent, or the most “together” Christian to stay in God’s good graces. But the Davidic Covenant says the King’s favor is unmerited. If you are tired of trying to “earn” your way into a sense of security, look at Jesus. He is the King who doesn’t ask for your resume; He offers you His. He doesn’t say “Work for me”; He says “Come to me, and I will give you rest.” The same God who made a shepherd into a prince is making us sinners into children of God.

## 2. Because in Him we serve an eternal kingdom.

**EXP:** (12–13) This section seems like the heart of the matter. Kings come and go, nations rise and fall, but God is establishing something different. He is promising an eternal king in an everlasting kingdom. Friends, this gives us a purpose and a permanence like we could never experience apart from the Kingdom of God.

## The Crown

THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything #7 - Pastor Stephen Combs - March 15, 2026 - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

**"Days are fulfilled" (12)** (מָלָא, *mālā'*) - to fulfil, accomplish, complete. God gives David a reality check. It's a gentle way of saying, "David, you're mortal. You're going to die." Even the greatest king in Israel's history was a temporary fix.

**"Raise up offspring" (12)** (זָרָא, *zera'*) - seed, sowing, offspring. Singular "seed" which speaks presently of his future son Solomon, but more importantly it speaks of the true king in His lineage named Jesus. Paul picks this up in Galatians:

Galatians 3:16 (ESV) Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

**"He shall build a house" (13)** - Solomon will build the house of the Lord, the great temple in Jerusalem. But Solomon's temple was eventually leveled to the ground. This promise has a longer horizon. The words that follow speak of a greater and perfect king, King Jesus.

**"Establish the throne" (13,16)** (כִּוֵּן, *kûn*) - to be set up, be established, be fixed

**"Kingdom forever" (13,16)** (עֹלָם, *ôlām*) - for ever, always; continuous existence, perpetual. Solomon's reign ended; Jesus' reign is the "end of the age."

**ARG:** The Coming of Jesus depicted everything that God had promised to David:

Luke 1:30-33 (ESV) 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**Because Jesus is King we now have a clear purpose, disciple-making:**

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**BECAUSE HIS AUTHORITY IS ETERNAL, OUR MISSION IS ESSENTIAL.** When you pour into your kids, or share the Gospel with a neighbor, you are recruiting citizens for the only Kingdom that won't be a footnote in a history book.

**ILL:** We live in the "already/not yet" tension of the Kingdom. Think about David in the Cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22). He's been anointed King, but he's living like a fugitive. His "army" is a group of guys who are in debt, distressed, and discontented. If you looked into that cave, you wouldn't say, "There's the future of the nation." You'd say, "There's a disaster."

But David stayed because he trusted the Promise more than the Cave. As the famous missionary Hudson Taylor famously said, God's work goes from Impossible, to Difficult, to Done. We often feel like we're in the Impossible or Difficult stage, serving a King we can't see in a world that hates Him, but we serve with confidence because the "Done" is already finished in the empty tomb..

**APP:** We all want to be part of something that lasts. We build businesses, we chase titles, we try to leave a legacy, but time is cruel. Eventually, everyone's "days are fulfilled."

Do you want your life to count for something that time cannot touch? Then stop building your own little sandcastle kingdom and start serving the King of Kings. Our purpose isn't to be successful in the world's eyes; our purpose is to be faithful to the King who has already won. Are you living for the kingdom that is passing away, or the one that never ends?

# The Crown

THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything #7 - Pastor Stephen Combs - March 15, 2026 - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

## 3. Because in Him we receive steadfast love.

**EXP:** (14–16) Our Scripture ends today with the best news of all time. There is one coming who will endure the pain of the rod of men and suffer their stripes. Because of this the steadfast love of God will never again depart from us as it did with Saul.

**“Be to him a father”** (14) (אָב, *’āb*) - father of an individual; of God as father of his people.

**“Be to me a son”** (14) (בֶּן, *bēn*) - son, child. God is making an astounding promise here. “David, the relationship between me and your offspring will be father to son.” This clearly points beyond Solomon to Jesus the Son of God.

**“He commits iniquity”** (14) (עָוָה, *’āvā*) - to bend, twist, distort; to commit iniquity, do wrong, pervert. Now if this covenant is meant to picture Jesus then how does this part apply? There is the present application of God disciplining the sons of David. But the Messianic picture is clear as well. He took on our iniquity, He became our sin and gave us His righteousness:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**“Discipline him ... Rod of men ... Stripes”** (14) (עָנָה, *neḡā*) - plague, sore, stricken, stripe, stroke, wound. Here is the Gospel mystery: Solomon committed iniquity, but he never truly felt the "stripes" of the nations. Jesus committed no iniquity, yet as Isaiah 53 tells us, He was "stricken" and "smitten" by God. Why? Because the King of David's line became the Substitute for David's sin. The "rod" that should have fallen on us for our "crookedness" fell on Him. Because He took the stripes, we get the Steadfast Love:

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**“My steadfast love”** (15) (חֶסֶד, *hesed*) - favour, good deed(-liness, -ness), kindly, (loving-) kindness, merciful (kindness). There is such a sweetness to this word first to David and now to us. God promises His unconditional love will not leave the line of David.

**“Will not depart”** (15) (סָר, *sûr*) - to turn aside, depart.

**“I took it from Saul”** (15) - same word as above “depart.” God is saying that He departed from Saul, but He will not depart from the kingly lineage of David.

**ARG:** David praised God for His steadfast love. He rested in the this truth:

Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Those in Christ have received the same promise (quoting Deuteronomy 31:6):**

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV) “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**ILL:** If there was ever a moment for God to "depart" from David, it was 2 Samuel 11. David isn't just a "broken person" here; he is an adulterer, a liar, and a cold-blooded murderer. He used his "Crown" to steal a man's wife and then steal that man's life.

By every law of the universe, the "Steadfast Love" should have packed its bags and left. But look at what happens when Nathan confronts him: David breaks, and God stays. Why? Not because David's sin was

## The Crown

THE STORY: How the Bible Explains Everything #7 - Pastor Stephen Combs - March 15, 2026 - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

small, but because God's promise was big. David's life is the "Case Study" for Point 3: God's love isn't a reward for the righteous; it's a rescue for the repentant.

**APP:** Some of you are sitting here today feeling like Saul. You're convinced that if people or if God really knew the "crookedness" ('āvā) in your heart, the love would depart. You are performing because you are afraid of being rejected.

Friends, look at the Cross. There, the King took the "rod of men" so you could receive the "heart of God." Stop hiding your brokenness from a King who already died for it. This King doesn't just tolerate you; He "crowns you with steadfast love" (Psalm 103). You don't have to wonder if He's leaving. He stayed through the nails; He'll stay through your struggle.

**CONCLUSION:** Today, we've walked through one of the most important chapters in the entire Bible. We've seen that we can trust King Jesus for three reasons:

- His Favor is Unmerited: He took a shepherd and made him a prince; He takes a sinner and makes them a child of God.
- His Kingdom is Eternal: While every earthly empire expires, the throne of Jesus is fixed and forever.
- His Love is Steadfast: He stays, the King who was struck so that we might be saved.

Church, you don't have to live as a citizen of a crumbling world anymore. The King has come. His name is Jesus. He offers you a place at His table and a home in His house.

Let's pray.