

1 Chronicles 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

Analysis

The father-son relationship 'I will be his father, and he shall be my son' establishes intimate covenant language. While immediately applying to Solomon, Hebrews 1:5 explicitly identifies this as prophetically fulfilled in Christ. The promise 'I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee' contrasts David's line with Saul's rejected dynasty. This 'steadfast love' (chesed) is covenant loyalty that persists despite human failure. Reformed theology sees here the doctrine of perseverance of the saints - God's covenant commitment ensures the ultimate security of His chosen ones, supremely demonstrated in Christ whom the Father eternally loves.

Historical Context

This promise shaped Israel's theology through monarchy, exile, and restoration. Even when human Davidic kings failed, prophets appealed to God's covenant oath (Jeremiah 33:14-26), maintaining messianic hope that produced watchfulness for the Son of David.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's irrevocable commitment to David's line illustrate His faithfulness to promises made to believers in Christ?
2. What assurance does this covenant provide when you fail or doubt God's commitment to you?

Interlinear Text

אָהִיה אָנִי	לֹא בְּלֹא	וְהִיא יְהִי	לֹא בְּלֹא	אָהִיה אָנִי
H589	H1961	H0	I will be his father	H1931
			H1	H1961
				H0
רַבָּעַת לְבָבִי	לֹא יְמַסְּדֵי	לֹא וְסִירֵוּתִי	וְמַעַמֵּד לְבָבִי	כָּאֵשׁ
and he shall be my son	my mercy	and I will not take		
H1121	H2617	H3808	H5493	H5973
				H834
רַבָּעַת לְבָבִי	לֹא יְמַסְּדֵי	לֹא וְסִירֵוּתִי	וְמַעַמֵּד לְבָבִי	כָּאֵשׁ
and I will not take				
H5493	H834	H1961	it from him that was before	H6440

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 1:5 (Parallel theme): For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Isaiah 55:3 (Parallel theme): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Psalms 2:7 (Parallel theme): I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalms 2:12 (Parallel theme): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

1 Chronicles 10:14 (Parallel theme): And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 17:12 (Parallel theme): He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne for ever.

1 Samuel 15:28 (Parallel theme): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org