

1 Chronicles 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David,
Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote,
even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler
over my people Israel:

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty. The Hebrew term **עולם** (olam) - everlasting/eternal is theologically significant here, pointing to God's unconditional covenant promises. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about God's unconditional covenant promises. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Jesus as eternal Son of David.

Historical Context

Historical Background: This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God's unconditional covenant promises challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Jesus as eternal Son of David teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	לְעַבְדִּי	לְדָוִד	כֹּה
H6258	H3541	H559	H5650	H3541
Now therefore	thus shalt thou say	unto my servant	David	
	H559		H1732	
אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֲנִי	לָקַחְתִּי יָד	מִן
H559	H3068	H589	H3947	H4480
Now therefore	the LORD	of hosts	I took	
		H6635		
הַבָּיָה	מִן	אַחֲרַי	הַצֹּאֵן	לְהִי
H5116	H4480	H310	H6629	H1961
thee from the sheepcote	even from following	the sheep		
נָגִיד	עַל	עַמִּי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	
H5057	H5921	H5971	H3478	
that thou shouldst be ruler	over my people	Israel		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 6:21 (References Lord): And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.