

Psalm 132:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

Analysis

A condition is attached to the covenant: 'If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.' The conditional 'if' introduces requirement for covenant blessing continuation - while dynasty itself is guaranteed (v. 11), individual kings' security depends on obedience. 'Keep my covenant and my testimony' requires faithfulness to Mosaic law and God's revealed will. 'That I shall teach them' emphasizes ongoing divine instruction. The promise 'their children shall also sit upon thy throne' extends blessing multi-generationally - obedience produces stable dynastic succession. The phrase 'for evermore' (ad - perpetuity) promises unlimited duration conditional on faithfulness. This verse balances unconditional covenant (David's line continues) with conditional blessing (individual kings' success). Disobedience brings discipline but not covenant revocation.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated this principle - obedient kings (David, Hezekiah, Josiah) experienced blessing; disobedient kings faced judgment. Despite widespread failure, God never fully revoked the covenant, preserving the line until Christ. The tension between unconditional covenant and conditional blessing appears throughout Scripture (Genesis 17:1-14; Deuteronomy 28-30).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the conditional 'if' relate to the unconditional promise in verse 11?
2. What is the difference between covenant security (dynasty continues) and individual blessing (kings prosper)?
3. How does God's discipline differ from covenant revocation?
4. How does Christ fulfill both the unconditional covenant (eternal reign) and the condition (perfect obedience)?
5. What does this teach about the relationship between God's sovereign promises and human responsibility?

Interlinear Text

אָמַן תְּשִׁמְרֵר וְבָנִים מְבָנִים מִבְרִיתִי וְעֵדָתִי זֶה מְדִידָתִי אֶל
H518 will keep If thy children my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach
H8104 H1121 H1285 H5713 H2090 H3925

לְכֹסֶא יְשַׁבֵּן עַד עַד יְשַׁבֵּן עַל כְּסֵדָה
H1571 If thy children for evermore for evermore shall also sit upon thy throne
H1121 H5703 H5703 H3427 H3678

לְבָנָה
H0