

# THE LORD’S DAY WORSHIP

ELEVEN O’CLOCK

December 16, 2018

We gather today as “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant ... ” Hebrews 12:23-24a

## A Time for Preparation

### *Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

My Father,

In a world of created changeable things, Christ and his Word alone remain unshaken. O to forsake all creatures, to rest as a stone on him the foundation, to abide in him, and be borne up by him! For all my mercies come through Christ, who has designed, purchased, promised, affected them. How sweet it is to be near him, the Lamb, filled with holy affections! When I sin against you, I cross your will, love, life, and have no comforter, nor creature, to go to. My sin is not so much this or that particular evil, by my continual separation, disunion, distance from you, and having a loose spirit towards you. But you have given me the greatest gift: Jesus your Son, as Mediator between yourself and my soul, as a middle-man who in a pit holds both him below and him above, for only he can span the chasm breached by sin and satisfy divine justice. May I always lay hold upon this Mediator, as a realized object of faith, and alone worthy by his love to bridge the gulf. Let me know that he is dear to me by his Word; I am one with him by the Word on his part, and by faith on mine; if I oppose the Word, I oppose my Lord when he is most near; if I receive the Word, I receive my Lord when he is nigh. O you who have the hearts of all men in your hand, form my heart according to the Word, according to the image of your Son, so, shall Christ the Word, and his Word be my strength and comfort. (The Valley of Vision Prayer Book)

**Ringing of Bell** ..... Judah & Felicity Gosnell

**Announcements**..... Deacon

## A Time for Praise:

### *Prelude*

### *Call to Worship*

Scripture and Prayer ..... Worship Leader

- *Hymn of Praise* ..... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* ..... Hymn #277

## A Time for Offering:

Walk to the manger

- *Offertory Hymn* ..... *Silent Night! Holy Night!* ..... Hymn #253

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings ..... Ushers

## A Time for Hearing God’s Word:

*Choral Message* ..... *God Has Come with O Holy Night* ..... Arr. Allen

Message ..... Pastor Lucas Mann

Pastoral Prayer

## A Time for Surrender:

- *Hymn of Response* ... *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* ... Hymn #267

- Benediction

### *Postlude*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

### *Affirmation of Faith – the Baptist Catechism, 1813*

#### **27. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?**

A. Christ executes the office of prophet in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation (John 1:18; 2 Pet. 1:10, 11, 12; John 15:15; and 20:31).

#### **28. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?**

A. Christ executes the office of priest in his once offering up himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice (Heb. 9:14, 28) and reconcile us to God (Heb. 2:17), and in making continual intercession for us (Heb. 6:24, 25).

#### **29. How doth Christ execute the office of king?**

A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself (Acts 15:14, 15, 16), in ruling (Is. 33:22), and defending us (Is. 32:1, 2), and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies (1 Cor. 15:25; Ps. 110 throughout).

## Opportunities of the Week

### **Sunday, December 16**

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice  
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry  
7:00 p.m. Children’s Ministry

### **Tuesday, December 18**

5:45 p.m. Prayer Group 9

### **Wednesday, December 19**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Nursery this week:** Crystal Thomson  
Theresa Engel

**Church Watch this month:** Mike Posey

# The Virgin Birth of the Son of God

by John Piper

Part 2

## The Promised Davidic Son

The nearest sentence to help shed light on what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God is in the last half of verse 32: "And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David." This means that Jesus will be the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, the king of Israel. These words give the fulfillment of a prophecy to David in 2 Samuel 7:12–16. Let's look at this text together. The prophet Nathan says to King David,

When your days are fulfilled, and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your son after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men; but I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

There are at least three links between Luke 1:32, 33 and 2 Samuel 7:12–16.

1) Jesus is said to have David as his father in Luke 1:32, and 2 Samuel 7:12 says that the coming king will be of the offspring of David.

2) Jesus is called Son of the Most High in Luke 1:32, and in 2 Samuel 7:14 God says of this Davidic king, "I will be his father and he will be my son."

3) Luke 1:33 says that Jesus' kingdom will have no end, and 2 Samuel 7:13 and 16 say that the throne of the Messiah's kingdom will endure forever.

Therefore, there is no reason to doubt that Gabriel is presenting Jesus as the one who will ultimately fulfill this prophecy to David. What does this tell us about Jesus' sonship?

Here we have to be very careful. The relationship between Old Testament prophecies and New Testament fulfillment is not simple. It is complex and can lead us into serious doctrinal error if we do not think with great care. 2 Samuel 7:14 promises that the offspring or seed of David referred to in verse 12 would be God's son. If that's all it said the relationship to Christ might be simple. But the next sentence in verse 14 says, "When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men, but I will not take my steadfast love from him." The New Testament witness is that Christ was without any sin at all (Hebrews 4:15). Then is Christ a fulfillment of this prophecy or is he not?

There is no doubt that the New Testament views Christ as the fulfillment of this prophecy. Gabriel's words show this but so do Peter's in Acts 2:30 even more clearly: "Being therefore a prophet and knowing therefore that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, David foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ that he was not abandoned to Hades nor did his flesh see corruption." Peter sees the resurrection and ascension of Christ as the time when he assumed the throne of his father David in fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:12–16.

How then can this prophecy refer to Jesus as God's son and yet say that he will sin? The solution lies in the fact that the word "seed" or "offspring" in verse 12 ("I will raise up your offspring after you") is collective and not individual. It does not refer to one person only, but to a lineage or a house.

This is probably why Luke says in 2:4 that Joseph was "of the house and lineage of David." When God says in 2 Samuel 7:13, "He shall build a house for my name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever," he means that Solomon, his own son will build the temple and that Solomon's throne will endure forever, not because he will but because there will always be a descendant of his with the right to rule in Israel. We know this is what it means because the very same words are used in Verse 16 about David, "Your throne shall be established forever," even though he will die.

Therefore, when God promises to be a father to the seed of David who will sit on his throne, he means that he will chastise the bad kings in David's line, but will never completely withdraw his love from this lineage. There is a beautiful exposition of this truth in Psalm 89:28-37. Let's look at this. The psalmist is Ethan the Ezrahite, and he is exulting here in the promises to David.

My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his line forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges; but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His line shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever; it shall stand firm while the skies endure.

Therefore, neither 2 Samuel 7 nor Psalm 89 makes it explicit that someday a son of David would arise who himself would endure forever. But the hope is probably implicit and later prophecy brought it out clearly. For example, Isaiah 9:6-7, "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder . . . And of the increase of his government and of his peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore." So, by the time Jesus arrived on the scene, it had become clear that the way God would fulfill the promise to David was to finally raise up a son of David who unlike all the others was not a sinner who needed to be chastised, but who was holy and just and who would live forever.

### The Utterly Unique Son of God

So, Solomon and his descendants partially fulfill the promise of 2 Samuel 7:12-16, but Jesus is the final and ultimate fulfillment. His divine sonship is like theirs in that he is a king and will enjoy God's fatherly care. But just as Jesus is unique as the final, eternal seed of David, so also is his divine sonship unique. This is proved by verse 35. "And the angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.'"

All the other descendants of David were called sons of God because they belonged to David's line. Their earthly relations qualified them to be sons in the sense of 2 Samuel 7:14. It was the reverse with Jesus. His divine sonship qualified him to be the final fulfillment of David's line. This is why the declaration of his sonship in verse 32 precedes the declaration of his Davidic kingship. He is not Son of God because he is King. He is King because he is Son of God. Therefore, his sonship is not like the sonship of David or Solomon or any other man. He is uniquely the Son of God, in a way no one before or since can aspire to.

The way God chose to demonstrate the incomprehensible character of Jesus' sonship was through the virgin birth. Mary and Joseph had no sexual

relations until after Jesus was born, Matthew tells us (1:25). Instead of this normal means of conception the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the Most High overshadowed her and the greatest event in the history of mankind began—the incarnation of God, the appearance of the God-Man. Jesus is the Son of God not just because he is a descendant of David, or because God chose him for a mission, or because he is morally pure like God is. Jesus is God's Son because he was begotten by God. Not just his role and function and character come from God, but his Being is of God. His nature is God's nature. As C. S. Lewis says, "When you beget, you beget something of the same kind as yourself. A man begets human babies, a beaver begets little beavers, and a bird begets eggs which turn into little birds" (Beyond Personality, 1948, p. 5). And by analogy then when God begets or fathers Jesus, he begets God. As Paul says in Colossians 2:9, "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

There are many scholars who want to keep the divine sonship of Jesus separated from his virgin birth. And it is, of course, possible to believe in Jesus' divine sonship without believing in the virgin birth. But anything is possible to believe. The question is what is biblical and accounts for most of the facts. For Luke, or at least for Gabriel, the divine sonship is inseparable from the virgin birth. In fact, Gabriel says that Jesus' unique sonship results from the fatherly agency of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you . . . therefore the child to be born will be called . . . the Son of God" (verse 35). Luke's answer to the question why Jesus is the Son of God would be: Because God not Joseph was his only father, whose nature he shares.

There is just one added implication of this amazing truth that I want to stress for our faith. We have seen that Jesus is going to be great, indeed, the greatest man that ever lived and greater than all angels. And we have seen that he is the ultimate fulfillment of the promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and that he will therefore "rule over the house of Jacob." He will be the Messiah, the king of Israel. The last thing to stress is that "He will reign forever . . . of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:33).

No end! At the ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of the Father, he took his seat as the God-Man on the throne of the universe and he will reign forever and ever and ever. He is now untouchable; absolutely nothing can threaten his rule. Death is behind him and an unending future of glory and peace and joy with all his people stretches out before him. What an incentive to press on with Christ! If you have an occasion tomorrow to tell someone the reason for your hope, tell them this: Jesus Christ is the Son of God and he will reign with all those who trust him forever and ever and ever. Amen.

### Church Contact Information:

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**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 8-4  
**Email:** balentine@poplarspringsws.org  
**Interim Pastor:** Lucas Mann  
(864) 909-7564

**Youth Pastor:** Travis Gosnell  
**Music Leader:** Deck Balentine  
**Pianist:** Jean Powell  
**Website:** www.poplarspringsws.org

# Poplar Springs Baptist Church



*“An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘God with us.’” Matthew 1:20 – 23*

**THE LORD'S DAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018**

**6000 Poplar Springs Road  
Ware Shoals, SC 29692  
(864) 861-2196  
www.poplarspringsws.org**

**Interim Pastor Lucas Mann**

**Sunday School: 10:00 am**

**Worship: 11:00 am**