

2 Samuel 7 – “The Davidic Covenant”

1. A Well-Meaning Desire – 7:1-3

7:1-2 - *Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around,² that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.”*

Things have been going well for David – really well. 2 Samuel 5 detailed the capture of Jerusalem and the defeat of the Philistines. The nation is unified under David’s reign as king. The ark was brought to Jerusalem in ch. 6. Things are going well, and now we read that the Lord has given David **rest from all his enemies**. Life is good for David. But notice something here. David is unsettled because things are out of balance with the Lord. He’s living large, but the ark of God dwells inside a tent.

- I think that’s a notable thing because many people can live and strive for all the external things to be in place. A good career, good relationships, a nice home, and yet if we’re not at peace with the Lord, those things aren’t going to measure up. The truth is, the vertical place must always be the thing we need to have right. Our relationship with God must be the priority. We can have everything else in place on the horizontal, but if the vertical is not in place we’re going to be out of balance – unsettled.
- And David is looking around and realizing, despite all the good things going his way, the most important thing is not in place.
- It’s easy to see the Lord pushed aside for our own interests or desires. When that happens, we’re going to lack peace.
- David’s concern was for the Lord to have His proper place.

7:3 - *Then Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”*

Nathan is a good man, and he’s a loyal man to David. He’s going to confront David in his sin later on. So Nathan is a prophet used of God. But he comes on the scene here and speaks a little presumptuously.

And yet I wonder how often I do this same sort of thing. Nathan looked at David’s request and thought, this is a no-brainer. Everything has been going David’s way as of late, so God is obviously in this (so it might seem).

- This is a real important lesson that we don't assume to know the Lord's mind before taking time to hear from His heart.
- This thing that David wants to do is a good thing, a noble thing, it's being done for the Lord. It seems honorable.
- But again, David should have learned from the mistake he made earlier in Chapter 6. He failed to inquire of the Lord and see the right way to do things. In wanting to move the ark, it was a good thing, but he did it in a way that was not prescribed, and Uzzah perished. David should have quickly realized in his desire to build a house for the Lord, that though it's a good desire, he still needed to consult the Lord.

So too for Nathan. Before giving recommendations, it's good to have revelation from the Lord.

That revelation will come and Nathan will have to backtrack on his recommendation...

2.A Divine Redirection – 7:4-7

7:4-7 - *But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, ⁵ “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? ⁶ For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ’*

Something can seem so right to us, but it may simply not be the *timing* of the Lord or the *exact* way of the Lord. We have to be so careful that when things are going well, we don't just pop things into cruise control and start thinking we can just do what we feel like doing because God is obviously blessing us.

- That's why we often experience storms blowing into our lives because they take us out of the place of comfortability and back onto the place of dependability.
- We should live each day with complete reliance on the Lord for each and every decision and action.
- Now there's some things of course we already know is common sense and we don't really need to consult the Lord on. Like if you've wronged

somebody, you don't need to pray over whether you should seek forgiveness. You don't need to wonder if God was maybe using you in that situation to refine the other person. No, you were just mean and you need to make that right. Some things are just obvious.

But God clearly hasn't directed David in this. God has never said at any time to build Him a house. Now again, this was a good thing to desire, and God is eventually going to have a house, or temple, built for Him. It just wouldn't be done in the timing or way that David had planned.

- And that can be hard when we see something that would be so good, but the Lord says, not yet. But perhaps He's holding back because He has something coming in the wings that's going to be far better than what we think should happen.
- I think of times I could have pushed ahead to see something materialize but it wouldn't have been the Lord's provision. And ultimately it could rob you of the greater blessing God has for you. It's important that we learn to wait on the Lord's timing and provision. Because He'll always work things out for the better.

So check this out. Though God says no to David building *Him* a house, God says My plan is to build *you* a house. A far better reality!

3.A Greater Revelation – 7:8-17

7:8-17 - Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰ Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, ¹¹ since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord tells you that He will make you a house. ¹² "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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 his

Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ” ¹⁷

According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

God let's David know that He's had his hand upon his life. He's been directing, leading, protecting, and using David. All of David's success has been directly related to the Lord. And now God reveals to him that He's got a special place of position and prominence for him.

These verses make up the Davidic Covenant, which refers to the throne of David being established forever. David's son Solomon will succeed him on the throne. It will be the first time that Israel will have a hereditary monarchy. And this will be sustained for more than 4 centuries, but will eventually be halted due to sin and corruption (we'll get to that momentarily).

This covenant and promise had a twofold fulfillment. It was seen and fulfilled in part by Solomon who would be the one that would build a temple for God. A beautiful temple known as Solomon's temple.

- David was told in 1 Chronicles 28:3 that he was not to build this house because he's been a man of war. But Solomon will come and build this house and will benefit greatly by all the preparations David will make.

But this has a secondary fulfillment in that it points to the one that would occupy this throne forever – that's none other than Jesus! This is what it's all pointing to. All of Scripture is the message of the coming Messiah who will reign and rule forever. He's the hope of the world.

Notice the comparisons of the Abrahamic covenant and the Davidic covenant. Abraham is given the promise of a name and a place. He'd be a great name and he'd be given a land.

David is told that he's been made ***a great name*** (vs. 9) and that God will ***appoint a place for [His] people Israel*** (vs. 10).

So a wonderful promise that is given and one that Scriptures emphasizes over and over:

- ***Jeremiah 33:15–18, "In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and***

righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**' ¹⁷ "For thus says the Lord: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' ""

- **Psalm 89:3–4**, "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ⁴ 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.' "" Selah"
- **Isaiah 9:6–7**, "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."
- **Revelation 5:5**, "But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.""
- **Revelation 22:16**, "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
- When the angel came to Mary he said: **Luke 1:31–33**, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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.""

Clearly we see this is a repeated emphasis throughout Scripture revealing the promise and purpose of God. But something happened in Israel's history that left many wondering if God had abandoned this promise. He cursed the bloodline of David, or dynasty of David. It was the curse of Coniah (or Jeconiah, Jehoiachin)

- **Jeremiah 22:28–30**, "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol— A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? ²⁹ O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the Lord! ³⁰ Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his

descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.’ ”

Now for the Jew who’s been tracking with the Davidic covenant, Jeremiah 22 would come as an absolute shock! Has God’s word returned void? Did He go back on His promise? Did God change His mind? How do we have David’s throne being occupied forever if none of his descendants will sit any longer on that throne after Jehoiachin?

Well, never count out God. God had this all figured out.

- “Matthew presented the legal line of Christ through his stepfather, Joseph. However, Joseph’s line came through Shealtiel who was a son of Jehoiachin (Jeconiah, Matt. 1:12; cf. 1 Chron. 3:17). Had Christ been a physical descendant of Joseph and not virgin-born, He would have been disqualified as Israel’s King. Luke presented the physical line of Christ through Mary, who was descended from David through the line of his son Nathan (Luke 3:31). In that way Christ was not under the “curse” of Jehoiachin.”¹
- This is why the virgin birth is of utmost importance. It’s not something that we can be negotiating.

This also reminds us that when things may seem at a loss, or look hopeless, God has His ways. Never count Him out.

Before moving on, God shows that even if David’s descendants do wrong, God will chasten them but not cut them off. Saul was cut off but God assures David that his family will be shown mercy.

And as we move through 2 Samuel, we’ll see that the family of David (and Solomon) needed much mercy.

“Nathan spoke all these words and **this entire revelation** to David. They were arguably the most significant words God had spoken since the revelation at Mount Sinai; they would change the landscape of Israelite politics and ignite messianic hopes that would energize the people of God through the end of the biblical period.”²

¹ Dyer, C. H. (1985). Jeremiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1158). Victor Books.

² Andrews, S. J., & Bergen, R. D. (2009). *1, 2 Samuel* (Vol. 6, p. 244). Holman Reference.

4. A Humble Response – 7:18-29

7:18-19 - Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord God; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord God?”

This is a great lesson and example for us when we hear the word **no** or **not now** from God. We often want to fight for our way, or stomp off in a huff. But what does David do? He sits down and ponders what God has done.

I mean how great is God here? David wants to do something special, but God says, *‘No, I’m going to do something even more special.’*

- And we really need to catch the heart of God here or else we’re going to get frustrated and bothered and probably blow it when God says no. So, understand that God’s heart is to bless you!
- When God doesn’t give you what you want, it’s not to rob you or hurt you. It’s ultimately to bless you. It’s because He’s got something better for you. And often times we just need to sit down, slow down, and get ourselves reconnected to the heart of God.
- As David does this, he’s just blown away by God’s goodness.

And what is David’s response? ***Who am I, O Lord God?*** He shows his humility and his trust in the Lord in this account. David recognizes that he’d be nowhere if it wasn’t for the Lord.

And isn’t this the same conclusion and response each and every one of us should have toward the Lord. *How is it that you have brought me this far Lord?*

- It was these verses that resonated with John Newton and was an inspiration for the hymn “Amazing Grace”.

David is overwhelmed at the goodness of God and how God has taken his life and blessed it.

And don’t you love David’s perspective? As huge as all this was, it was but a ***small thing*** for the Lord. This was nothing for God to do.

- What’s going on in your life right now that may seem like a huge thing or an overwhelming trial? Understand that to the Lord it is but a small thing.
- **Isaiah 59:1**, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save...”*

David recognizes the extreme privilege he is being given here. He basically asks, *'Is this the way you deal with everyone?'* David knew he was being given blessing and favour in ways very few would ever experience in this way.

- Yet, we've all been incredibly blessed of God. We've been shown favour and grace.
- **1 John 3:1**, *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"* It's as though John was just overwhelmed at the goodness of God.
- And we should be as well. We're loved. Jesus has redeemed us. He's given us an eternal hope. Every day we should be repeating, *'Who am I Lord, that you have brought me thus far?'*

As David sits and contemplates God's goodness, praise just continues to pour out of his heart.

- The next time you feel like things just aren't working out how you'd like them to, or you're feeling dejected and discouraged, get alone with God. Just go sit and relax in His presence and be reminded of His already goodness and faithfulness in your life. See the joy and gratitude begin to rise up in your heart.

7:20-24 - *Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord God, know Your servant. ²¹ For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. ²² Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³ And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? ²⁴ For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.*

Some people wonder why God chose Israel to be a special nation; to be His people. It was simply to demonstrate the Lord's power and to make for Himself a name.

- Again, Israel wasn't chosen because they were so great. They were chosen simply for God to demonstrate His power through.

- And so often in the things we encounter in life, they are opportunities for the Lord to demonstrate His power through. We become those by which He shows His goodness through.
- God doesn't exist for us; we exist for God – to make **His** name great!

7:25-29 - “Now, O Lord God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. ²⁶ So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. ²⁷ For You, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You. ²⁸ “And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. ²⁹ Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord God, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”

David looked at all God has said and done, and he concludes, **You are God, and Your words are true...**

Do we hold on to God's words and promises as though they are true?

Sometimes we need to take these promises and appropriate them for ourselves by faith. David was doing this here and it strengthened him and overwhelmed him to where he couldn't help but to praise God. May we do the same.

God didn't reject David – He redirected him. David wanted to build something for God, but God said, “I'm going to build something for you.” And that's often how the Lord works in our lives. We come with our plans, our timelines, and our ideas of what should happen – but God, in His grace, steps in and says, “I have something better.” The question is not whether God is good when He says “no,” but whether we trust that He is. Like David, may we learn to sit before the Lord, to reflect on His goodness, and to rest in His promises. Because at the end of the day, His plans are greater, His timing is perfect, and His word is true. And ultimately, all of it points us to Jesus – the greater Son of David – whose kingdom will never end. So whatever God is doing in your life right now, trust Him... because He's building something far better than you could ever imagine.