

December 8, 2024

“God’s Promise”
Lesson 2

2 Samuel 7:4-17

Intro

Following a long civil war, King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel, and brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. He placed it in a tent, similar to where it had sat for many years prior. After the ark’s arrival, David took action on what he considered to be a huge disparity. He dwelt in a luxurious palace, but God ark had no permanent place to reside—only a tent. Because of this inequity, David decided to build a house for God. He told this plan to the prophet Nathan, who initially encouraged and approved of it. It appears, however, that neither man asked God what He thought of this plan. Our lesson today is God’s reaction to the plan.

Read 2 Samuel 7:4-17

1. vs. 4: God chooses to speak to David through Nathan instead of directly
There is no obvious reason why, for God chooses to speak directly to David later
A possible reason is that Nathan encouraged David in his plan, so both need God’s guiding
2. vs. 5: God’s question to David through Nathan deals with presumption, not disobedience
David presumed he would be doing God a favor, at least something God wanted
3. vs. 6: God notes that He has been dwelling in the tent that covered the Ark
He is content / satisfied with the current residence of His ark
Having a permanent building seems never to have been a high priority to God
4. vs. 7: To support the previous statement, God reminds Nathan and David of a key point
He never asked any leaders, “Why haven’t you built me a house?”
This isn’t of major importance to God at this time
5. vs. 8-9a: The next verse and a half are God’s recounting of His relationship with David
Just as David was a shepherd, God has shepherded David his whole life
God chose David to be the king, not any of his older brothers
God chooses David to be the shepherd to His people Israel
As He was with David earlier, He will be with David as he rules over the nation
6. vs. 9a: God says here He will make David’s name great—it would carry importance
This has certainly been true—David is one of the greatest names in the Bible
But David’s success in defeating his enemies is also the reason for his disqualification
God says in 1 Chron. 22:8 that David has shed much blood in defeating his enemies
For this reason, he is not the man that God want to build a temple for Him
7. vs. 10: David’s greatness from God is not for David alone; God is concerned for Israel as well
He wants the people to have “a home of their own” and relief from their enemies
He says He will “plant them”—an image suggesting care and growth and longevity

8. vs. 11a: God reminds Nathan and David that wicked people have oppressed Israel since entering the Promised Land
The time of the Judges occurred following Israel's conquest of the land
That times was full of conflict, and multiple nations rose against Israel
God raised leaders to deliver Israel, but allowed threats as Israel sank back into sin
9. vs. 11b: David wants to build a house for God; God reverses the plan
God says He will "establish a house for you"
What this means, God explains in the next verse
10. vs. 12: God isn't going to build David a castle or a mansion, but a legacy
David's offspring will serve as kings of Israel
This is the same promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
Their "seed", their offspring, would also benefit from the promise
God will firmly establish the kingdom using one of David's offspring
This will be a person physically descended from David
11. vs. 13: This is a prophecy that has a dual fulfillment
The first one is of Solomon becoming king and building the temple in Jerusalem
The second one comes with Jesus, thru whom the kingdom was established "forever"
Solomon's temple was destroyed, but we are the new temples which live forever
12. vs. 14: This verse also contains the dual prophecy concept
Solomon had a close relationship with God, like a son to a father
But this verse clearly refers to Jesus
It was quoted in Heb. 1:5, showing it's later fulfillment in Jesus
Solomon was punished by God for his earthly sins, but Jesus had not sin
However, Jesus was treated as if he committed blasphemy
He was punished, not for His own faults, but for ours
13. vs. 15: God did punish Solomon, but He never took His love away from him, like He did to Saul
Both David and Solomon had hearts which sought God, rather than worldly fame
This is shown by the long reign of their descendants as kings over Judah
God kept His promise to maintain their line as kings
14. vs. 16: This is God's summary of His promise to David
Even when the temple fell in 586 BC, God's promise remained
Their house, their kingdom, is established in Christ—He is David's heir
This promise to David is not because David proved worthy
He made multiple errors in his life
The promise to David was by God's grace; an unmerited gift despite David's unworthiness
15. vs. 17: All of these verses were given to Nathan from God, to then be delivered to David
Nathan here tells the king what God had said
David's response in 7:18-29 shows he knew God acted for His own glory, not David's

Application: King David had to leave the construction of God's house to his son. But God's bigger plans went way beyond building this temple. In Jesus, all Christians are part of God's everlasting, holy temple. We will get to enjoy God's everlasting kingdom some day. This eternal residence was crafted by God, and is where Christ, a descendant of David, reigns for eternity. This is a promise to us as well as to David and Solomon.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for Your everlasting covenant promises, which you gave to David and which were fulfilled in Jesus. Please redirect us when our plans are not lined up with yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.