

Throne

2 Samuel 7

David was finally crowned king. He finally conquered Jerusalem and brought the ark of the covenant into the city with great celebration. And he finished construction on a royal palace. With the smell of cedar fresh in his lungs every day, David felt bad that he had a beautiful home but ***the ark of the covenant was still being housed in a tent.*** So David set out to build a glorious temple that would be fitting for his glorious God. It seemed like a good idea, so Nathan the prophet initially said “Run with it!”

But then the word of the Lord came to Nathan and told David to stand down. ***Building the temple would not be David’s job but rather would fall to his son.*** As we’ll see, there were important reasons for that related to how Bible prophecies are often fulfilled. This passage shows us three wonderful promises from God to King David. These are promises that apply to us today. The central one is here in verse 11:

“I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord declares to you that **the Lord himself will establish a house for you.**” 2 Samuel 7:11

David would not build a house for God. Instead, ***God promised to build a house for David!*** This promise carried a threefold meaning both in David’s time and still today in ours.

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- a Family, a Temple & a Kingdom

God promised David a family line that would endure. God promised that David’s son would build a glorious temple. And God promised that David’s son would reign on his throne forever and ever!

David must have drawn great confidence and joy from these promises. We too should draw great confidence and joy from these promises! For in Jesus Christ, the Son of David, we are experiencing the fulfillment of all of these promises. **We are the family of God**, adopted by the blood of Christ our brother. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit**, made holy by the gift of Jesus’ righteousness. And **we are ambassadors of the Kingdom** of Jesus, extending His reign here in Tampa and around the world!

Listen to how David concludes this chapter:

God’s Promises Make us Confident

“Lord Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has **found courage** to pray this prayer to you. Sovereign Lord, you are God! **Your covenant is trustworthy**, and you have promised these good things to your servant.”
2 Samuel 7:27-28

David was encouraged in his faith, bolstered in his confidence by hearing these promises. The Lord God of Israel made clear and specific promises that we can hold onto, draw confidence from and rejoice in.

The first promise here is for a family.

1. God Promised a Family

*“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.**” 2 Samuel 7:12*

This is explicitly about a child of David - from his own body. God is making it clear it's not a figurative “house” but a literal family he is talking about - a DYNASTY. “I will establish his kingdom.” Verse 16 says “Your house and your kingdom will endure **forever** before me.” So David would have a family. It would be a royal family. ***And it would be a FOREVER family.***

This first part of God's Word to David sounds ***a lot like God's promises to Abraham***, the founding father of Israel, 1,000 years before. A literal, flesh and blood offspring would bring the blessing of Abraham to the whole world. 1,000 years later Israel was not only a great nation (as God promised) but had conquered the land (that God promised) and now had a great king! Listen to how God reminded David of His ancient promises to Abraham in order to strengthen the new king's faith.

1. God Promised a Family

“I have been with you... Now I will make your name great... and I will provide a place for my people... I will also give you rest...” 2 Samuel 7:9-11

God made His **first major covenant with Abraham** - promising to bless him and to bless the whole world through HIS OFFSPRING. God made his **second major covenant with Moses** - providing the law and promising to bless those who keep that law and curse those who break it. Here God makes his **third and final major covenant with David** - promising an eternal family that would forever be the people of God!

1. God Promised a Family

*“**I will be his father**, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men.... But **my love will never be taken away from him**, as I took it away from Saul.” 2 Samuel 7:14-15*

Here is **an unconditional promise**. The Mosaic covenant was conditional. Blessings would follow OBEDIENCE. IF you obey, God will bless you. IF you do not obey, God will curse you. This is the weight of the Law. Remember we pictured the ten commandments as enormous stone

tablets hanging over us, threatening to crush us under the weight of God’s judgment. But in Christ those crushing judgments over us become empowering PROMISES inside us. He fills the believer with His Spirit and gives us new desires and new power to obey. So the Mosaic covenant was conditional.

But the Davidic covenant was unconditional. Even if David’s sons failed - which they would - God would be faithful to them. He would be a father to David’s family, treating them like children - which does mean discipline.

Notice the explicit ***contrast between David and Saul here.*** God promises his steadfast, covenant love to David FOREVER. But in the same breath He mentions how He took that love away from Saul. Now what happened there and what should we learn from it?

There are lots of contrasts between these two kings, but here are three:

Saul	David
Good appearance	Good heart
Sought approval from people	Sought approval from God
Was sorry for the consequences of his sin	Confessed his sins and repented

Saul looked the part of a king. He was tall and strong and was the kind of warrior you wanted to follow into battle. David was “ruddy” which is an unclear Hebrew word but a good translation is probably ***“scruffy lookin.”*** David was not the tallest, strongest or handsomest one in Israel - his son Absalom would become famous for appearance and charisma. ***But David was a man after God’s own heart.***

David loved God and worshiped the Lord passionately. **Half of the Psalms** were written by David. None were written by Saul. When the ark of the covenant was brought into Jerusalem David danced with all of his might, getting so sweaty in his worship that by the end he was bare chested and his wife, Michal, was embarrassed at the spectacle David was putting on. Michal - the daughter of Saul btw - cared more about what PEOPLE thought than she did what GOD thought. She was her father’s daughter.

One final contrast. When Saul disobeyed God’s instructions for offering sacrifices he was confronted by the prophet Samuel. Instead of sincerely repenting of this sin, Saul simply asked Samuel not to announce the failing publicly. When David sinned in a much more serious way and was confronted by Nathan the prophet, ***David fell on his face before God*** for a whole week of fasting and remorse filled repentance. We have both **Psalms 32 and 51** because of the power and conviction of David’s repentance. Look again at 2 Samuel 7.

1. God Promised a Family

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We don't know how things ended up for Saul. Did he eventually repent more sincerely? Was he “saved”? I don't think we can know for sure. He may be like one of those people God describes in **1 Corinthians 3** whose whole life's work is burned up in judgment but who skates through “as one escaping through flames” (1 Cor. 3:15). May that not be true for any of us! ***May we reject the way of Saul and choose the way of David!*** May we refuse to harden our hearts and waste our lives in resentment and bitterness.

One more contrast between Saul and David. **Saul was angry, bitter and jealous.** Remember how he would throw spears at David? ***David was joyful because his heart was filled with GRATITUDE.*** Saul focused on what God had NOT given him. David focused on what God HAD given him. If you read through 1 Samuel you'll see that David did not have an easy or comfortable life. But he still had a joyful life because he always managed to see the bigger picture of God's grace and mercy at work in and around him. David was overwhelmed by the unconditional love of God as shown in this promise of family.

Listen to how David prays in response to these promises from God. It shows that knowing the price of our redemption should fill us with gratitude.

Knowing the price of our redemption should make us grateful

“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ...For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant...” 2 Samuel 7:18,21

Knowing the price of our redemption should make us grateful

“Who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out **to redeem as a people for himself**... You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.” 2 Samuel 7:23-24

We have three promises and each comes with an application. The first application is gratitude. If we really understand the cost of our redemption we should be joyful, grateful people like David. It is when we lose sight of all God has done for us in Christ that we can become angry, bitter people like Saul.

There is NO GOD LIKE OURS! The history of Israel is totally mind-blowing to see the lengths God went to to show His people His power and glory, His mercy and grace. What other god rescued

his people from slavery with ten dramatic plagues and then the splitting of the Red Sea in half? What other god made himself known personally to his people with detailed revelation of his will? What other god continually raised up heroes to save his people EVEN THOUGH they were wicked, rebellious and idolatrous people? There is no God like our God!

And of course we know the ultimate fulfillment of this promise of family was not in Israel but in JESUS. Initially God fulfilled His promise to David by giving him Solomon. God built a house for David through his kids and grandkids. But one of those great-great grandsons was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Matthew opens his gospel with these words:

The Ultimate Son of David

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, *the son of David*, the son of Abraham.” Matthew 1:1

Yes, David had a large family and many sons. But 1,000 years after David the Savior of the world was born - and it was through THAT Son of David that the blessing promised to Abraham came to the world.

Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of Abraham and David, redeemed and adopted by the blood of Jesus, ***WE ARE THE FULFILLMENT of God’s promises to Abraham, Moses and David!*** We are a part of the HOUSE God promised to establish for David. We are a part of the family of God. We are sons and daughters of God - brothers and sisters to King Jesus!

Knowing the price of our redemption should make us grateful

“In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood...” Ephesians 1:5-7

Are you thankful? God promised a family to David. Jesus paid the price of your adoption into that forever family. This was not because we were so beautiful and desirable but entirely “to the praise of His glorious grace!” And that’s just the first promise.

The second promise was for a temple.

2. God Promised a Temple

“I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build *a house for my Name.*” 2 Samuel 7:12-13

House meant family, temple and kingdom. You can see all three in these two verses. This chapter started with David’s desire to build a temple for the Lord. Though this was a good desire, God made it clear that it was not David’s project but would fall to his son, Solomon. Here we see ***a great test of David’s humility.***

He was the king now. He had won some major victories and more were coming soon. But David faced a danger common to all leaders. ***One of the greatest obstacles to future success is PAST SUCCESS.*** Have you ever experienced this? It is especially true in spiritual leadership.

When I started as a youth pastor twenty years ago, right out of college, I thought I had all the answers. In six months the youth group pretty much fell apart and God used that to break down my pride. I shifted to pray more and dedicated the results to the Lord. And a year later students started getting saved and God did a remarkable work of grace. But first, he had to get my ego out of the way.

After seminary we moved to Charlotte where I had to learn these lessons all over again. Then we moved to Kentucky and guess what? One of the biggest challenges we face is overcoming the PRIDE that comes from PAST SUCCESS. We start to think it's ABOUT US and begin to lose sight of the glory and power of God.

I think that was happening with David. Building a temple was David's idea - not God's. Building it then was David's timing, not God's. Look back at verse 5.

To use us as leaders God must first break down our pride

“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: **Are you the one** to build me a house to dwell in? ...Did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” 2 Samuel 7:5-7

David was guilty of PRESUMPTION. Instead of seeking God and asking for direction, David presumed he knew what was best and just started moving forward. God quickly put him in his place. Look at verse 8!

To use us as leaders God must first break down our pride

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: **I took you from the pasture**, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you.’” 2 Samuel 7:8-9

Do you feel the repetition here? **What is the primary PRONOUN?** I. God is the active agent. He says, “I took you from the pasture... I have been with you... I have cut off your enemies...” God is not so gently reminding David of his humble beginnings. Yes, you're a great king now - Davey boy - living in a beautiful cedar palace. But how did you get to this place? God says, ***“You're like a turtle on a fence post.”*** You didn't get there on your own!

Thankfully David responds immediately and humbly to this word from the Lord:

Knowing that everything we have is from God should make us humble

“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that *you have brought me this far?* What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign Lord.” 2 Samuel 7:18,20

As we saw last week, *the story is not about David but about David's GOD*. The victory with Goliath was not because of David's skill with a sling but because of the power and purpose of David's God.

Have you learned this lesson yet? *Life is NOT ABOUT YOU?* No, it's about God. Our job is to reflect God's glory to the people around us. We are the mirror. God is the light. Oh how quickly we confuse the two thinking we are the light and God is the mirror - as if He should operate on our timetable and according to our plans.

What was the purpose of the temple? Was it to have a plaque out front that said “Built by David, the great King of Israel”? Of course not! But that was sort of what David wanted. On Open the Bible this week Pastor Colin points out how *the test of humility is how much you care about getting credit*. Humility is being able to rejoice as much in a project if someone else did it as if you did it.

Do you feel the test for David? Could he celebrate the construction of a glorious temple for the Lord if he was not the one to build it? Or was he only interested in the temple if it went down in Israel's history that David was the one to construct it? No. David proved His humility and dependence on the Lord by making every effort to get the supplies together so Solomon could efficiently build the temple. David learned his humility lesson and recognize the temple project was not about him but was all about God:

Knowing that everything we have is from God should make us humble

“How great you are, Sovereign Lord! *There is no one like you*, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.” 2 Samuel 7:22

Now we hear this for David and the temple and we say, “of course, of course, silly David! How could he have missed the point?!?” Hold on. Do you realize that EVERYTHING YOU HAVE is a gift from the Lord? Everything.

- You say - hey, I worked hard to earn all of this. Yes, and who gave you the hands and feet to work?
- Well, I was disciplined and committed! Yes, and who gave you the mind and teachers to learn that discipline?
- But I took advantage of the opportunities before me... And who gave you those opportunities?

Everything is from God. Oh, we should be such humble people.

And of course this is not really about the physical temple in Israel at all. That was a shadow of the ultimate truth.

Jesus is the Ultimate Temple

Jesus answered them, “Destroy **this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” John 2:19-20

Jesus is the Ultimate Temple

“But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.” John 2:21-22

The physical temple was a signpost pointing ahead to the holiness and glory of Jesus - the ultimate temple. The shekinah glory of God dwelt for a few years in the temple of Solomon but before long the ark was captured and the glory departed. The shekinah glory of God dwelt forever in the eternal Son of God and all of that divine glory was contained in a human body.

- That’s why the heavens broke open with angelic song when Jesus was born.
- That’s why the Spirit came down like a dove and God spoke from heaven saying, “This is my beloved son!”
- That’s why Jesus was transfigured on the mountain and the fullness of his glory was temporarily unveiled.
- That’s why Jesus ascended into heaven - as a preview of the shekinah glory that the whole world will see when He comes back leading the hosts of heaven.

And we also see the fulfillment of this promise to David in the amazing truth that:

In Christ, We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit

“Do you not know that ***your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit*** within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We are living stones united together into One Temple. ***Jesus IS that Temple and believers in Jesus are united with Him and thereby united with one another.*** We are One Body, One Family, One Temple. Whatever metaphor you prefer, it conveys UNITY, glory and love.

Again, ***this is all GOD’s DOING and it is all for GOD’s Glory.*** It is not about us but is all about Him. The calling here is to GLORIFY GOD in your body. The more we remember all God has done for us and all He has given us (which is everything we have) the more HUMBLE we will be.

Knowing the price of our redemption should make us **grateful**. Knowing that everything we have comes from God should make us **humble**. Finally, knowing that Jesus reigns over all things should make us **obedient**. The third promise to David was for a kingdom.

3. God Promised a Kingdom

“Your house and **your kingdom will endure forever** before me; your throne will be established forever.” 2 Samuel 7:16

By this point the kingdom of Israel was already well established. So the focus of this promise is on the word FOREVER. Consider the longest lasting Empires - like Egypt, Greece, Rome and Great Britain. All of them had a rise and a fall. This should humble us as Americans to realize that ***our great Empire too has an expiration date.***

There is only one Kingdom that will last forever - and it is not America. It is the Kingdom of God as it was promised to David. It was the family line of David that would provide the Eternal King. Of course we already saw that Jesus is that long awaited Son of David, the Son of Abraham. Jesus brought the blessing of God to the world. ***And Jesus announced the Kingdom of God*** - preaching that in Him the kingdom had arrived and proving it through many miraculous signs.

God Trains His Children to Obey Him

“I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.” 2 Samuel 7:14

Since God is the True King over Israel, our job is to obey Him. When our boys were small we told them repeatedly: “Your job is to obey. Our job is to teach you to obey.” God has given us authorities to protect us IF we submit to their authority. If we do not submit to God’s authority as King over us then we don’t understand His Kingdom at all.

The KINGDOM means that GOD IS KING. When Jesus announced the Kingdom of God the essence of what He was announcing was the HE IS THE KING! Basically He was saying, “Your King has arrived!” When we profess “Jesus is the Christ,” what that means is that ***Jesus is the Anointed King.***

Christ means the Anointed King

“The beginning of the good news about **Jesus the Messiah**, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1

- Just as David was anointed as the One King of Israel, so Jesus was anointed as the One King of the Universe.
- God took David from tending sheep to make him king; Jesus - the King of heaven - was born among sheep!

- God gave David a great name - among the most famous in history; Jesus has the Name above all names!
- God gave David the great city of Jerusalem. Jesus will rebuild the whole universe with a New Jerusalem at the center of a New heaven and new earth!
- God gave David rest from his enemies all around; Jesus offers true eternal rest to all who come to Him in faith.
- God gave David many children - a large household; Jesus paid the price of redemption so that all who believe in Him can become a part of the great family of God!
- God gave David a great kingdom; Jesus rules over the whole universe at the Father's right hand.

Knowing that Jesus Reigns over all things should make us obedient

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

Followers of Jesus should not worry about the physical issues in life - food, clothing, shelter, work, safety. Our Father knows we need these things and promises to take care of us. Our job is to trust in His promises and to OBEY him.

Do we seek His Kingdom FIRST? Do we actively pursue His righteousness? Or do we directly disobey this passage (and the whole Bible) by worrying about the little things and running after them like our godless, materialistic neighbors?

- Knowing God's promises should make us ***confident***.
- Knowing God's grace should make us ***grateful***.
- Knowing God's generosity to us should make us ***humble***.
- And knowing God's sovereign control should make us ***obedient***.

Is this true of us? Are we confident, grateful, humble, obedient children of God?

God promised David a family, a temple and a kingdom. All of these were gloriously fulfilled in Christ and we enjoy the blessings of them in Him today! Praise the Lord for His faithfulness to keep His promises to Abraham, Moses and David. For all of those promises are Yes and Amen in Christ, our King!

Let's pray.

Jesus Son of God