

#14 - Everlasting kingdom - 2 Samuel 7

Engage:

- So far, we have seen God make covenants that will always affect all humankind, starting with Adam and Eve, then Noah, Abraham, the children of Israel (at Mt. Sinai) – and now with David. In each case we see another part of God’s redemptive plan unfold.

- In the last lesson, we saw how God worked through David to defeat and redeem Israel from the Midianites and their giant warrior Goliath. Several things have happened since that time. King Saul has died. The elders of Israel anointed David as king of Israel. The city of Jerusalem was taken from the Jebusites and the Philistines were defeated at Rephaim. The symbol of God’s presence, the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem. And the kingdom of Israel under David’s leadership was becoming more firmly established.

Thoughts about the story:

2 Samuel 7:1-3 –

A new character is introduced at this time. He is the prophet Nathan. David has just finished building a beautiful home in Jerusalem. Here we see David suggesting that a permanent home for God should be built. Without consulting God, Nathan responded by telling David that God was with him and that he should do as he desired. But . . .

2 Samuel 7:4-16 –

The word of the Lord came to Nathan that night. Nathan then told David what God had said:

- God said that no one had been told to build a house for the ark of the covenant. Since Israel was brought out of Egypt God has been content with a tent for the dwelling place for the ark.
- God made several promises to David:
 - The name of David will be made great.
 - Just as God had been with David, He would continue to be with Israel by providing a place for them to be protected from their enemies.
 - The “house” of David would be established. God is speaking about two different kinds of houses: 1) the temple (v. 13) and 2) a human house - meaning David’s family (vv. 11, 16, 19, 25, 27, 29). Note: David wanted to build God a house, but God wanted someone besides David to do it.
 - Through the lineage of David, his throne would continue forever (v. 13). Note: This promise was fulfilled with the birth of Jesus.
 - One of the sons of David would build the house for God to dwell in. Solomon became that person. David did gather the materials together for the first temple to be built. Point: Instead of David building a temple, God would build a “house” for David through David’s family.
 - God promised not to take away from David’s family this privilege like He did to Saul’s family. But God did promise to discipline anyone who sinned in future generations of David’s family.
 - These prophetic words are a good example of how sometimes elements of prophetic passages are fulfilled in the immediate future (Solomon building the temple), while others are fulfilled in the distant future (Jesus becoming the Son of David).

For example, see how this promise has been fulfilled (sometimes in two ways):

2 Samuel 7:12-13 – “When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you (both Solomon - 1 Kings 2:12 and Jesus - Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:28-33), who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name (both Solomon - 1 Kings 7:51 and Jesus - Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Peter 2:5), and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever (only Jesus could fulfill this promise - Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 1:8; 5:11-14; Isaiah 9:7).

2 Samuel 7:17-29 –

David understood and accepted this message from God that Nathan had received. David then went and sat before the Lord and prayed a prayer of acceptance and thanksgiving. (Note: When you hear a message from God, do you ever go and pray about it and how it should apply to your life? For example, after hearing a sermon, being part of a Bible study or doing your own study, do you then go to God asking how you should respond. Something to think about!)

It is obvious from David’s response that he was humbled as to what God said. God had made him the father of an eternal household. Like Abraham, David was promised special descendants - the most important being the Messiah. The rest of the Bible presents the unfolding story of the Messiah coming from the family of David. It is a theme, like redemption, which unites the Old and New Testament, the whole Bible, together.

His prayer was simply a humble response of praise to the greatness of God. David said nothing about himself or his name being praised!

Note: David addressed God 7 times (vv. 18-20, 22, 28-29) using the strong expression of praise and submission “O Sovereign Lord (Hebrew - “*adonai*”) in his prayer, while expressing personal humility before God by calling himself “Your servant” (vv.19-21, 25-29). The Hebrew word for “servant” (Hebrew - “*ebed*”) is a derivative of the Hebrew action word for worship (Hebrew “*abad*”). Thus David saw himself as a person who is both submissive to God and ready to respond with appropriate action.

The question could be asked: Was David disappointed that God chose not to allow him to build the temple? We cannot know David’s heart in this matter, but we can imagine that he was human like ourselves and this was likely the case. What we do know is that God was praised!

Note: Both David and Nathan were careful to keep their hearts open to God’s will. When God spoke, they listened and by their example encouraged obedience.

Application: May we be known as a people who encourage one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Extra:

DW March, 2004 -

“How do you respond to the death of a dream? When your most cherished ambition is shattered by a financial reversal, a physical injury, or an unexpected change on plans, what is

your reaction?

After God curtailed David's plans to build a permanent house for the ark, David responded with gratitude (not grumbling) and praise (not pouting). He thanked God for all the good things He had done in the history of the nation, and reaffirmed God's sovereign right to veto David's plans: "And now, O Lord God, the world that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant . . . establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said" (7:25). Personal ambition yielded to sovereign direction.

Have you committed your dreams and ambitions to God? He may want to approve and confirm them, or He may want to change and refashion them into something you've never dreamed. That's His right as Creator. So give Him that right—right now!"

Quote: "When you pray, do you give God instructions, or report for duty?"