

"TO GOD BE THE GLORY!"

2 Samuel 7:1-29

If you were to make a list of the top ten chapters in the Bible, which ones would you include? How Genesis 1, John 3, Psalm 23, Romans 8, 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 21? How many of you would include 2 Samuel 7? This is a key chapter in the Bible. In fact, Alistair Begg insisted that this passage unlocks Scripture's whole story line. Let's look at it together. . .

1. David's Noble Desire

2 Samuel 7:1–3... Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you."

Most scholars believe that the events of 2 Samuel 7 happened after the wars of conquest described in 2 Samuel 8. This section is placed before the war accounts in the text to show its greater importance.

David lived in an expensive, beautiful home. He was troubled by the thought that he lived in a nicer house than the tent that housed the ark of God. David told Nathan that he wanted to build a *temple* to replace the *tabernacle*.

"Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." Nathan said this to David because it seemed good and reasonable. What could be wrong with David building a temple? His heart was set on honoring and glorifying the Lord. This godly desire should fill our hearts also!

2. God's Plan Revealed

2 Samuel 7:4–7... But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD, "Are you the one

who should build Me a house to dwell in? 6 "For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle. 7 "Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' "

The prophet Nathan's response to David was presumptuous. He had not sought the will of the Lord, nor had he even prayed about it. G. Campbell Morgan said . . .

"It is of the utmost importance that we should ever test our desires, even the highest and holiest of them, by His will."

David learned that God had a different plan, one that would not include David building a temple for the worship of God. God said "No" to David's offer because David was a man of war, and God wanted a man of peace to build His temple (**1 Chronicles 22:8-10**).

How did David handle this news? He didn't respond by whining, feeling sorry for himself, or by getting angry. According to **1 Chronicles 29:2-9**, David got busy and gathered all the materials for building the temple so that Solomon could build a glorious house of worship for the one, true God.

3. The Davidic Covenant

Brueggemann sees it as "the dramatic and theological center of the entire Samuel corpus" and in fact "the most crucial theological statement in the Old Testament." The Lord's words recorded here constitute the longest recorded monologue attributed to him since the days of Moses (197 words). Through the prophetic pronouncements of this chapter David is made the founder of the only royal family the Lord would ever sanction in perpetuity.

The covenant that the Lord established with the house of David became the heart of the messages proclaimed by the Hebrew prophets of later generations (Isa 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 16:5; 55:3; Jer 23:5-6; 30:8; 33:15-26; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos 3:5; Amos 9:11; Zech 12:7-8). To a people broken and humbled by invaders

sent as agents of divine punishment, the Lord's promise to David of a kingdom that "will endure forever" (v. 16) was the seed of hope that resurrected a nation.¹

2 Samuel 7:8–11... "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.

God reminded David of the blessings He had showered on the young king (8-9) . . .

- **God took David from the pasture to the throne.**
- **God protected David from all his enemies.**
- **God made David's name great in all the earth.**

God promised three things to David (10-11) . . .

- **God promised to give Israel a place of their own.**
- **God promised to give the king/Israel permanent security.**
- **God promised to make a house for David (enduring legacy).**

God provided details for the Davidic covenant (12-17) . . .

2 Samuel 7:12–17... "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, 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 a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod

¹ Robert D. Bergen, [*1, 2 Samuel*](#), vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 337.

of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.' " 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

- The Lord "will raise up your descendant to succeed you"(12-13; Acts 13:22-23).
- The Lord's commitment to David's descendants will be perpetual (15).
- God promised to establish David's (Is.11:1-2) "kingdom/throne" forever" (16).

The Lord's words recorded here arguably play the single most significant role of any Scripture found in the Old Testament in shaping the Christian understanding of Jesus. In fact, the divine declarations proclaimed here through the prophet Nathan are foundational for 7 major New Testament teachings about Jesus. That He is . . .

- The son of David (Matt 1:1; Acts 13:22–23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8; Rev 22:16)
- The one who would rise from the dead (cf. Acts 2:30; 13:23)
- The builder of the house for God (cf. John 2:19–22; Heb 3:3–4)
- The possessor of the throne (Heb 1:8; Rev 3:21)
- The King of an eternal kingdom (1 Cor 15:24–25; Eph 5:5; Heb 1:8)
- The Son of God (Mark 1:1; John 20:31; Acts 9:20; Heb 4:14; Rev 2:18)
- The product of an immaculate conception and a virgin birth (Luke 1:32–35).

Finding himself in an elevator with Lee Iacocca, an enthusiastic fan paid a compliment to the Chairman of Chrysler Corporation.

"Mr. Iacocca," the man said, "I want to tell you how much I enjoy your television commercials advertising *Chrysler*." Iacocca replied,

"Sir, I could care less of what you think of my commercials. What I want to know is what kind of car do you drive?" Iacocca understood his purpose.

David understood his purpose also, especially after Nathan shared the message of God with him. He must have been in absolute awe of the plans God had for him!

To wrap up this chapter, let's review what we've seen so far. We've examined *David's noble desire*, *God's plan Revealed*, and *The Davidic Covenant*. In the last part of this chapter, we are introduced to . . .

4. David's Humble Prayer

2 Samuel 7:18–21... Then David the king 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 insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord God, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future. And this is the custom of man, O Lord God. **20** "Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord God! **21** "For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know.

The key to David's response is the way he saw God and the way he saw himself. Notice these facts that highlight his perspective. . .

- **He referred to God as "O Lord God" [Adonai Yahweh] eight times in our text today (verses 18-29).** Nine other times he refers to God in another way. Don't you see? In David's eyes, God is the absolute center of the kingdom.
- **He referred to himself as "Thy servant" ten times.** What a perspective David had on the kingdom of God and his place in it!

2 Samuel 7:22–24... "For this reason You are great, O Lord God; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. **23** "And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for You and awesome things for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, *from* nations and their gods? **24** "For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, have become their God."

God always acts in a manner consistent with His nature and character (Ps. 23:11; 25:11; 31:3). We, as children of God, must live for Him in such a way that we reflect His character and honor His holy and majestic name! We profane the name of your God when...

- Use foul language
- Live in immorality
- Disobey His Word
- Neglect our salvation
- Gossip and Grumble
- Refuse to love God and people

We are to make His name great among our neighbors and the nations. It's not about you. It's all about Him. He is God. You are His servant! Submit to God. Focus on God. Live for God.

2 Samuel 7:25–29... “Now therefore, O LORD God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm *it* forever, and do as You have spoken, **26** that Your name may be magnified forever, by saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel’; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You. **27** “For You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house’; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. **28** “Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant. **29** “Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord God, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”

David knew that the words spoken of him and his family could not be pulled off without God's help and grace. God showed him His will and then David prayed in accordance with His perfect will.

As we look to the future, we must realize that we are a part of our Lord's eternal kingdom. We are His servants. Who are we to doubt Him? Who are we to be

September 16, 2026

CFBC... "David"

consumed by fear? I'll tell you what we must do—we must pray. We must seek God's face together. We must have as our goal that His name be magnified forever in and through us!