

God's Covenant With David

2 Samuel 7

Lesson Outline

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David's Plan

2 Samuel 7:1-17

David's Desire: 2 Samuel 7:1-3

David Considered the Situation

David was blessed with a time of peace (Psalm 29:11). He had successfully united the nation, taken Jerusalem from the Jebusites, and withstood the Philistine attacks. It was a rare time for David. The man who would become known for his exploits in battle found himself without any threats of danger. He sat inside his house, enjoying the moment. With time to consider his blessings, his heart looked to do more for the LORD. The fact he had a house while the Ark of the Covenant remained in a tent bothered David. He planned to change that.

During his time of peace, David considered the LORD. Perhaps he spent his hours meditating on the LORD'S word (Psalm 1:1-3). If so, the scriptures probably influenced his desire to build a temple (Deuteronomy 12:10-11). He did not use the moment of peace to promote himself but hoped to use it in way that would glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Instead of being satisfied with what had already been accomplished, David looked for more to do for the LORD. The more we think on the LORD the more we will desire to serve Him.

1. *Blessed with time* – David looked to use it wisely in the LORD'S service (Ephesians 5:15-16).
2. *Blessed with rest* – David did not become lazy but sought to honor the LORD (Proverbs 15:19).

Many leaders use prosperity in sinful ways, proudly seeking after selfish desires or worldly fame. Not David, he looked to do more for the LORD so the nation would be benefited. If blessed with power or prosperity, use it for God's glory.

David Conversed with Nathan

Nathan was God's prophet. Little is known concerning his life but it is evident he loved the LORD and was willing to be used. Apparently, Nathan was also David's counselor and perhaps a close friend. He assisted David regarding worship in Jerusalem then, when necessary, confronted him concerning sin (2 Samuel 12; 2 Chronicles 29:25). Later he anointed Solomon as king and recorded a historical account of David and Solomon's reigns (1 Kings 1:34; 1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29) The LORD blessed the nation with Nathan. Today the world has been blessed with men of God who faithfully declare His word (Romans 10:15; Ephesians 4:11-12).

David looked to Nathan as a confidant, choosing to share his plan with him (Proverbs 11:14). It is a blessing to have good friends (Psalm 119:63; Proverbs 13:20). David recognized his blessings and realized the LORD was not honored with a place of worship in Jerusalem. David shared with Nathan his desire to build a house for the LORD in Jerusalem. Believing it to be a good idea, Nathan encouraged David to move forward with his plan.

1. *It would honor the LORD* – it was not a selfish endeavor but one that would please the LORD.
2. *It would unite worship of the LORD* – currently the sacrificial worship continued at Gibeon while a separate worship occurred where the ark resided. A house for the LORD would bring worship to one central location.

This was Nathan's counsel and not the LORD'S command. It was good advice based upon his knowledge of the LORD'S precepts and David's situation. David's desire was not contrary to the LORD'S revealed will in His Word, so Nathan encouraged David to honor the LORD with a building. Both men appear to have been properly motivated.

LORD'S Disclosure: 2 Samuel 7:4-17

Concerning Israel's Disregard

That night, before construction could begin on the temple, the LORD gave Nathan a message for David. Nathan immediately found the king, and though the LORD'S word went against the prophet's previous advice to David he delivered it completely. Since the direction came from the LORD, Nathan had no right to alter it any way. Nathan was more concerned with delivering the message than being corrected. His personal feelings took a back seat to the LORD'S service.

The message began with a question; shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? The LORD had never dwelt in a house nor commissioned anyone to build Him one. There was no building because there was never direction to construct one. Until the LORD commanded differently, the ark was to remain where it was. Israel's previous leaders were not at fault and David was not to feel guilty about having a personal house, since the LORD allowed it. David was reminded that the LORD enabled him to be king, taking him from the fields and placing him upon the throne.

1. *Reminded to prevent pride* – David was nobody but the LORD chose him to be somebody (1 Peter 5:6).
2. *Reminded to provide encouragement* – David would not be allowed to build the temple but he remained the same to the LORD.

David was greatly blessed. The LORD went with him, defeated his enemies, and made his name great. He found out that with God all things are possible (Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:13). The LORD remains the same and is able to work in us or through us to accomplish great achievements. Trust in the LORD and follow His direction (Psalm 25:5).

Concerning Israel's Future

David would not be allowed to build the temple because God had other plans. David was informed of the LORD'S purpose concerning the nation and his family.

1. *He planned to appoint a place for Israel* – a land with established boundaries would be provided (Deuteronomy 32:8). The LORD would plant them there, placing them in the land to reside.
2. *He planned to protect Israel* – they would no longer suffer hardships or harassment. David was part of that plan, he was called to enlarge the nation and subdue their enemies.
3. *He planned to build David a house* – referring to his family and dynasty, not an earthly home, which David already possessed. His son Solomon would follow after him and build the temple.
4. *He planned to send the Messiah* – it is the only way David's house, kingdom, and throne could be established forever. Jesus Christ fulfilled the promise to David (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:30-32; Romans 1:1-3).

The LORD was far from displeased with David, and even commended him (1 Chronicles 6:8; 1 Kings 8:18). David's intentions were correct concerning the temple, however his knowledge of the person and timing were incorrect. The temple would be built but David was not the man the LORD would use to construct it. The king was prevented, due to the LORD'S plans.

1. *Prevented because of his future fights* – there were more conflicts ahead (1 Kings 5:3). David would have to focus on subduing the nations enemies instead of building a temple.
2. *Prevented because of his bloody actions* – he was a man of war with legendary feats on the battlefield (1 Chronicles 22:7-8, 28:3). The temple was to be a place of worship and not stand as a military achievement.

David discovered that all are not called and equipped for the same service, but prevention from one area does not mean inability to serve at all. David continued to serve the LORD many ways. It is important to understand the LORD is in control and submit to His will (Romans 12:1-2). A submissive heart will desire to serve the LORD where He chooses and directs.

David's Prayer 2 Samuel 7:18-29

Prayer of Recognition: 2 Samuel 7:18-21

Recognized the LORD'S Authority

After receiving the message, David went and conversed with the LORD. How one deals with rejection often displays the condition of the heart. David did not sulk, throw a fit or stomp away in anger. Instead, we find David seeking the LORD in prayer. Understanding his lowliness before the LORD, David approached Him with respect and reverence.

1. *Who am I, O Lord GOD* – though he was a successful leader, before the LORD he was nothing. His actions and thoughts contradict the self-esteem teachings found in modern Christianity.
2. *What is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto* – he was in awe that the LORD considered his house and promised to establish it forever.

David understood he was unworthy of anything the LORD could give unto him. Because of this he accepted the LORD'S decision and was grateful to be considered in any way. David was content with the LORD'S plan for his life (Philippians 4:11).

Recognized the LORD'S Greatness

At this point, David was grateful for the knowledge he received and recognized the LORD already knew his heart's desires (Psalm 139:1-2). The LORD was under no obligation to share His plans, it was an act of grace. Having decided to do great things for David, the LORD encouraged him with the details.

The LORD'S greatness amazed David (Psalm 48:1). It left him speechless, he was unable to express himself in words. David was truly amazed with what the LORD planned to do for him, his family, and the nation (Psalm 86:5, 100:5). When God is correctly considered, He is found to be awesome (Psalm 33:8).

Prayer of Reverence: 2 Samuel 7:22-29

David Adored the LORD

Throughout this prayer it is evident David greatly respected the LORD. There were no complaints or demands. David accepted the LORD'S will and praised Him for it (Psalm 7:17, 56:10). That is an example of a selfless individual seeking after the LORD. Let it challenge us to be likewise. David reflected upon the situation.

1. *He reflected upon the LORD'S greatness* – the LORD is above all, with nobody else like Him or equal to Him (Psalm 86:8, 96:4; 1 Timothy 1:17).
2. *He reflected upon the LORD'S grace* – the nation was rescued from Egypt and the false gods. They were redeemed and chosen so the LORD could bless (Psalm 48:14; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Israel's blessings were due to the LORD. He alone rescued and preserved them. David praised Him for what was done and what He promised to do.

David Accepted the LORD'S Message

Instead of being upset because he was denied his desire, David submitted his will to the LORD. This is clearly seen in his prayer where he asked for God's plan to be established forever. David was not making a request but stating his submission to the LORD'S plan. The LORD provided His word for direction and David obediently followed (Psalm 119:105). Today, many are attempting to change the Word of God to fit their selfish intentions instead of accepting the message and submitting to the LORD. David's prayer asked for all to be done unto the LORD'S glory, so His name would be magnified. This should be the attitude of our prayer life, seeking what would glorify God and not self. David did not get his way but that did not prevent him from seeking God's will. Knowing the LORD'S words were true, he accepted them (Psalm 119:160).

Though David did not get what he hoped for, he was grateful for what he received and planned to continue with the LORD'S blessing. David prepared for the building of the temple, laboring to provide what Solomon would require to build it (1 Chronicles 22:5). He financed the building, furnished the plans, and encouraged Solomon in the work (1 Chronicles 22:14, 28:11-20). David could not do what he wanted but what he could do he did with all his might. This attitude should be found amongst church members. Keep in mind we are not to please self but to serve the LORD (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17). Beginning with an idea, David was blessed with information and direction. David praised the LORD for His covenant.