

David. 2 Samuel 7:1-14

Welcome to our last week looking at the covenants of the Old Testament. In this passage we look at the last of the major Old Testament Covenants..

Since we last met:

- 1) How has your understanding of God's covenants grown?
- 2) In what ways do you still enjoy blessing from each covenant?

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Read 2 Samuel 7:1-14 What immediately stands out to you? Does anything in this passage particularly confuse you?

David Desires to Build a Temple for the Lord (7:1-3)

The story of the Davidic covenant begins with David's desire to build a temple to house the ark he has brought to Jerusalem. His motives are, no doubt mixed -- like most of ours.

1 **Love**. David loves the Lord! He composes and sings love songs to the Lord that now comprise much of our Book of Psalms. He is overjoyed to have the ark in his capital city. He loves God's presence and wants to honor God.

2 **Guilt**. But David feels guilty. The earthly symbol of the presence of the Almighty and Glorious God dwells in a tent. Not like the palace David inhabits. God's glory requires something more, David feels.

The narrator sets the scene:

"¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.'

David Will Not Build the Temple (7:4-11)

Yet there is a surprise for David. Rather than he building a house for God - God will build a house for David.

Q1. (2 Samuel 7: 1-7) Why is Nathan so quick to give David approval to build the temple? What should have Nathan done instead?

Q2. What is the danger of leaders and followers too quickly approving major spiritual directions without really waiting upon the Lord?

Q3. David's heart is partly right about building the temple though. Which

part does David have right?

David's Plan for David (7:8-11a)

What follows is known as the Davidic Covenant that God gave by prophetic word through Nathan. The first three promises (7:9-11a) are to find realization during David's lifetime:

1. **A great name** (7:8b-9; cf. 8:13).

David achieves great renown as emperor and overlord over most of the Eastern Mediterranean, an amazing rise for one who began as the youngest boy in a family of shepherds.

2. **A secure homeland for his people** (7:10-11a).

The kingdom under Saul and Ish-Bosheth had been insecure, with frequent need to secure the borders from the Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, Amalekites to the south, and Aramean kings.

3. **Peace** (7:11b).

"I will also give you rest from all your enemies." (7:11b)

Saul's whole reign was spent in constant wars. David's first few years are also consumed with war. Then and a period of relative peace.

Yahweh's Promise of a Perpetual Throne for David's Descendants (7:11c-17)

These three promises constitute a wonderful blessing that will be experienced by David and his people. But the next three promises talk about what God will grant David's descendants in the future -- and these promises bring wonderful blessings to you and me, as we will see.

A Dynasty (7:11c).

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you." (7:11c)

The term "house" in Hebrew has a double meaning -- as it does in Greek and English. David uses it in a material sense, a physical "house" for the Lord -- a temple. But God through Nathan uses the word in a figurative sense as dynasty, household, descendants -- the House of David.

A Son Who Will Build the Temple (7:12-13).

. This promise is fulfilled in Solomon, a son not yet born, the second son of David and Bathsheba.

An Everlasting Kingdom (7:13).

"... And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

The final -- and amazing -- provision of this covenant is a kingdom that will last forever. This kingdom that God reveals will be eternal.

Q4 (2 Samuel 7:8-13) Are these promises conditional or unconditional? Why does conditionality make a difference?

Q5 Which of these promises is most important to you as a Christian?

A Father's Discipline (7:14-16)

The next verses spell out the terms of the everlasting kingdom. David and his descendants don't get a "blank check" to do whatever they want without reprimand. God will act towards them as a Father. With sonship comes a Father's discipline.

God will not reject David's dynasty because of one of his descendant's sins. He will punish him severely, but he will not remove David's dynasty from the kingship as he did Saul's dynasty.

Q6 (2 Samuel 7:14-16) There is a conditional aspect in the Davidic Covenant -- that God will discipline David's descendants when they sin. How did God discipline David and his descendants?

Did God Forsake His Covenant with David?

But what happened during and after the exile when the princes of David's dynasty were no longer upon the throne? Zerubbabel, grandson of Jehoiachin (one of the last kings of Judah), was governor of Judah during the exile and the restoration of the temple. But after 587 BC there were no sons of David upon the throne.

Did God's promise fail?

Another prophet John the Baptist's father Zechariah prophesied about Jesus: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him **the throne of his father David**, and he will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**;

his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32-33)

Q7 How much of the biblical story after 2 Samuel 7 is directly related to the promise God makes here?