

# **Bible Study June 26, 2024**

## **2 SAMUEL 7 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)**

### **The LORD's Covenant with David**

***1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."***

This is the first time Nathan the prophet is mentioned. We know nothing of his background. God made certain that at least one prophet was living during the reign of each of the kings of Israel. The prophet's main tasks were to urge the people to follow God and to communicate God's laws and plans to the king. Most of the kings rejected the prophets God sent. But at least God had given them the opportunity to listen and obey. David often inquired of the Lord first and really listened to him. In earlier years, judges and priests had had the role of prophets. Samuel served as judge, priest, and prophet, bridging the gap between the period of the judges and that of the monarchy.

***3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."***

***4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?'***

In this message from Nathan, God was saying that he didn't want David to build a "house" for him. Why didn't God want David to build the Temple? God told David that his job was to unify and lead Israel and to destroy its enemies. This huge task would require David to shed a great deal of blood. In 1 Chronicles 28:3, we learn that God did not want his Temple built by a warrior. So David made the plans and collected the materials so that his son Solomon could begin work on the Temple as soon as he became king (1 Kings 5–7). David accepted his part in God's plan and did not try to go beyond it. Sometimes God says no to our plans. When he does, we should take part in the other opportunities he gives us.

***6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' 8 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, 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. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"***

David's request to build the Temple was good, but God said no to it. This does not mean that God rejected David. In fact, God was planning to do something even greater in David's life than allowing him the prestige of building the Temple. Although God turned down David's request, he promised to continue the "house" (or dynasty) of David forever. David's earthly dynasty ended four centuries later, but Jesus Christ, a direct descendant of David, was the ultimate fulfillment of this promise (Acts 2:22-36). Christ will reign for eternity—now in his spiritual kingdom and in heaven, and later, on earth, in the new Jerusalem (Luke 1:30-33; Revelation 21). Have you prayed with good intentions, only to have God say no? This is God's way of directing you to a greater purpose in your life. Accepting God's no may require as great a faith as carrying out his yes.

***<sup>17</sup> In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.***

This chapter records the covenant God made with David, promising to carry on David's line forever. This promise would be fully realized in the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the word covenant is not specifically stated in the Bible text here, it is used elsewhere to describe this occasion (23:5; Psalm 89:3-4, 28, 34-37).

### **David's Prayer of Gratitude**

***<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? <sup>19</sup> And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! <sup>20</sup> And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! <sup>21</sup> Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. <sup>22</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>23</sup> And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? <sup>24</sup> And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God. <sup>25</sup> And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. <sup>26</sup> And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. <sup>27</sup> For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. <sup>28</sup> And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.***

David knew that God's words were true, and he based his life on them. People search in many places for truth on which to base their lives, yet as David knew, God's Word is the only trustworthy foundation upon which to build a life.

***29 Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."***

This section records David's prayer expressing his humble acceptance of God's promise to extend his dynasty forever. As he sat in the tent where the Ark was being kept, David realized that these blessings were given to him and his descendants in order that Israel might benefit from them. They would help fulfill God's greater purpose and promises that through the people of Israel the whole world would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3).