

## Bible Readings

### 2 Samuel 7:1-29

<sup>7</sup> After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

<sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'"

<sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

<sup>17</sup> Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? <sup>19</sup> And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human!

<sup>20</sup> “What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign LORD. <sup>21</sup> For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

<sup>22</sup> “How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. <sup>23</sup> And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? <sup>24</sup> You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God.

<sup>25</sup> “And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, <sup>26</sup> so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.

<sup>27</sup> “LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. <sup>28</sup> Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. <sup>29</sup> Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

### **Acts 13:16-23**

<sup>16</sup> Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! <sup>17</sup> The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; <sup>18</sup> for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; <sup>19</sup> and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years. “After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ <sup>23</sup> “From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

## Sermon

**The Forever King (2 Sam 7:1-29 and Acts 13:16-23) 16-Aug-20**

We're continuing our series on 2 Samuel.

We're looking at 2 Samuel chapter 7 - a very important passage...

It would be great to have your Bibles open there.

Let me pray before we begin...

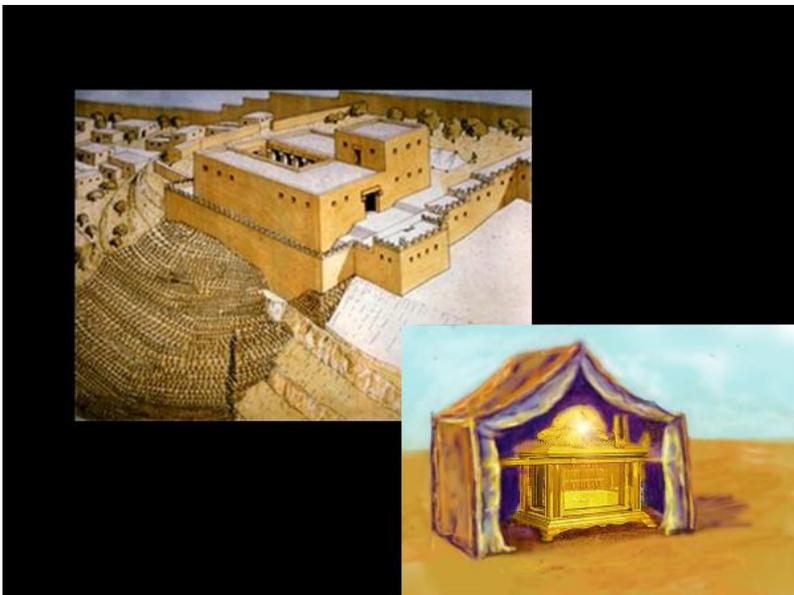
Let's pray...

## Context

Last week we left:

[PowerPoint 1-Palace and Tent]

- King David is well established as King
- Jerusalem is his capital city
- He has a new Palace



- With God's help - he's defeated his enemies
- And he has successfully moved the Ark of God to Jerusalem - at the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt - - after a disastrous 1<sup>st</sup> attempt

- The **Ark** of **God** is placed **in a tent** that David pitched for it (2 Sam 6:17)

David is very **thankful** for all **God** has done for him

We **pick up** the **story** in 2 Sam 7 - as **David reflects** on what he can do for God - since God has done so much for him

SO - **David makes** an **offer** to **God** - in verses 1 to 3...

### David's Offer to God (2 Sam 7:1-3)

See v1

After the king was settled in his palace and **the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies** around him,

Notice who has **given** David **rest** from his enemies - It's **God**.

Way back in Deut 12:10 - God made this promise to Moses

But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and **he will give you rest from all your enemies** around you so that you will live in safety

Sometimes **God's promises** take a while to come to fruition.

But **God** always **keeps** His **promises**.

(pause)

With David settled as King - the people of **Israel** now **have rest** from their **enemies**. It's around **about 1000BC**.

[PowerPoint 2- Offer]



So, David tells the prophet Nathan his idea - David is not comfortable living in a Palace of cedar - whilst the Ark of God is in a tent!

It's implied that David wants to build God a house

Nathan is a bit presumptuous here in v3 - telling David - whatever you have in mind - go ahead - the Lord is with You

There's no doubt the Lord is with David -

But that doesn't mean David or Nathan should just assume that David should go ahead and build a house for God

In previous weeks - we've seen David - inquire of God before acting - this time he doesn't and the prophet goes along with David's idea

Application

Applying that to us - let's not presume we know what God wants us to do -  
let's take it to the Lord in prayer - and wait

Sometimes we act before we pray - instead of praying before we act.

Just because it's our plan (even if it's a good and Biblical one) doesn't mean it's God's plan?

Remember Isaiah 55:8 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

Remember Ps 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

And **James** reminds us not to be **presumptuous** in James 4:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> **Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."**

### **God's Response to David's Offer (2 Sam 7:4-11)**

So, David makes the offer to build God a house...

But in this case - **David's plan** is not **God's plan**

See v4 - God's Word comes to the prophet Nathan overnight

God's response is:

[PowerPoint 3 - God's Response]

### God's Response to David (2 Samuel 7:4-9)

- God does not need a house!
- Since the Israelites came out of Egypt – God has always lived in a tent (tabernacle)
- God has never asked for a house!
- God took David from shepherd to King
- God has been with David all along
- God cut off all David's enemies

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Instead God reveals his plans for David in vv9-11

[PowerPoint 4 - God's plan for David]

### God's Response to David (2 Samuel 7:9-11)

- God will make David's name great
- God will provide a permanent dwelling place for Israel
- God will protect them from being oppressed by wicked people
- God will give them rest from their enemies

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These plans are pretty much already achieved

But **God's promises** to David don't stop there

They go to a whole new level

## God's Promises to David (2 Sam 7:12-16)

See 2 Sam 7:12-16

Theses verses contain one of the most important promises in the Bible

David says to God let me build you a house (Temple) - And God says - No thanks - Instead I will build you a House, David, - A dynasty

Let's have a look at what promises God made to David in vv12-16

[PowerPoint 5-Promises]

<b>God's Promises to David (2 Samuel 7:12-16)</b>		
<b>Verse</b>	<b>Promise</b>	<b>Fulfilment</b>
V12	Offspring	Solomon & Jesus
V13	House	Solomon built Temple
V13	House	Jesus is the Temple
V13	Forever Throne	Jesus reigns forever
V14	Father & Son	God & Solomon God Father & Jesus
V14	Punished	Solomon & Jesus
V15	Still loved	Solomon & Jesus
V16	Forever Kingdom	Jesus

- See v12 - God promises one of David's offspring will succeed him and establish his kingdom
- This has partial fulfilment when David's son, **Solomon**, succeeds David as King
- It has complete fulfilment in **Jesus** - as an offspring from David's family line - born 1000 years later

- **V13 - God promises David's offspring will build God a house - and Solomon does do that - He builds a magnificent temple (1 Kings 6:12)**
- **But this promise doesn't stop there - David's offspring, Jesus, describes Himself as the temple of God - in John 2:19-21**  
 Jesus says to the people: **19 ... "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."** **20** They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" **21** But the temple he had spoken of was his body.
- **V13 God also promises - David's offspring will be on a forever throne - that can't be Solomon or any of the kings that followed - because all kings stopped ruling when Israel was captured by the Babylonians in 587 BC - so it has to point to Jesus' forever throne**
- **V14 - God promises - Father and Son will enjoy a special relationship - God and Solomon had a special relationship (God blessed Solomon with wisdom) - but Solomon did not always follow God's will**
- **Whereas God the Father and Jesus the Son enjoyed a completely perfect relationship where Jesus always did the Father's will**
- **Still V14 - God promises He will punish this offspring when he does wrong - God punished Solomon when he was led astray by many wives**
- **And God allowed Jesus to be punished for the sin of the world - yet he did nothing wrong - He was punished for the wrong we did!**
- **V15 - God promises His love will never be taken from this offspring - Despite Solomon's disobedience, God still loved Solomon and didn't reject Solomon like He did Saul**

- **And God didn't reject Jesus** - Yes - He turned His face away as Jesus died on the Cross - But He also **raised Jesus from the dead** - having completed the Father's will - by dying on the cross for the sin of the world
- **V16 - God promises David's house (his dynasty) and kingdom will endure forever** - and His throne will endure forever? How can this be since there is no king of Israel now - let alone from David's family line?  
Because these **verses point to Jesus** - the Forever King of the Forever Kingdom

### Application

- Without the Forever King - Jesus - there's no death on the **cross** - no forgiveness
- Without the Forever King - Jesus - there's no resurrection - and no eternal life
- Without the Forever Kingdom - there's no Heaven - no hope
- Remember too - **God always keeps His Promises**
- As Psalm 145:13 says - **The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.**
- Just one further point - Even though God said no to David building the temple
- **David still prepared** all the **materials necessary** for his son, Solomon, to build the temple (1 Chron 29:1-9)

- And it's the same for us - just because God might say no to our plans - it doesn't mean there's no work for us to do for the Lord - and we shouldn't sit in the corner sulking

### David's Prayer of Thanks to God (2 Sam 7:18-29)

With these promises ringing in David's ears

David launches into a prayer of thanks in verses 18-29

The prayer consists of 2 parts

[PowerPoint 6-Prayers]

**David's Prayer of Thanks to God (2 Samuel 7:18-29)**

*Part 1 – David's humble praise of God and His goodness*

*Part 2 – David boldly claims God's promises for himself*

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Part 1 of the prayer - is David's humble praise of God for His goodness (vv18-24)

The gist of David's prayer is - why has God chosen to bless David and his family - David's just a humble shepherd boy from an ordinary family - yet God has made these amazing promises to David and his family

David realizes God has done this - not because of who David is - but because of who God Himself is -

All David can say is How Great God is and that there is no one like Him (v22)

As far as David is concerned God is just so amazing - because He went out of His way to save His people Israel - out of Egypt and bring them to this Promised Land where they are now

### Application

I wonder how often we stop and **think how great God is?**

How marvellous His **blessings** upon us **are?**

When we pray, do we spend time praising God - or is it straight to the **shopping list** of what we want for God?

When God has blessed us - do we launch into a prayer of thanks - or have we just become **blasé about God's blessings?**

**Part 2** of David's Prayer - David boldly **claims God's promises** for himself (appropriate) - vv25 to 29

For example - we know God promises **He will never leave us nor forsake us** [Deut 31:6; Heb 13:5]

So, we could - in these **uncertain times** - **legitimately pray**

*'God - I'm feeling vulnerable and afraid, I'm doubting what lies ahead with the effects of this pandemic - I feel alone God - I feel like you're not with me - Yet Your word promises that you will never leave me nor forsake - please show me this truth in my life right now - help me feel your presence and leading right now - Amen.'*

What we've done there is claim God's promise for ourselves

That's what David does in his prayer...

V25 - **David's saying** - those promises you've just made to me - **please do as you promised, God**

V26 - **Show people how great your reputation is**

V29 - **Please go through with your promise God** and bless the house of David so it will be a forever kingdom

### Application

Applying that to **ourselves** then

Let us pray to God like David did:

- **Praising** God's awesomeness
- **Thanking** God for all His blessings upon us;
- **Asking** God to reveal His plans for us.
- And **claiming** God's promises for ourselves

### God's Promise to David fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 13:16-23)

When we looked at the promises God made to David - we said they were partially fulfilled by David's son, Solomon

But like many **OT promises** - they get their complete fulfillment in our Lord **Jesus**

In our NT passage from **Acts 13:16-23** - [please turn there now]

In this passage the **Apostle Paul** gives a brief **history lesson** of Israel

- God led the people of Israel **out of Egypt**

- He brought them into the **Promised Land** overthrowing the surrounding nations
- God gave them **judges** to rule over the people
- And when the **people asked for a King** = he gave them **King Saul**
- And when **God removed Saul** - He chose **David** as King - *a man after God's own heart*
- And from David - God brought **one of David's descendants** on a **rescue mission** - that descendant is **Jesus**
- **Jesus** is the **complete fulfilment** of the promises in **2 Sam 7**

[PowerPoint 7]

### God's Promise to David fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 13:16-23)

- *V23 – from this man (David) descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour, Jesus, as he promised!*
- *Jesus is the Temple*
- *Jesus is from the line of David*
- *Jesus gives us rest from our enemies of sin and death*
- *Jesus is the forever King of the forever Kingdom*

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- **Jesus** is the Temple - A **Spiritual Temple** where He is the **cornerstone** and - we are **living stones** attached to Jesus (1 Peter 2:4-5)
- **Jesus** is from the line of David
- **Jesus** gives us **rest from our enemies** - sin and death - by His death [sin is forgiven] and by His resurrection [our death is turned to eternal life]

- Whatever is happening right now - including COVID19 - Jesus is still  
the forever king of a forever kingdom.

## Conclusion

To finish up then

From these 2 passages we can see that

God always keeps His promise - we can trust Him

God is still on the throne and the tomb is empty - Jesus is alive and ruling!

So, let me finish with this gem from

2 Cor 1:20

[PowerPoint 8]

## **Conclusion**

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

**(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

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Let's pray...