

October 16, 2016
Sunday Morning Service
Series: The Life of David
Community Baptist Church
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THE ETERNAL KING PROMISED 2 Samuel 7

A study of David's life is profitable for many reasons. First is the fact that the bulk of all we know about David is found in the Scripture. God promised that He has breathed out all Scripture and, therefore, all Scripture is profitable for teaching, reproof, correcting, and discipline in righteousness. Another reason this study is profitable is, as I have mentioned repeatedly, that David is a prime example of faltering, stumbling, human flesh trying to be faithful to serve Holy God.

A third reason we find this study profitable is because of the many ways that God used David, even with all his flaws, to picture the coming, perfect, eternal king Jesus Christ. Speaking of the eternal king, that is precisely what God promised David in this text. God sent His spokesman, the prophet Nathan, to inform David that He planned to create an eternal kingdom—one that lasts forever—through David's lineage. The first part of that promise applied to Solomon. But we all know that Solomon did not live forever. In fact, while he lived he was not faithful to God.

However, centuries after Solomon was dead, God sent His Son to earth to be born of a virgin who was a relative of David. In Jesus' adulthood, the crowds shouted out that He was indeed the Son of David. And that Son of David, the fulfillment of God's promise to David, won the right to be the eternal king, to rule the new creation forever and ever, by offering His blood as the redemption price for sin. That is why He has all authority to step up to the throne of God in the last days, appearing as the lamb having been slain, and take the title deed to all creation (Revelation 5:6). When that event happens in the future (hopefully near future) Christ, the Son of David, will

begin the terrible purging of sin from God's creation, leading to the fulfillment of all of God's promises to Israel. No wonder John wrote: *Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* (Revelation 5:11-12).

That is the promise God gave to David almost three thousand years ago according to our text.

David's Plan Versus God's Plan (vv.1-17).

Often it is fine for a servant of the Lord to do what you think is right (vv.1-3). That is the advice that Nathan the prophet gave to David during a time of rest. It was a time when, *Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies* (v.1). If we interpret this text with strict chronology, we have to conclude that this was temporary rest. Beginning in chapter eight and then again in chapter ten, we find a list of adversaries who David subjugated through war. It is true that much of David's reign was characterized by wars and battles through which David brought under control most of the land God had promised to Abraham. Therefore, it is possible that the event we are reading about in this chapter actually took place after the battles described in chapters eight and ten.

During those days, while he was not distracted by war, David began to think about God. What do you think about when you are at rest? David thought about the symbol of God's presence sitting outside in that temporary tent he had erected, and he desired to build a house for God. *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"* (v.2).

Maybe David began to feel a bit guilty. God was so real to him. Did he feel like God was sitting outside while he, the king, was enjoying his palace? We are not sure how long at this point David had lived in the palace. We do know that *Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house* (2 Samuel 5:11). Shouldn't God have a

house that rivaled the king's palace? It was not unusual for kings to build elaborate temples for their gods. The desire might be motivated by the concept of God and eternity that our Creator has placed within all humans.

David proposed the idea of building a house for the ark and God's spokesman approved of the idea. *Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you"* (v.3). Suddenly a very important man named Nathan is introduced. He was the prophet, the man who relayed God's messages to the people and in this case to the king. But Nathan was human first. Sometimes spokesmen for God, like prophets or preachers, make decisions based solely on human wisdom without consulting God first. David's proposal made sense; and since the Lord was obviously with David, building a house for God seemed like a good idea. But God overruled human wisdom . . . again.

Instead of doing what David thought was right, Nathan came back with the message that David needed to do what God says is right (vv.4-17). On one hand, God doesn't need a house, and furthermore, God never lived in a house. *But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 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'"* (vv.4-6).

We cannot say how the word of the LORD came to the prophet, but God spoke to him in some fashion. The word *night* might indicate that God spoke through a dream. Notice that God referred to David with the term servant. In many cultures to call a person a servant is generally an insult. But when God called David His "servant" it was a term of honor reserved for God's faithful chosen, like the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), and like Messiah Himself (Isaiah 49-53). God's message to His servant David was to remind him that when God brought His people out of Egypt, He didn't even have a tent to dwell in. After God gave instruction at Mt. Sinai, God condescended to have His presence in the tabernacle at the ark of God. Most recently, God's presence was at the tent David erected for the ark.

But God never asked His people to build Him a house. *"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?'"* (vv.7). God never commanded the people to build an elaborate temple like the pagans built for false gods. God displayed His power and glory through His people and the way He arranged circumstances in life. Up to this point, God did not desire a temple as the symbol of His majesty.

On the other hand, when God desired for a place to house His ark, David wouldn't build it (vv.8-15). Instead, God turned the tables and promised to build a house out of David (vv.8-11). God explained what He had already done. He chose insignificant, shepherd boy, David to lead His chosen nation. *"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'"* (v.8). Up to this point God had been with David. *"And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you"* (v.9a). That presence of God was certainly obvious regarding David's fight with Goliath. Everyone including King Saul observed it. Now God had miraculously given David multiple victories over multiple enemies. Through David, God had finally subjugated all the land He had promised to give Abraham's posterity – the nation of Israel.

But God wasn't finished! He also told Nathan what He promised to do with David. *"And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth"* (v.9b). God promised He would make David's name great, which He certainly did. Specifically God promised, *"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, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies"* (vv.10-11a). God would firmly plant the nation of Israel in the land where they would enjoy rest.

Furthermore, God promised that David's son would build Him a house (vv.11b-15). *Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house* (v.11b). Instead of David building a

house for God, God would build a house out of David. What would that look like? God put it like this:

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. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 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, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. (vv.12-15).

This is a reference to Solomon. God would provide for Solomon to build a grand and glorious temple for God's glory. We know the story how Solomon would sin and God would discipline him like a father disciplines a son. Yet, God would not forsake Solomon or remove the kingdom from him like He did to Saul.

At this point David must have been thinking, "Oh wow!" How amazing is this promise! What king would not rejoice and be thankful for such a promise from the God who will do what He promises? God still wasn't finished with giving promises to David.

God revealed that He planned to build an everlasting house and kingdom from David's line (vv.16-17). *"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."* In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David (vv.16-17). This is an astonishing promise. It supercedes eons of time. It eclipses all nations, all kings, all dynasties human history has ever or ever will know. It is an eternal promise.

In fact, at that very moment in David's life, God was fulfilling an eternal promise He made through Jacob. Speaking prophetically to his sons about God's lot for their posterity in history, Jacob said of Judah: *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples"* (Genesis 49:10). In this statement, Jacob promised that a unique "King" would come from Judah's lineage. David was born in Judah's lineage. That God considered him

to be unique is obvious from the evidence of God's work in David's life. But this promise far exceeded David.

Jacob promised that the eternal King, Messiah, would be born in Judah's line. The writer to the Hebrew Christians affirmed this truth. *But of the Son he [God] says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom"* (Hebrews 1:8). God promised that He was going to build a "forever" throne in David's lineage!

Forever is such a long time that it confuses people to this day. The word shows up nine times in this chapter, of which three times occur in this promise. Most of the time the word "forever" in the Old Testament means forever, eternity. It speaks of eternity as in the character of God's name. God revealed this truth when He called Moses to service. *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations"* (Exodus 3:15).

Okay, but did God mean "forever" when He promised to give the land to Abraham's offspring? God promised Abraham, *"For all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever"* (Genesis 13:15). Did God really mean forever? We know that Israel as been in and out of the land throughout history, and what they own now is not the full extent of promised land. Did God forget about His promise, change His mind, or just fail?

Sometimes the English word "forever" as it is used in the Old Testament means for life or for a long time. That was the case for the servant who volunteered to belong to the master "forever" (Exodus 21:6) and signified that choice by getting pierced ears (having an awl thrust through the lobe). Obviously, the word "forever" in that context can only mean "life" at the most. The word is used the same way when people bowed to the king and said, "Live forever, O king." (Daniel 2:4; 3:9).

Or it is also possible that when the word "forever" is found, it points to a future fulfillment of a promise which will indeed endure forever. Solomon was convinced that God's promise to David was about an eternal throne. He prayed, *"But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the*

LORD forever” (1 Kings 2:45). God’s promises to the nation of Israel through Isaiah seem to point to a future kingdom that will endure. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age (Isaiah 60:15). Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified (Isaiah 60:21). The prophet Jeremiah conveyed the same idea. Then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever (Jeremiah 7:7). Also, God’s messages through Ezekiel says the same thing. God told Ezekiel, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings” (Ezekiel 43:7a).

In the New Testament the same kind of meaning is found for “forever.” The angel who informed Mary that she would give birth to Jesus certainly conveyed the idea that He was the promised eternal King whose kingdom will have no end—which kingdom is Israel! Gabriel said, “*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end*” (Luke 1:31-33).

Therefore, we should not be surprised to see in John’s vision of last things that Jesus Christ is indeed the fulfillment of God’s promise to David. *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).*

Okay, God gave an amazing promise to David. David could certainly rejoice about it. But wouldn’t it be nice if we have a promise like that? We can get a bit excited over the fact that God made a promise to David that He has been fulfilling in many ways for centuries and will bring to completion in the last days. But in fact, you and I have a part in this promise also. This same King Jesus has purchased a kingdom of priests and kings for Himself with His own blood. We who are born again by faith in Christ’s finished work are

His special possession. We are represented by the churches in Asian to whom Jesus the King wrote letters through John.

Jesus said to people like us: *John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Revelation 1:4-6).*

Are you thankful for this promise? David certainly was humbled and thankful for what he heard from the preacher Nathan.

Thanksgiving for God’s Promise (vv.18-29).

Who am I (vv.18-21)? That is what David asked concerning himself. He realized that God had indeed blessed His chosen king. *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? 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!* David’s conclusion should be our conclusion. It is good to take time to sit down in the LORD’s presence and think about what He has promised. It is good for us to remember what our lot in life was without God’s grace and mercy.

My father was born into difficult circumstances. When he was two years old his mother died. His father remarried and it was not a good situation. His father had trouble with liquor and was at times known as the town drunk. When Dad was eight, his father was involved in an automobile accident and severely injured and disabled. His father died when Dad was fifteen, his step-mother walked out, and Dad was on his own. He joined the war when he turned 18 was shipped out to the Philippines and survived to come home. When he was in his twenties, God graciously saved Dad and his life changed dramatically. I remember times when Dad would look at his family when we would get together for Christmas with the kids and grand-

kids. Dad would remember when he had no family and always marvel at what God had done for him and his family.

What has God done for you? Eternal life for people like me is no small promise. God has done wonderful things for us. We, too, should be confident as we read the Bible that God has spoken to us and given us instruction that has eternal implication.

David realized, like every New Testament saint realizes, that every good gift comes from God. *And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it (vv.20-21).* David understood the source of the blessings in his life. Likewise, we need to acknowledge that whatever we have accomplished, wherever we find ourselves today, it is only because of God's grace and mercy. David was blessed because he was known by the LORD God. How amazing it is for us also to be "known" by the LORD God. To be known by Him will be especially important five seconds after we leave this life.

Who am I to be so blessed by God? Who is God to pour out such blessings on His people? He has done wonderful things for His people. *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. 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 {compare 1 Chron. 17:21} before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God (vv.22-24).*

The promises are there in our Bible. They are as certain as the promises David received. Be courageous like David to hold God to His promises (vv.25-29). Remind God that it was He who made the promises. *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. 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. For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant,*

saying, "I will build you a house" (vv.25-27a). It is not arrogant or foolish for us to remember God's promises and then pray them back to God. We do not threaten God to keep His promises. We rejoice in what God has promised and express our thanksgiving in prayer.

We need to have the courage to pray God's promises back to Him. David confessed, *Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you (v.27b).* We must admit that God, who can do all that He promises, is awesome. His power and majesty are fearsome. They should be. But like a father who pities His children, the mighty God loves for us to jump up in His lap and talk about His promises. Take courage and pray God's promises.

As you pray, remember that God is true to His Word. *And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant (v.28).* Because God is God, His words are true. His words are the most precious possession we have on earth. There are only two things on earth that will also be in heaven for eternity—our souls and the Bible. Would it not be wise for us to love the Bible, read the Bible, know the Bible?

Also as we pray, we should plan on God being true to His Word. *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 (v.29).* Live in light of what God has promised. Live like you trust God to keep His Word. That is what John taught when he wrote, *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure (1 John 3:1-3).*

God is good God is great. We have prayed those truths since we were children. God is true and faithful. God is so trustworthy that He has recorded His promises in His Word and then settled it forever in heaven. God has no fear about us recalling His promises to Him. If God did not intend to keep His promises, He would wish we would forget them. But because God is faithful, He loves for us to pray His

promises to Him and rejoice as we see evidence of God doing what He promised.