

Lesson 13 20 January, 2013

God's Covenant With David

Lesson Scope: [2 Samuel 7](#)

Lesson Focus

Chapter 7 opens with David established in his kingdom. All rivalry from the house of Saul had been removed, and the Philistines were subdued. God had given him rest from his enemies, and his thoughts were on God.

David desired to do God's will, and he often inquired of God before taking action. He also sought the wealth and prosperity of God's people. In his zeal for true worship, David enlisted the people's help in bringing up the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and placing it in a newly erected tabernacle (2 Samuel 6).

His noble desire to build God a house developed as he compared the apparent inferiority of God's tent dwelling with his own house of cedar. He shared his plan with Nathan, the prophet, who readily endorsed it. But God had other plans. David was not to build a temple. Instead, the message was "The LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house" ((2 Samuel 7:11).

Without King David, there would be a gaping hole in the history of Israel and mankind. David and Solomon reigned during Israel's golden era, but what God promised David in this lesson has affected the whole course of human history.

God promised David an eternal house, kingdom, and throne. These promises would ultimately be fulfilled in David's greatest Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Think of it! God is using you today to accomplish His purposes. No doubt it is on a smaller scale than how he used David, yet you should think of it in that way.

David marveled at God's promise, but he believed it. Sure enough, some four hundred years after the last Old Testament word, God found a faithful virgin and a noble young man of David's line to be used in fulfilling His purpose concerning the Davidic covenant. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David! He is KING forever! (Isaiah 9:6-7). We

must believe it too. He is well able to fulfill His Word, seeing He is eternal, ever living in the forever.

Lesson Aim: To understand the significance of God's covenant with David.

Theme Verses: [Luke 1:32-33](#). He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Lesson Text

David's Noble Desire

[2 Samuel 7:1-2](#) ¹ And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; ² That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

God's Sovereign Purposes

[2 Samuel 7:4-16](#) ⁴ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, ⁵ Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? ⁶ Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷ In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? ⁸ Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: ⁹ And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth. ¹⁰ Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, ¹¹ And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee

that he will make thee an house. ¹² And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: ¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. ¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

David's Yielded Heart

2 Samuel 7:18-19 ¹⁸ Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ¹⁹ And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? **2 Samuel 7:23-25** ²³ And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods? ²⁴ For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God. ²⁵ And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.

2 Samuel 7:27 ²⁷ For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

Questions for Study

David's Noble Desire

1. How was David's proposal true to his character?
2. How should innovations in worship practices be tested today?

God's Sovereign Purposes

3. What was God telling David by His questions in (2 Samuel 7:5-7 (see I Chronicles 28:3)?
4. Why might God's message have included a review of David's past?

5. List the significant promises of the covenant God gave to David.
6. What benefits are gained by reviewing God's faithfulness to us in the past?

David's Yielded Heart

7. List the key elements in David's response to God's promises that characterize a yielded heart.
8. What should our attitude be in light of the privilege of being included in the promises God gave to David?

Analyzing the Passage

Covenant is not mentioned in this lesson text, but it is used specifically in Psalm 89:3, 28, 34. A covenant was often a promise made under oath (Psalm 89:35).

The Davidic covenant contains the message of Messianic promises and is unchangeable. These Messianic promises were set by God in Christ before the foundations of the world (1Peter 1:20; Acts 15:18). God chose to reveal these Messianic promises progressively. In Genesis 3:15, God promised a seed through the woman—the human race was chosen as the medium through which the Messiah would come. Genesis 22:18 records a covenant God made with Abraham, in which the Hebrew nation is specifically chosen for this purpose. Some years later God chose Judah as the tribe from which the Messiah would descend (Genesis 49:10). In our lesson text, God chooses a family in that tribe—the house of David (See Luke 1:32-33). "Of this man's seed bath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus" (Acts 13:23).

First Chronicles 28:3 clarifies what God meant by His question in (2 Samuel 7:5. David had established his kingdom through conquest. It was this established kingdom over which Solomon later reigned and built the temple. But God chose to have the temple built by a man of peace rather than by a man of war.

The term for ever, as used by God in this covenant with David, is spoken from His infinite omniscience. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (See Romans 11:33-36).

Principles and Applications

David's Noble Desire

1. The promises of God belong to those who have a burden for right worship ((2 Samuel 7:1-2). This was true of David's character. His burden for right worship became the springboard for his desire to build God a house. He tested his aspiration with Nathan. Nathan's initial response ((2 Samuel 7:3) was in keeping with his knowledge of David's faithfulness to God and God's blessing on David. But God had the last word.

Today new concepts of worship patterns continue to surface, some of which likely spring from a sincere heart. All of them must pass the test of the counsel of spiritual brethren and be true to the tenor of Scripture. Otherwise, God's blessing cannot be upon them.

God's Sovereign Purposes

2. God's purposes and man's desires are not always the same ((2 Samuel 7:4-6, 8).

David "found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house" (Acts 7:46, 47). God and David were not at odds with each other. God already had the temple in His plans. They would be fulfilled His way. David's house was included in God's plan and reached far beyond David's present desire. Paul and Silas "assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not" (Acts 16:7). Instead they answered the Macedonian call. And the Gospel moved toward Europe! It is right to propose, but we must always be willing to allow God to dispose.

3. God's promises include a permanent place for His people ((2 Samuel 7:10-11).

Canaan was the glorious land God chose for His people Israel. They found rest, and that land became home for them, as opposed to bondage and wanderings. The bride of Christ, the church, also has promise of a permanent home. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Even now we have "a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God." The full extent of Jesus' promise is yet future. "I will come again, and receive you unto myself-, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

4. God promised David a perpetual house and a perpetual seed through Christ ((2 Samuel 7:11). Joseph and Mary were both of David's line ac-

cordova to Matthew 1 and Luke 3. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath ... raised up an horn of salvation for us [Jews] in the house of his servant David" (Luke 1:68-69). "Now in Christ Jesus ye [Gentiles] who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). Through the Holy Spirit, the apostle James declared that Gentile salvation was in agreement with God's promise to "build again the tabernacle of David" (Acts 15:16-17).

5. God promised David a perpetual kingdom ((2 Samuel 7:12-16). "And [Jesus] shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33). Daniel prophesied of Christ's kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar. "And in the days of these kings [Roman rulers represented by the feet and toes of the great image] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

6. God promised David a perpetual throne ((2 Samuel 7:16). "He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32). "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:7).

David's Yielded Heart

7. God uses men to accomplish His eternal purposes ((2 Samuel 7:18-19). This truth should humble us. "Who am I?" and "What is my house?" must ever be our attitude. God works in spite of us and not because of us. Yet "we are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). "And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?" is a question we too need to ponder. May we be vessels "unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use."

8. God's faithfulness in the past is a basis for faith in His future promises ((2 Samuel 7:23-25). In 2 Samuel 7:8-9 God reflected on the past for David's sake. Now David also, by reflecting on God's faithfulness in the past, finds confidence and security in God's future promises. We too should trust in God, "Who delivered us ... and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.... For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:10, 20). God will do what He

has said.

9. Our response to God's great promises needs to be one of humble submission and faith ((2 Samuel 7:27). David "obtained a good report through faith" (Hebrews 11:39). God promised him more than he thought of asking for and more than he had reason to expect. He humbly accepted the revelation of God concerning his house, kingdom, and throne.

We serve the same God. His promises are "exceeding great and precious." He is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). He has promised an abundant entrance to be ministered to us "into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1: 11).

Important Teachings

1. The promises of God belong to those who have a burden for right worship (2 Samuel 7:1-2).
2. God's purposes and man's desires are not always the same ((2 Samuel 7:4-6, 8).
3. God's promises include a permanent place for His people ((2 Samuel 7:10-11).
4. God promised David a perpetual house and a perpetual seed through Christ ((2 Samuel 7:11).
5. God promised David a perpetual kingdom ((2 Samuel 7:12-16).
6. God promised David a perpetual throne ((2 Samuel 7:16).
7. God uses men to accomplish His eternal purposes ((2 Samuel 7:18-19).
8. God's faithfulness in the past is a basis for faith in His future promises ((2 Samuel 7:23-25).
9. Our response to God's great promises needs to be one of humble submission and faith ((2 Samuel 7:27).

Answers to Questions

1. How was David's proposal true to his character?

David was a man after God's own heart. He desired to do God's will and often inquired of Him before taking action. His burden for right worship became the springboard for his desire to build God a house. He sought the wealth and prosperity of God's people and involved them in his de-

sire to restore and promote true worship in Israel. Sharing with Nathan, the prophet of God, was David's way of seeking God's direction this time.

2. *How should innovations in worship practices be tested today?* We might first test innovations as to their origin and intent. Are they designed to draw us closer to God in true commitment and obedience, or do they only stir the emotions? They must pass the test of spiritual brethren and be true to the tenor of Scripture.

3. *What was God telling David by His questions in (2 Samuel 7:5-7 (see 1 Chronicles 28:3)?*

God was telling David that it was not His plan for David to build Him a house and that He was pleased to dwell among His people in a tabernacle.

4. *Why might God's message have included a review of David's past?*

God had directly countered David's noble desire to build Him a house. God reminded David that He superintends and directs events and circumstances to accomplish His purposes. God had wrought deliverance from bondage to his forefathers and exalted him from humble sheep herding to the kingly role of leading His nation, Israel. It helped David to accept God's sovereign decision of denying him this privilege to build Him a house.

5. *List the significant promises of the covenant God gave to David.*

God's promise in the covenant to David included a permanent place for His people Israel, a permanent house, a perpetual seed, a perpetual kingdom, and a perpetual throne. These promises find fulfillment in Jesus Christ, with details of future dimension that "the zeal of the LORD of hosts" will perform (Isaiah 9:7).

6. *What benefits are gained by reviewing God's faithfulness to us in the past?*

Reviewing God's past faithfulness strengthens one's faith in promises not yet fulfilled. It inspires courage to face the tests and disappointments of daily life when we have full confidence that God will always be faithful.

7. *List the key elements in David's response to God's promises that characterize a yielded heart.*

The key elements that characterize a yielded heart as seen in David's response are: a humble heart (7:18, 19), the expression of thankfulness for

redemption ((2 Samuel 7:23), unwavering confidence in God's promise (7:25), the acknowledgement of the God of Israel as the "LORD of hosts" ((2 Samuel 7:27), a resignation to God's revealed word (7:27), and finding rest through prayer (7:27).

8. What should our attitude be in light of the privilege of being included in the promises God gave to David?

We should humbly rejoice in the blessings of being heirs of these promises by faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour as seen in Ephesians 2 and take serious heed to the warnings given from Romans 11.

Summarizing the Lesson

"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David ... a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.... This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.... For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool" (Acts 2:29-35). "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18).

Research Guide

1. Study the parallel Scripture of the lesson scope in 1 Chronicles 17.
2. Read and study other Scriptures that refer to God's covenant with David (Acts 2:30; 15:16; Ezekiel 34:23, 24; 37:15-28; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 1:27-33; Psalm 89:20-37; Isaiah 55:3; and others).
3. Meditate on the blessings and warnings to the church. As grafted-in Gentiles, we have been made partakers of the promises by faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2; Romans 11).